



*St Edward's Church  
Egguckland  
Parish Report  
2010-2011*



## Background

St Edward's Church, Eggbuckland is within the Deanery of Moorside and is part of the Diocese of Exeter. Presently it is in a state of 'interregnum' that is to say the parish is without any full-time stipend minister or incumbent. During this period of time the churchwardens as representatives of the Bishop of Exeter and the Parochial Church Council have responsibility for the continuation of the mission of the church within the community of Eggbuckland, this includes ensuring that services are continued.

The duration of the interregnum can be between 12 months and 18 months. Before any vacancy can be advertised permission has to be given by the Bishop of Exeter to his officials.

Mr Pat Whatty (Chairman of the  
Parochial Church Council)

## Membership of the Parochial Church Council

Title	Name
Churchwarden	Mrs Muriel Marshall
Churchwarden	Mr Julian Payne
Chairman of PCC	Mr Pat Whatty
Secretary to PCC	Mr Julian Payne
Honorary Treasurer	Mrs Sandra Prestidge
Church Hall Secretary	Mrs Olwen Grindell
Deputy Churchwarden	Mr Stuart Parry
Ordinary Member	Mr David Sinclair
Ordinary Member	Mr John Buckingham
Ordinary Member	Mrs Val Francksen
Ordinary Member	Mrs Pat Horrell

## Sidepersons

Janice Orme	Val Francksen
Pat Whatty	Angela McLeod
Muriel Marshall	John Buckingham

## PCC Secretary's Report 2011

**Introduction:** There were 7 meetings of the Parochial Church Council held since the last AGM in April 2010 and 3 Standing Committee meetings.

**Retirements & Departures:** At the end of June 2011 Rev. Tim Dickens retired he and his wife now live at Westpark, Plymouth. After his last celebration of communion, Tim & Elizabeth were given a good send off in the Church Hall and they received various gifts, including a sketch of St Edward's Church.

Our first PCC meeting after this event saw Mr Pat Whatty take his position as chairman of the committee and also sadly accepted the resignation of Mrs. Sandra Smith due to the day of future meetings being difficult to make. Sandra during her time as Secretary was efficient and reliable ensuring that minutes and correspondence were sent and received. May I on behalf of the PCC and congregation of St Edward's thank her for the valuable contribution she has made to the life and the running of the parish over those years.

Finally there was the retirement of Sister Carrie, which led to the departure of her and Captain Derry as Church Officers, Their service to this parish and Christ Church has been considerable and we thank them.

**Standing Committee:** The rules of the Church of England provide for the setting up of a Standing Committee made from officers of the PCC. St Edward's has now adopted this principle and the committee chaired by the chairman of the PCC meets, when necessary, between meetings in to order to assist in the smooth running of the parish.

**Charity & Mission Giving:** As usual we have supported organisations like, 'World Vision', 'Turn on the Tap' and 'Operation Christmas Child'. We also locally contribute to projects such as 'Shekinah' and 'The Refugee Centre', not merely financially but through our Harvest Thanksgiving Service each year. In addition we regularly support to the sum of £1000 in total ten charitable groups including the two local ones mentioned above. In the course of this year and next there will be various fund raising events starting at Easter.

**Fayres:** Every year we have our two fayres, one at Christmas and the other during the summer. Although the recession has had some effect upon numbers and monies raised it is still popular and certainly contributes to fund raising. Mr Pat Whatty and the team who make these a success are to be congratulated.

**Christmas 2010:** The Christmas of 2010 was certainly much colder than the previous year, consequently numbers were down in terms of services but not as much as in 2009. We had a successful 'Carols by Candlelight' and an All Age Service on Christmas Eve with special guests Captain Derry and Sister Carrie that went down well. My thanks all those members who participated or came to these events.

**Parish Office:** Many churches have what is known as a 'parish office', I have introduced a trial pilot scheme taking place after Monday and Tuesday's morning prayer, each week, lasting for two hours. It is hoped that these surgeries will provide individuals with the chance to speak to someone and tell the community that St Edward's is open for business.

Mr Julian Payne (Secretary to the  
Parochial Church Council)

## PCC Treasurer's Report 2010/11

Again another difficult year which resulted in an end of year balance of 49p. While we have managed to pay our everyday bills we fell short of paying the Parochial Share by £7610. 2011 Parochial Share is £28029 compared to £28679 for 2010.

Income through collections and stewardship has decreased due to people moving on and of course the recession but I would like to thank all who support St. Edwards. Also due to the recession a big decrease in interest.

As you can see there is an increase in weddings and funerals income and expenditure but this is due to all monies being processed by the PCC due to Ministers retirement.

As you have read in the church magazine there should be an improvement in the church heating for the winter.

My thanks go to John Buckingham for overseeing the stewardship contributions and Caroline Hyde for auditing the accounts.

Mrs Sandra Prestidge  
(Hon Treasurer to the  
Parochial Church Council)

## Deanery Synod Report

Since our last annual general meeting of the PCC there have been three meetings of the Deanery Synod. Much of the business discussed has been general relating to reports from the General Synod, the Diocesan Synod and notices of forthcoming events etc. However there are two issues which are significant and they have an impact upon individual churches.

**Common Tenancy:** Firstly there is new legislation relating to paid stipendiary ministers; from February this year all appointments will be made under what is called, Common Tenancy, replacing freehold and leasehold tenancies. The legislation will mean that the absolute nature of a freehold will be no longer permanent for any minister. Although this might seem to be a disadvantage for the clergy, they would for the first time be protected as any ordinary employee having the ability to challenge their employer for unfair treatment. Ministers who are currently in post will not be compelled to give up their freehold and could retain this status until they left the ministry or retired.

**Future of Deaneries:** Within the Church of England both at general synod and the Diocesan Synod level, there has been discussion about the role and the necessity of Deanery Synods. A suggestion has been made that the Plymouth archdeaconry could be reduced to two deanery synods, rather than the current three. This idea has been met with a lack of enthusiasm as it was felt that the demography of the area i.e. urban and rural made such a merger impractical. The Moorside Deanery had taken the initiative and had had an evening where strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats were discussed and debated. The outcome was very positive and has been proactive in the ongoing discussions.

Mr Stuart Parry & Julian Payne  
(Deanery Synod Members)

# Churchwardens' Report 2010-2011

## Introduction

Since the last annual general meeting of the parochial church council the elected churchwardens have been busy not merely with the normal tasks associated with the position but also with the extra duties that have been generated because of the interregnum.

To ensure that the day to day running of the parish continues and that services are taken this has meant liaison with a variety of clergy within the deanery and keeping up to date various rotas. Technology has helped to make this process simpler and more efficient yet without the guidance and advice of church members it would be more difficult. With this in mind we thank all those individuals who have helped in the running of the parish since the minister's retirement.

## Fabric & Maintenance Internal

1. **West Wall:** those who attended the last AGM would recall that the internal decoration of the church had been completed apart from the west wall which had problems of damp. During the middle of last year we had the leaks that had caused the damage repaired. However unfortunately the wet weather in the autumn and winter caused the water to re-emerge. It is hoped that within the next few weeks all work will be completed to remedy the situation. Once this has been completed and the wall has been left to dry out the final decoration can be started.
2. **Rationalisation of Keys:** after an inspection from our insurance company it was advised that the security of keys within the church and hall was inadequate. As a result of this recommendation it was agreed by the PCC that two key safes would be purchased and installed in both premises. This has now been done and keys have been and are being assigned to each safe. May we thank Mr. Sinclair for his involvement in this project.
3. **Lighting with the Church:** many of you hopefully have noticed that the lighting within the church has been improved substantially. The churchwardens were concerned that the problem of long life bulbs not lasting long enough was to do with electrical wiring in the building. Mr. Bickle who is responsible for the maintenance of the lighting subsequently rectified the situation. He has also bought and replaced the offending bulbs with the new ones.
4. **Insurance (Church & Church Hall):** within the course of the past year the policies for the insurance of the church and church hall have been renewed. The PCC approved estimates for cover which included excesses for both buildings of £250. The new policy will take effect from June 2011. Insurance we discovered just before Christmas was important when we had the small window in the chancel smashed. This was repaired in the early part of the new year

## Fabric & Maintenance Internal (continued)

5. **Refurbishment of the Lower Church Hall:** before the retirement of our minister the Plymouth City Council had consented to a series of improvements to the Pre-School's area in the lower church hall. The Churchwardens and PCC obtained quotations from contractors with regard to the works to be completed and then submitted them to the council. This process took a considerable time and unfortunately suffered from the governmental cuts in the last year's budget. Consequently some of the improvements recommended are no longer possible, apart from a new playground surface which will be laid in the course of the next few months. You must also thank Mr David Sinclair and Mrs Olwen Grindell for their help in the matters described above.
6. **Heating (Church & Church Hall):** at the same time as we asked for quotations for the refurbishment of lower church hall the PCC agreed that it would be a good time to replace the ageing boiler within the Church Hall. Quotations were received and the new boiler has been installed. Heating in the Church over the Christmas period has been difficult, radiators are failing and one has been condemned; consequently the PCC agreed to fund the replacement and installation of new appliances. Can we thank Mr. David Sinclair and Mrs Olwen Grindell for their support and assistance in dealing with these issues.
7. **Clock Components:** Mr. Brian Bassett has been an enthusiastic clock maintenance person through the course of the past year. At present he and the churchwardens are trying to resolve a matter of getting the component for the mechanism to ensure that the quarter hour struck.

## Fabric & Maintenance External

1. **Graveyard Survey:** for many years the record of burials and the exact positions within the graveyard were noted on a piece of hardboard. There was no plan for any part of the churchyard other than the lower graveyard. Since the summer of last year the lower graveyard has been completely surveyed and part of the southern graveyard has also been similarly treated. It is hoped a team from the records office will help in the completion of the total churchyard during the course of the next year.
2. **Graveyard damage:** we are very fortunate to have had little vandalism within the churchyard but last year we had what appeared to be damage to a plot in the lower church yard. Subsequently it was found that our graveyard maintenance contractors had accidentally damaged the plot in question but soon repaired the damage to the satisfaction of the relatives.
3. **Tree Maintenance:** The Churchwardens had been contacted by a resident adjacent to the churchyard on the south side who had complained that light to his property was being restricted by overhanging foliage. After consultation with tree surgeons and the PCC it was agreed that works would be undertaken to appease our neighbour. Some of the work has been carried out and hopefully the rest will be completed during the spring of the year.
4. **Churchyard tidy up:** every year members of the congregation get together for a generous spring clean of the churchyard. This was done slightly later than in previous years but was very successful in what it achieved.

## Other matters

1. **The Mission Action Plan:** in the spring of last year Mr. Julian Payne one of the Churchwarden's was asked by the then minister and ratified by the PCC to undertake the process of creating a Mission Action Plan. This document attempts to set up the church's vision for the future and its aspirations in this respect. It would also provide the platform for any future parish profile which would be used when we finally advertise for a new incumbent. Mr. Payne drew up this draft document and presented it to the church at a meeting and also handed out questionnaires. From this information the Mission Action Plan has been compiled and ratified by the PCC and will be available in the church in the near future.
2. **Services:** all the normal services have been continued, including weekday offices, through the support of clergy from the deanery. Special thanks should be given to the Rev Andrew Scott and the Rev Paul Thompson who have provided much of the cover required. In the course of last twelve months we have carried out 34 baptisms, 19 weddings and 16 funerals. From these figures it is obvious that the role of St Edward's church Egguckland within the community is still valid and important. The two areas of continued growth are baptisms and the 'All Age Service' and there is also the potential for expansion of the Sunday evening service called 'Heartbeat'. Musically we are fortunate to have three people within the church who contribute to the worship. Firstly there is the welcome return of Mrs. Glenda Davies after her sabbatical as a resident organist and choir mistress and then there is Mr. Stuart Parry (Deputy Churchwarden) and Mr. John Lake all participate in worship at St Edwards'.
3. **School Involvement:** since the retirement of our church army officers we have been somewhat reduced in terms of activity within the local schools, especially the local church school. Mr Payne as churchwarden was asked by the head teacher of St Edward's to take a few lessons which he did and is intending to take assemblies during the course of the school year.
4. **Pastoral Care:** home communions have continued through the Rev Andrew Scott and Mrs. Muriel Marshall (Churchwarden) still hosts her house group. In addition this activity, Mrs Marshall is a ward visitor at Derriford Hospital as part of the Department of Pastoral and Spiritual Care. She is always prepared to visit any parishioner, there or within the parish at anytime.

Mrs Muriel Marshall  
(Churchwarden)

Mr Julian Payne  
(Churchwarden)

## Gift Aid Secretary's Report 2010/11

We have continued with the policy of submitting two Gift Aid claims each year in order to balance cash flow and I can report that during 2010 we received a total of £3,512 from HMRC, £480 less than in 2009. Excluding White Envelope contributions which are not considered as Planned Giving, our total income from tax efficient contributions for the year was £12,381 – down by approximately £1100 from 2009 - plus a further £3,790 from non-tax efficient contributions (in other words non-tax payers) which remained much the same.

I anticipated this shortfall in last year's report, due to the loss of several tax-paying members who have not been replaced. As a result our 2010 Parish Return shows a total of only 43 tax efficient givers compared with 48 last year, the number on non-tax efficient remains at 16, making a total of 59.

To offset this shortage of income we endeavoured to follow the advice of Rev. James Hutchings, the Diocese Mission Resources Adviser, by sending out a 'Thank You' letter at the end of October to all Planned Givers, followed by a 'Giving Sunday' appeal at the December 5 services, aimed at encouraging those attending to increase their normal contributions. The outcome was that in December we received a higher than normal number of White Envelope contributions which covered the cost of printing the appeal leaflets, otherwise the exercise can be counted as unsuccessful and I believe we shall probably only succeed with such a plan in future if it is geared directly to a specific fund-raising effort that is likely to be supported by the majority.

Mr John Buckingham  
(Gift Aid Secretary)

## Church Hall Secretary's Report 2011

Since my report of last year, my daughter Mrs Alison Hilton has decided not to continue to help me anymore with the cleaning of the downstairs hall. My husband Martin is now helping me. My other colleague Mr Allan Smith still continues to do his good work cleaning the upper hall. Many people have commented on the good condition of the floor. Many thanks are given to Alison for the many years that she has been helping me and my thanks are also given to Martin and Allan for all that they are doing.

Regarding the casual hire of the hall; the numbers for birthdays, baptisms and funerals have fallen over the past year. Zumbalicious Dance which was started late last year on Tuesday mornings has just ceased due to the fact that the lady who led it has found a job. The Rainbows, Brownies and Guides on Mondays are continuing, even though Brownies report a fall in numbers. Dance continues on Tuesdays and Saturdays, and the Ladies Group is still meeting monthly on Tuesday evenings. On Wednesdays, the Dog Training is still doing their sterling work with dogs and their owners. On Thursdays, Slimming World is still meeting weekly. Once a quarter Eggbuckland Forum meets with a Public Meeting on Thursday evenings. As far as I am aware, the youth club is still being held on Fridays. Mother and Toddlers Group (run by Sure Start), started last year, meet on Friday afternoons in the downstairs hall sharing equipment with the Pre-school. Pre-school is doing well. Last but not least, the PCC is holding their meetings in the small hall downstairs on Thursday evenings

The Plymouth City Council will not be carrying out any refurbishment, for the Pre-school, in the downstairs hall due to the economic downturn. They will though be increasing the height of the railings surrounding the playground.

### Church Hall Secretary's Report 2011 (continued)

The downstairs is starting to look shabby and as it is roughly ten years or more since it was last painted, it would be nice if we could, with the help of any volunteers, paint the toilets and the room, next to the toilets, with cupboards in the downstairs hall during school holidays. The Pre School have volunteered to paint the coffee lounge and big hall themselves. The PCC have decided to renew the carpet in the small hall downstairs due to its decrepit condition.

Mrs Olwen Grindell  
(Church Hall Secretary)

### St Edward's Primary School Report 2010/11

Every child matters – definitely. Also every member of the teaching staff matters. Head Mrs. Andrea Smith and deputy head Mrs. Camilla Shepherd lead a dedicated staff and parent helpers. Today there are 209 pupils and classes containing 30 to 35 pupils

Collective worship takes place on a regular basis led by the head or member of staff. Derry and Carrie visit the school quite regularly usually twice a month. The Christmas Service held at St Edward's church was excellent and well organized. Tickets were only available for parents or grandparents, all were seated rather than having to stand.

Retirements at the end of spring term were Mrs Jean White (Caretaker) of 22 years service and Mrs Cindy Beale (Senior Mealtime Assistant) for 17 years. Both will be greatly missed.

Money has been very tight and it is likely to continue due to government policies (white paper). The parent support advisor has been saved for the time being on a much shorter basis (funding to be reviewed on the viability).

After school clubs run by the staff are varied, something for every child. One of the main concerns is exercise.

Computer Systems – to buy or rent? Renting equipment had more problems associated with it and was more expensive overtime. Equipment leases often require the client to maintain equipment according to leasing policy. To buy individual computers was the option taken at the cost of £450 per unit. Approximately 15 computers have been ordered. The computer is presently in use where originally bought second hand and are over 10 years old; needless to say they are now gone passed their 'sell by date'. This is just one area needing attention in the life of providing the best for the pupils.

Mrs Pat Horrell  
(School Governor)

## Music & Choir Report

This has not been an easy year for the choir. During my sabbatical there were, of course, no choir practices. It is greatly to their credit that the choir members have remained loyal and supportive, both to the church and to me. They have continued to lead the singing on Sundays and to sing at weddings. I was able to meet with them to rehearse for the Candlelight Carol Service, and this - despite the weather - was a lovely service, much appreciated by those who were able to attend. As in previous years, we were grateful to friends from St Gabriel's who came along to swell our numbers. We were delighted that our deputy church warden, Stuart Parry came along for the Christmas practices and enjoyed himself so much that he has decided to stay.

We are greatly indebted to David Lodge, who covered for me during my absence, and continues to play once a month. Thanks also to Stuart who has ably led the worship at Family Services. It is my hope and prayer that we will be able to serve God through the ministry of music here at St Edward's through the coming year.

Mrs Glenda Davies  
(Choir Mistress & Organist)

## Flower Arranging Report 2010/11

We continue to provide floral decorations each week as required and for the festivals and special occasions despite the fact that the number of arrangers has become even smaller than previously.

We really do need more volunteers to come forward and are sure that anyone doing so, no matter how unqualified they may feel they are, will really enjoy the pleasure and satisfaction of helping to add to the beauty of our lovely church. It is also an enjoyable social activity.

Thanks are due to all who have helped throughout the past year and it is hoped they will continue to assist, especially those whose names appear on the monthly rotas.

It is pleasing to report that in no small measure due to generous donations, the flower fund is in a healthy state. There is, therefore, no reason for arrangers having to pay for the flowers they provide unless they wish to do so.

Mrs Brenda Whatty  
(Flower Arrangement Co-ordinator)