

## **Aim and purposes**

East Garston Parochial Church Council (PCC) has the responsibility of cooperating with the Vicar of the Lambourn Valley Benefice, Revd Martin Cawte, 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 church buildings and churchyard.

## **Objectives and activities**

The PCC is committed to enabling as many people as possible to worship at our church and to become part of our parish community. Our services and worship put faith into practice through prayer and scripture, music and sacrament.

When planning our activities for the year, we try to enable ordinary people to live out their faith as part of our parish community through:

- Worship and prayer; learning about the gospel; and developing their knowledge and trust in Jesus.
- Provision of pastoral care for people living in the parish.

To facilitate this work it is important that we maintain the fabric of All Saints Church and its churchyard.

## **Achievements and performance**

### **Worship and prayer**

The PCC is keen to offer a range of services over the course of the year that our community find both beneficial and spiritually fulfilling. All are welcome to attend our regular services of Holy Communion on the second and fourth Sundays of the month which cater mainly for regular churchgoers while at Festivals such as Mothering Sunday, Easter, Harvest, Remembrance and Christmas, the services cater not only for the regulars but also for those who attend church on just a few occasions during the year. The children are encouraged to take part in special family services on most of these occasions and the West Berkshire Strings perform on Mothering Sunday and at Harvest Festival.

The parish is also an active participant in the Lambourn Valley Benefice. When there is a fifth Sunday, a Benefice Holy Communion service is held in one of the three parishes. A Benefice Choral Evensong was also held on two occasions at All Saints.

There were 56 parishioners on the Church Electoral Roll in 2016 and since the end of the year a further four names have been added. The average weekly attendance at services was 15, but this number increased substantially at festivals when on several occasions the church was almost full. At the Easter service there were 32 attendees and of these 20 received communion while on Christmas morning the attendance was 110 and there were 67 communicants.

During Lent a house group met to discuss the thorny issue of "Migration and Movement". We learned that it is not just a modern-day problem that was currently exercising the minds of our politicians in Europe but that it is also recorded in the Bible. Jesus and his family were migrants running from danger when Herod was about to massacre all the children in and around Bethlehem.