

Ecumenical relationships

The church has a very good working relationship with the Society of Friends in East Garston and often makes use of its admirable facilities for meetings. This year, there was a Quaker Exhibition which was visited by many members of our church.

Financial review

Total receipts on unrestricted funds were £20,937 of which £3,495 was collections at services, £6831 was unrestricted planned voluntary donations, and £317 was from ad hoc donations. A further £2,815 was from Gift Aid recovered on the donations. Income from parochial fees amounted to £1,926 and various fund raising activities contributed £5,472. Restricted grants of £700 were received from East Garston Parish Council and the proceeds of the cello concert of £320 were also restricted. Total income for the year was £23,567.

The sum that the churches in the Deanery have to find is shared between the churches according to a formula that is based mainly on a usual Sunday attendance. In 2016, our parish share was £9,709. Other expenditure from the unrestricted funds for items such as insurance, electricity, fees to the Diocese, organist and cleaner, organ tuning, and general maintenance was £6,825. Expenditure from the restricted funds for the churchyard and church restoration was £1,595. Total expenditure for the year was £18,129 resulting in a total net surplus of £5,438.

Volunteers

We would like to thank all the volunteers who work so hard to make our church and churchyard a welcoming place for the community.

Structure, governance and management

The Parochial Church Council is a corporate body established by the Church of England. The PCC operates under the Parochial Church Council Powers Measure. The PCC is a Registered Charity.

The method of appointment of PCC members is set out in the Church Representation Rules. In East Garston, the membership of the PCC consists of the incumbent (our Vicar), churchwardens, 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 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.

The PCC met five times during the year with an average level of attendance of 85%. Small sub-groups met to plan specific activities such as the Harvest Lunch and the Safari Supper. Workshops were also held to involve the children in preparations for Mothering Sunday, Easter, Harvest Festival and Nativity.

Administrative information

All Saints Church is situated off Station Road, East Garston. It is part of the Benefice of the Lambourn Valley in the Newbury Deanery of the Diocese of Oxford within the Church of England. The correspondence address is Lambsdown, Front Street, East Garston, Hungerford, RG17 7EU or Meadow Cottage, Back Street, Hungerford, RG17 7EX.