



St Mary the Virgin, Walkhampton in the Diocese of Exeter

A Church in the Yelverton Benefice

Annual Report  
&  
Financial Statements  
For the year ending  
31 December 2007

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## **Legal and administrative information**

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**NSM Curate :** Revd Nick Shutt, 12 Blackbrook Close, Walkhampton.  
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**Website:** [www.walkhamptonchurch.co.uk](http://www.walkhamptonchurch.co.uk)

**Churchwardens:** Mr Mike Dobson ☎852937  
Mrs Mary Geen ☎855887

### **Parochial Church Council members:**

Mr J Knight (Lay Vice Chair)  
Mr J Lenthall (From April 2007)  
Mr K Baxter (Treasurer)  
Mr R Locock  
Mrs C Brannagan (Secretary)  
Mrs D D'Oyly  
Mrs K Miall  
Mrs M Goddard  
Mrs R Hopwood  
Mrs Doreen Williams (to April 2007)  
Mrs Amelia Crocker (to April 2007)

**Bankers:** Barclays Bank Plc, Bedford Square, Tavistock

**Independent Examiner:** Mrs Spry, Mole End Cottage, Huckworthy Bridge, Yelverton  
Devon.

## St Mary the Virgin Annual Report for 2007

### The Purpose of the Parochial Church Council

The Parochial Church Council (PCC) is a charity excepted from registration with the Charity Commission.

The PCC (Powers) Act 1956 states that the PCC 'is to cooperate with the minister in promoting in the parish the whole mission of the church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical'.

### Report of the Parish in 2007

#### PCC Meetings

The PCC met on 4 occasions to discuss the business of the parish. At these meetings the finances of the Parish have been discussed (see examined accounts annexed for details).

#### Services

##### (a) Weekly Services

The average Sunday Attendance was 34 with the average communicants being 29. The number of people under 18 attending was less than 2 on average and if baptism parties etc are taken out of the statistics the figure drops to less than .5 per week. The service pattern is a weekly service, Order One Holy Communion at 9.30 each Sunday. The number on the Electoral Roll, which was fully revised this year, is 38. This represents a reduction from the previous figure of 47 but more accurately mirrors the reality of those who regularly attend.

As in previous years, the PCC has supported various new service initiatives to supplement the usual pattern with a view to make our services outward looking to those who are not regular church attendees. As with all experiments, some of them have been more successful than others, but we learn from both the positive and negatives:

On *Mothering Sunday* a service was held in the Memorial Hall, Walkhampton with the aim of attracting families to this special Mothering Sunday Service. Despite advertising locally and through the school, this did not prove to be a success with only one family attending in addition to our usual congregation. It is unlikely that this will be repeated. Attracting young families is proving to be a difficult "nut to crack".

A series of Dramatic Presentations through Monday – Wednesday in *Holy Week* provided a very powerful and innovative way of helping us explore the events leading up to the crucifixion. Those who attended found the services to be very moving.

On Easter Sunday, a *Sunrise Service and Breakfast* made for a popular start to the Easter celebrations with 14 attending a short service held above Gypsy Rock on the Moor, followed by Breakfast back in Walkhampton.

Our *Harvest Service* was held at the slightly later time of 11 a.m. We focused on the Farm Crisis Network raising just under £1,000 towards their work through donations, the auction of produce after the service, and contributions from the children of Lady Modiford's School.

*The Remembrance Sunday Service*, again held in the Memorial Hall, was very well received, attracting both young and old with the scouts, rainbows etc turning out for the service itself and the parade which followed to the War Memorial. Over 120 attended.

Our cycle of Christmas Services involved a Carol & Crib Service featuring our *scratch choir*, a Midnight Communion on Christmas Eve and a Family Communion Service on Christmas Morning.

##### (b) Occasional Offices

In 2007 there were:

3 Baptisms

1 Wedding

5 Funerals

## **Mid-week and Occasional Meetings**

In Lent, we joined with the other Benefice Churches, to explore a series of “green issues” by moving from church to church over the Lenten period following a common syllabus. The consensus appeared to be that the topics proved to be very difficult to master but that the format of joining together was worth repeating.

*Walkhampton Fellowship* is a Bible Study/Fellowship Group that meets once a fortnight during school term time. In the main it has followed the Emmaus material throughout the year. The group numbers about 10.

A *Parish Quiet Day* on the topic of prayer was held. This was well received in terms of content and format with a wide variety of activities being shoehorned into a relatively short period of time between 10.00 – 2.00. This half day format was enjoyed by all who attended and those who put the day together are hoping to repeat the event in 2008.

## **Treasurer’s Report**

The Accounts are attached to this report and I have the following comments to make on them.

### Receipts

At the year end receipts are up by £6423.81 on last year. Planned giving has increased but the ordinary collections have reduced by £1000. The increase in planned giving has resulted in the Tax reclaim tripling from last year to £3409. This is a welcome trend.

### Payments

There has been an overall increase over 2007 of £7501 but most of that was expected expenditure for the West End Re-ordering and in particular the architect’s bill. The Common fund increase was just under 3% in 2007.

### Savings

With higher interest rates this year we received £1716.28 from National Savings.

### Total Assets

The overall assets of the church increased in 2007 to £59,577.11 from £58,137.97. So even with a larger amount of outgoings we have slightly improved the financial wellbeing of the church’s financial position by £1439.

### Outlook

Changes in the Tax regime will mean that the amount of Gift Aid we can reclaim next year will reduce by 11%. So in order even to stand still with our regular planned giving we will need to see an increase of 11% to offset these tax changes. People give generously of their time and money already but I would ask that everyone keeps under review their giving and, if possible make adjustments to help us counter the changes that we have to face. The West End Re-ordering will also make calls on our purse in the forthcoming 12 months as we carefully consider the way forward for this scheme.

Kevin Baxter, Treasurer.

## **Health & Safety Report**

The only issue this year was the removal of 2 trees, by the wall between the old and new churchyards. However a problem has been advised by our groundsman, Michael Partridge of another tree, which rocks in high winds and is also causing disturbance to the monuments beneath. A close watch will be kept to ensure that remedial action can be taken to prevent risks to users of the churchyard.

Mike Dobson, Health & Safety Officer

## **Churchwardens report**

A very busy year for Church repairs: The boiler was repaired twice, in May and November, different problems each time. It was also serviced in October.

A major repair was made to the Organ in July, when a new blower was fitted by Lance Foy. The blower was kindly lent to us by St. Leonard's Church, Sheepstor. A new lock was fitted to the top tower door and roof slates which had slipped were reinstalled, this was in August. We had our quinquennial inspection in May and as a result a schedule of works has been drawn up to deal with problem areas.

Clearing of roof gullies and moss removal from the roof was carried out twice during the year, as well as the clearing out of drains and downpipes. We had two Church clean up days, in May and November. The latter one was particularly successful in clearing of the low walls on the approach to the porch and in removing all the growth from the north wall of the churchyard. During the year a group of enthusiastic volunteers carried on with the general tidying of the Churchyard. Thanks to Tim Miall, John Lenthall and Mavis and Mike Goddard for their efforts.

Also thanks to the members of the congregation for their generosity in supplying the funds for the purchase of a new vacuum cleaner. This will be much appreciated by those on the cleaning rota.

Mike Dobson & Mary Geen, Churchwardens

## **Faculty Applications**

Two Applications were made to the Diocese in 2007:

1. To undertake work on the bells to repair the bell frame so that we can safely ring the bells.
2. To remove the choir stalls from the Chapel of Remembrance. In the events that happened that have consumed the last 18 months the application was not pursued to conclusion as the Archdeacon issued a certificate allowing us to temporarily re-order by unmounting the stalls and disposing of the mounts with 2 choir stalls being relocated in church while the other 2 stalls are stored off site at Knowle Farm, Walkhampton.

## **Fundraising**

This has been another busy and successful year as the accounts testify with a number of annual recurring events (fete, jumble sales) coupled with one off fundraising events throughout the year. A small informal subcommittee put together a programme for the year that meant that there was a planned programme spread throughout the year with cream teas, Coffee evenings and the like.

## Curate's Notes

This year sees a change in the format of the Annual Report so that it falls in line with the format suggested by the Diocese in terms of the presentation of the Accounts and the Report itself.

As ever, it is hard to sum up the life of St Mary's, Walkhampton to do justice to the diversity, enthusiasm and dedication of our small congregation. Christ's call to all of us to be salt and light finds its expression in the involvement of the everyone in so many different aspects of community life: the school, the village hall, the flower show, the arts & craft show, football, cricket, pub, the list goes on and on but demonstrates a healthy heart to Walkhampton despite the changes that take place in our community.

We press forward with our plans to make our building work for us in the 21<sup>st</sup> century and stand on the cusp of being able to make an application for a faculty to re-order the west end of the church. It has been a long haul to get this far and I sense that 2008 will be a year of quicker progress towards our goal of getting a toilet in the Church and generally improving our facilities.

But the Church is not about buildings alone, it is about all of us being a visible presence, reflecting the light of Christ, being that flavour which makes a difference.

In practical terms, our Website has been revamped to make it easier to update. We now have a "news blog" and a stronger online presence. I hope that this will continue to grow as we utilise all ways and all means to spread the Good News. In this regard, I am particularly grateful to Chris Dorey of DV8 Media Ltd who selflessly gives of his time and talents to make this website the impressive showcase that it is.

There are others who need a mention: The wardens, Mike and Mary, who have been a great support throughout the year; Kevin Baxter whose dedication and persistent hard work keeps our books faultlessly in order; Chrissie Brannagan whose ceaseless energy as PCC Secretary has been a great help; all the PCC members who take an active part in the life of our church community and who put their shoulder to the wheel in so many ways. The Welcomers whose role is so important and whose warm welcome to all is so often commented on by those who visit us; those who arrange the flowers week by week who make our church an attractive place to be in; the cleaners and those who generously supply coffee and tea (and cake & biscuits) after our services; those who play the organ and supply music for us; our scratch choir, ably led by Peggy who keeps a sense of humour in all situations. Our groundsman, and those who supplement his work, who are gradually transforming the curtilage of the church so that we maintain everything in good order. There are others who silently go about their work unrecognised and unnoticed: to all of you I simply say "thank you".

We press on and "run with resolution the race which lies ahead of us, our eyes fixed on Jesus..." (Hebrews 11.1-2)

Revd Nick Shutt LLM Honorary Curate.

## Church Accounts