

St Andrew's Church, Hurstbourne Priors

**Annual Report
and
Financial Statements
of the
Parochial Church Council**

for the year ended 31st December 2020

Incumbent (until March 2020)

Rev'd Craig Marshall
(The Vicarage
St Mary Bourne
Andover)

Bank

National Westminster Bank
Andover Branch
Bridge Street
Andover

Independent examiner

Mr Les Burrows
27 Hurstbourne Priors
Whitchurch
Hampshire

2020 Report and Accounts

for the Parochial Church Council of St Andrew's Church Hurstbourne Priors

Aims and purposes

St Andrew's Parochial Church Council (PCC) has the responsibility of cooperating with the Incumbent, the Reverend Craig Marshall until March 2020, 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 of St Andrew's and the associated churchyard in Hurstbourne Priors.

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 at St Andrew's. The PCC also helps to reach out to those who may not normally enter a church through a Benefice Nativity Service customarily held in a barn in the parish before Christmas. The PCC also arranges concerts in the church building which serves the wider community in Hurstbourne Priors and other parishes in the Benefice.

Achievements and Performance

The year 2020 was affected in a major way by the outbreak of the global pandemic of Corona Virus, Covid 19. This affected both the church and wider society more generally. As a result, services ceased to be held at St Andrew's from late March onwards because of the acute danger of transmission of the virus. Benefice services cautiously recommenced on a monthly basis from August onwards, but were held on a rotational basis between the three main churches in the Benefice. Thus services were held at St Andrews in August and November. Everyone was socially distanced more than 2 metres apart from each other and wore face masks. No singing was permitted. Despite these precautions a number of the regular congregation who were particularly at risk because of other health issues declined to attend the services.

Two carol services were held in December and a service on Christmas Day. These were restricted by the same measures as above and were limited to a maximum congregation of 30 people for each service. Thereafter cases of the virus around the country worsened substantially and it was felt that no further services should be held until Easter 2021.

The Church Electoral Roll was revised early in 2021. On the roll there are now 35 residents and 5 non-residents. Attendance on a usual Sunday in 2020 was 20 (19) showing a slight increase on the previous year despite the effects of Covid when a number of people were still isolating during the second half of the year. No services at all were held between 16th March and 16th August. The attendance number is generally increased at festivals though this year there was no Easter service because of Covid and attendance on Christmas Day was only 23 (71). However, 92 people attended the final Benefice farewell for Craig and Jane Marshall which was to be the last service in the church for five months. In 2020 there were: 0 (2) baptisms, 3 (5) marriages and 1 (3) funeral at St Andrew's. Figures for 2019 are shown in brackets.

Church members continue to organise an annual "Safari Supper" in Hurstbourne Priors that has the aim of introducing members of the community, particularly newcomers, to one

another. Participants number in the range of 50 to 60, which is a significant proportion of the village population of about 300.

The regular programme of musical events had to be cancelled during 2020 because of the Covid virus restrictions, but it is hoped that these will be reinstated once conditions permit.

Worship and Prayer

Until March 2020 the pattern of services continued as previously with an organist playing at both the Family Communion and Family Worship services:

1. 1st Sunday – 11.00 am Family Communion (using Common Worship)
2. 2nd Sunday – 9.30 am Family Worship (using modern liturgy)
3. 3rd Sunday – 8.00 am Holy Communion (using BCP)
4. 4th Sunday – 6.00 pm Evensong (using BCP)

The Family Communion and Family Worship services were generally well attended, and increasingly by families with young children. The 8.00 am Holy Communion service was attended by a limited number of parishioners, supplemented by others from within the Benefice who prefer a simple BCP Holy Communion service. At the Evensong service hymns continued to be sung *a cappella*. This was attended by a small, but growing, number of enthusiastic parishioners and is occasionally replaced by a service of Compline conducted by a parishioner.

Towards the end of 2018 a small group from the PCC was established to consider the possible introduction of Worship Songs into the repertoire of music at the two main services. As a result, “Songs of Praise” services have been held on a quarterly basis since 2019 in place of the regular evensong service. These services include Worship Songs as well as popular hymns and the organ is accompanied by a small group of instrumentalists drawn from the community. One objective has been to acquaint the congregation with a wider range of Worship Songs and a new song book has now been printed so that some of the songs may be introduced to regular services. These services were popular and attracted a large congregation (averaging 36) including a number of new families recently arrived in the village who brought their children with them to an increasing number of services. Sadly these services were suspended in March 2020 because of the Covid lockdown. We look forward to them being resumed as soon as possible.

A Covid compliant take-away Harvest Supper was held at the Village Hall on the Saturday before the Harvest Festival. A Remembrance Day service was again held, but the St Andrew’s Day Patronal service was replaced in 2020 by a Benefice service elsewhere. The previously successful benefice-wide Nativity Service in a local barn could not be held this year.

The monthly Healing Prayer Group continued to meet in Hurstbourne Priors until March and thereafter was held by email. This group pray for the sick and needy in St Mary Bourne, Hurstbourne Priors and Longparish. All information received is regarded as confidential within the Group.

In the absence of worship in church a very successful series of local on-line services has been held using the ZOOM platform. On occasion these have been broadcast from one or other of the Benefice churches, but in the main are simply online creations drawing in visual and musical content which is increasingly available on the internet. These services have become very professional and are extremely popular across the benefice, frequently involving 80 to 90

participants, many of whom are couples or family groups. The services have mostly been led by The Rev Canon Dodie Marsden but have been augmented by guest speakers including Bishops, Archdeacons and former incumbents as well as representatives from the adjoining Benefice of Whitchurch all of whom have given most interesting and varied Reflections. Readings and intercessions have been provided by a wide number of parishioners from throughout the benefices. At the end of each service participants are randomly moved into smaller break-out “rooms” which have provided an opportunity to meet new people from adjacent worshipping communities.

So popular have these online services become that it seems likely they will continue in some form even once regular church services are eventually resumed.

Incumbency

Rev Craig Marshall resigned his position as incumbent to take on a new benefice in Yorkshire. His final service was held at St Andrew’s on March 15th 2020. Thereafter the church was shut for some months due to Covid restrictions on people gathering in enclosed spaces.

It had been expected that in due course the Vacancy would be advertised and a new Incumbent appointed. It now seems that because of financial constraints on the Church of England generally, and especially because of the significant reduction in income due to the Covid pandemic, a new appointment may not be made and our Benefice may be merged with the adjoining one of Whitchurch. Formal confirmation of this is awaited.

In the intervening period of Vacancy we are deeply grateful to Rev Canon Dodie Marsden for all she has done over the past year to step into the role, handling weddings, funerals and home visits as well as masterminding the series of new online services.

Deanery Synod

The PCC has one representative on the Whitchurch Deanery Synod. This provides the PCC with an important link between the parish and the wider structures of the church. Recently, meetings have concentrated upon the serious financial situation of the Church generally and of this Diocese in particular. Colin Harbidge, Head of Operations for the Diocese gave a talk about the challenges presented by the current deficit in funding.

The Church of England is encountering new challenges from the COVID-19 pandemic and also falling church attendance. The Diocesan team has spent much time modelling various scenarios on funding and outcomes – even the most optimistic of which was going to result in losses of millions of pounds. Lower church attendance meant less cash given and the pandemic meant that church fund-raising was largely curtailed. Parishes who had a higher proportion of donors by direct debit and standing order fared better than those which relied on giving at a service.

All but the most essential repairs and renewals have been curtailed on clergy housing. The arch-deanery of Bournemouth in the south has now merged with the arch-deanery of Winchester in the north and Archdeacon Richard Brand’s role has increased substantially as a result. In addition, a number of other clergy posts are also being examined.

Diocesan offices at Old Alresford Place are now up for sale. The pandemic has shown the increased possibilities of working from home and staff will be accommodated at the Wolvesey Palace.

Rev. David Roche, our Rural Dean, said that more flexible ways of donating are needed – more card machines and online/digital donation and introducing these ways to the congregations and well-wishers is needed. It was noted that there are approximately 25,000 worshippers across the Diocese and that it costs £70,000 to put a priest in post in a parish.

The church and churchyard

Although closed for services for much of the year the church was opened for private prayer for a few hours on Wednesdays and Saturdays. Further opening hours were not possible because of the need to keep the church sanitised.

The annual church and churchyard maintenance day was again combined with the village's clean-up day, and the Parish Council kindly provided refreshments. The results were much appreciated by church attendees.

A new contractor was appointed to cut the grass in both the old and new churchyards. This has resulted in an improved appearance at lower cost for 2020. This improved facility for those visiting the graves of their loved ones also demonstrates that it is an area that is open to those who wish to spend time in a quiet and attractive place. Displays of early snowdrops and primroses were particularly appreciated.

In mid 2019 a report was commissioned into the condition of the trees in the churchyard. Acting upon this report approval was sought from both the local authority and the diocese to carry out a programme of work which involved the complete removal of two elderly cypress trees, pruning of the lime avenue leading up to the church, and light pruning and shaping of the veteran yew tree. This work was undertaken early in 2020 and two replacement flowering pear trees were planted in early 2021 to replace those removed.

During the winter of 2019/2020 a large lump of render blew off the South side of the chimney stack, later followed by another fall from the North side. Scaffolding was erected to permit the church architect to inspect the damage more closely. This resulted in a final decision to demolish and rebuild the stack completely because the brickwork had been damaged by frequent incursions of rainwater behind the render. A faculty was sought and permission granted to rebuild the chimney stack with an improved capping with tiles to ensure that water drips clear of the render. Tenders were sought and the work finally completed in November 2020.

Now that the scaffolding has finally been taken down and the elderly cypress removed the view of the church when approaching from the North has been much improved and is appreciated by parishioners.

For many years there had been a history of the organ sustaining damage due to an invasion of mice. They particularly attacked the leather of the bellows which had been patched on several occasions, but had also invaded the inner workings of the keyboard, gnawing on wooden and felt components which in turn led to sticking notes. A decision was taken to employ a pest control contractor on a regular basis to eradicate the mice and then to raise funds to cover the

cost of restoration of the organ. A faculty application was submitted and approved and the contract let to the original manufacturers of the organ, Messrs Bishop and Son. Sufficient funds were raised through several very generous donations and the holding of a number of concerts, particularly one in 2018 to celebrate 100 years since the death of Sir Hubert Parry who had originally played the organ when it was commissioned in 1906. The restoration work was completed in time for the organ to be used to accompany soloists singing at the two carol services and the service on Christmas morning 2020.

The contractor appointed to provide and install the new boiler system carried out the maintenance of the boiler system as usual. Unfortunately, a number of problems ensued necessitating replacement of printed circuit boards and other components. This is particularly disappointing in such an expensive system that is relatively new.

Pastoral Care

During 2019, pastoral visits were carried out by members of the laity.

Mission and Evangelism

The Benefice-wide Parish Magazine “Hill & Valley” continues to be distributed by volunteers to all who live in the Benefice. The magazine keeps our parishioners informed of church activities.

Further work on the Parish Mission Action Plan (P-MAP) was undertaken during the year in conjunction with the rest of the Benefice and plans were submitted to the Diocese. There is a standing item for discussion at PCC meetings to review and follow up on progress.

Financial Review

Total receipts on ordinary unrestricted funds were £25,942 of which £15,719 was from unrestricted voluntary donations and a further £4,211 was received from Gift Aid. Restricted donations of £7,800 were also received and are detailed in the Financial Statements attached to this report.

£23,016 was spent from unrestricted funds to provide the Christian ministry from St Andrew’s Church in 2019. This includes the contribution of £14,528 to the Diocesan Common Mission Fund, which largely provides the stipends, housing and training for the clergy. 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 head count of the congregations and the affluence rating of the community. Payment of the full amount of the Common Mission Fund was completed by year end.

We continue to benefit from the Parish Giving Scheme where Gift Aid donations are managed through the Diocese of Gloucester. The number of planned givers totals 14, with 11 of these donors using the Parish Giving scheme.

The net result for the year was an excess of receipts over payments of £2,926. Adding the bank balance brought forward at the beginning of the year, the balance carried forward on 31 December 2020 on unrestricted funds is £6,231.

Reserves Policy

An updated Reserves Policy was produced by the Treasurer and was adopted by the PCC in 2018. The policy states that the PCC will endeavour to maintain a minimum balance in the

general account of sufficient funds to cover three months' contribution to the Common Mission Fund. Annual surpluses of unrestricted funds will be held in the existing current account.

Volunteers

Volunteers continue to support the activities of the church in a wide variety of ways. This includes the wonderful flower arrangements, planning and producing service sheets, providing stimulating occupation for children at family services, opening and closing the church in the summer months, starting off the upkeep of the church and churchyard at the early spring event, fund-raising and providing generous funding, providing physical labour for things like church cleaning on a regular basis, putting up and taking down Christmas and other decorations, providing mental labour with accounts and financial planning, providing advice on church and churchyard maintenance – the list seems endless!

Sadly, the number of regular bell ringers in the village has dwindled to the point where we are now unable to ring our wonderful peal of bells, fully restored at the millennium, without assistance from other villages. We usually manage to find sufficient numbers to help out for weddings and Festival days but there are insufficient members to ring regularly before services on a Sunday. It is to be hoped that with the influx of fit, enthusiastic younger people into the village there may come a time when it will be possible to ring them again on a regular basis.

Lay involvement in reading lessons continues, together with leading prayers on occasion. Infrequently the laity are asked to take services when clergy are unavoidably unavailable. The PCC would like to thank all the volunteers who cheerfully carry out these duties.

Structure, governance and management

The method of appointment of PCC members is set out in the Church Representation Rules. At St Andrew's the membership of the PCC normally consists of the incumbent, two 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 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 full PCC met six times during the year with an average attendance of 72%.

The Standing Committee is the only committee required by law and is composed of the Vicar, two Churchwardens, the Secretary and the Treasurer. It met regularly in 2019.

Administrative Information

St Andrew's Church is situated in the middle of Hurstbourne Priors, but is surrounded by farm land with an avenue leading to it from the road through Hurstbourne Priors. For the purpose of finding it by Sat Nav enter: St Andrew's Church, Hurstbourne Priors, Whitchurch, Hampshire, RG28 7SB. It is part of the Diocese of Winchester within the Church of England. The Parish of St Andrew's, Hurstbourne Priors forms part of the Benefice of Hurstbourne Priors, Longparish, St Mary Bourne and Woodcott (known as The Bright Waters Benefice). The correspondence address is: 1 Cressington, Hurstbourne Priors, Whitchurch, Hants, RG28

7RS. 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 from 1st January 2020 until the date of this report was approved are:

Ex officio members:

Incumbent: The Reverend Craig Marshall (Chairman – resigned March 2020)
Churchwardens:
Mr Martin Briant-Evans (Deanery Synod Representative),
Mrs Fenella Williams

Elected members:

Mr Edward Beasley (Appointed May 2020)
Mr Charles Ekins
Mr Michael Stanes (Resigned January 2021)
Mr Simon Mattison
Mrs Julia Mattison
Mrs Ann Orr (Treasurer and Secretary)
Mr Mark Williams (Vice Chairman from March 2020)

Approved by the PCC on

2021

and signed on their behalf by Mr Mark Williams, Vice Chairman

Hurstbourne Priors PCC
 Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 December 2020
 Receipts and Payments
 Accounts

	<i>Notes</i>	Unrestricted fund	Unrestricted designated fund	Restricted fund	Total 2020	<i>Total 2019</i>
RECEIPTS						
Voluntary receipts:						
Planned giving		6,488	-	-	6,488	6,082
Collections at services		1,765	-	-	1,765	4,684
All other giving/voluntary receipts	3a	7,466	-	7,800	15,266	8,551
Gift Aid recovered		4,211	-	-	4,211	1,520
Total voluntary receipts		19,930	-	7,800	27,730	20,837
Activities for generating funds						
Fundraising	3b	1,212	-	100	1,312	6,859
Church Activities	3d	493	-	-	493	2,327
Grants		-	-	2,203	2,203	-
Insurance receipt		-	-	-	-	493
Investment income	3c	-	-	39	39	22
Bank charge refund		200	-	-	200	150
Benefice expenses refund		2,282	-	-	2,282	-
Transfers		1,825	-	(1,825)	-	-
Total Receipts		25,942	-	8,317	34,259	30,688
PAYMENTS						
Church Activities:						
Common Mission Fund		14,528	-	-	14,528	13,326
Clergy and Staffing costs	3e	1,338	-	83	1,421	2,328
Church running expenses	3f	7,122	-	-	7,122	11,596
Mission giving and donations	3g	-	-	-	-	255
Maintenance and repair of fabric	3h	-	-	14,900	14,900	2,219
Fundraising costs		28	-	40	68	-
Total Payments		23,016	-	15,023	38,039	29,724
Excess of Receipts over payments		2,926	-	(6,706)	(3,780)	964
Cash at bank and in hand at 1 Jan		3,305	-	26,033	29,338	28,374
Cash at bank and in hand at 31 Dec		6,231	-	19,327	25,558	29,338

Hurstbourne Priors PCC
Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31
December 2020
Statement of Assets
and Liabilities

Notes	Unrestricted fund	Unrestricted designated fund	Restricted fund	Total 2020	Total 2019
Cash Funds					
Bank Accounts	6,231	-	19,327	25,558	26,306
Post Office Account	-	-	-	-	3,032
	6,231	-	19,327	25,558	29,338
Other monetary assets					
Income tax recoverable	1,660	-		-	1,125

The movements in designated and restricted funds during the year were:

	Bal B/Fwd	Receipts	Payments	Transfer	Bal C/Fwd
Restricted					
Fabric Fund	4,529	8,700	(7,076)	5,112	11,265
Font Fund	2,940	-	-	(2,940)	-
Organ Fund	7,009	500	(1,034)	-	6,475
Roof Fund	7,071	903	(7,504)	-	470
Bell Fund	1,452	-	(335)	-	1,117
Post Office Account	3,032	39	(899)	(2,172)	-
	26,033	10,142	(16,848)	-	19,327

Notes:

1. The financial statements of the PCC have been prepared in accordance with the Church Accounting Regulations 2006 using the Receipts and Payments basis.

2a. The Fabric Fund represents accumulated donations and appeals for fabric maintenance, which can only be spent for that purpose.

2.b The Organ Fund represents funds raised for the repair and maintenance of the organ, which can only be spent for that purpose.

2.c The Roof Fund represents grants and donations for roof repairs required following a recent quinquennial inspection.

2.d The Bell Fund represents accumulated funds raised for the repair and maintenance of the bells, which can only be spent for that purpose.

3. Further Analysis of Receipts and Payments

	Unrestricted fund	Unrestricted designated fund	Restricted fund	Total 2020	Total 2019
Receipts					
a. All other giving/voluntary receipts					
Legacy	-	-	-	-	1,000
Donations	7,466	-	7,800	15,266	7,551
	7,466	-	7,800	15,266	8,551
b. Fundraising					
May Fair	879	-	-	879	5,250
Concerts and events	78	-	-	78	1,609
Sale of miscellaneous items	255	-	100	355	-
	1,212	-	100	1,312	6,859
c. Investment income					
Post Office account	-	-	39	39	22
d. Church activities					
Bellringers	-	-	-	-	206
Fees for weddings and funerals	493	-	-	493	2,121
	493	-	-	493	2,327
Payments					
e. Clergy and staffing costs					
Benefice expenses	888	-	-	888	888
Costs of services	450	-	83	533	1,440
	1,338	-	83	1,421	2,328
f. Church running expenses					
Church building running expenses	3,969	-	-	3,969	6,020
Church repairs and maintenance	3,153	-	-	3,153	5,576
	7,122	-	-	7,122	11,596
g. Mission giving and donations					
Donations	-	-	-	-	255
h. Maintenance and repair of fabric					
New blind	-	-	1,035	1,035	-
Quinquennial repairs	-	-	7,504	7,504	-
Oxenbridge tomb	-	-	1,806	1,806	-
Tree works	-	-	4,020	4,020	1,989
Other	-	-	535	535	230
	-	-	14,900	14,900	2,219