

St Andrew's Church, Hurstbourne Priors

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

for the year ended 31st December 2021

Incumbent

Currently Vacant

Bank

National Westminster Bank
Andover Branch
Bridge Street
Andover

Independent examiner

Mr Les Burrows
27 Hurstbourne Priors
Whitchurch
Hampshire



2021 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 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 Crib Service held outside this year 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 2021 was again affected in a major way by the global pandemic of Corona Virus, Covid 19. This affected both the church and wider society more generally. As a result of worsening infection rates in the winter months, services ceased to be held at St Andrew's between Christmas 2020 and Easter 2021 because of the acute danger of transmission of the virus. Thereafter regular services resumed on a cautious, socially distanced basis with masks being worn. Once a month a Benefice Evensong service was held which has proven popular. Despite precautions, a number of the regular congregation who were particularly at risk because of other health issues still felt unable to attend services.

A carol service was held on the Sunday before Christmas, and a service of Holy Communion on Christmas Day. Attendance at both these services was much reduced from normal because of anxiety about a new wave of the virus that was sweeping the country.

The Church Electoral Roll was revised early in 2022. On the roll there are now 37 residents and 5 non-residents. When the church was open for services during 2021 the average Sunday attendance was 21 (20) showing a slight increase on the previous year despite the effects of Covid. In 2021 there were: 2 (0) baptisms, 2 (3) marriages and 2 (1) funerals at St Andrew's (figures for 2020 are shown in brackets). Very sadly one of the funerals in September was that of Mark Williams, husband of churchwarden Fenella. Mark was Vice Chairman of the PCC during the time of the vacancy and was for many years a strong supporter of the church who frequently arranged and led services. He was a major participator in village life whose presence is sorely missed.

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. In 2021 the event was held virtually online by ZOOM with a total of 56 participants. This is a significant proportion of the total village population of about 300.

The regular programme of musical events had to be cancelled during much of 2021 because of the Covid virus restrictions, though a Piano recital by Christopher Burrows was held in October. A performance by string trio Wondering Fiddlers in November had to be cancelled at the last moment because one of the performers tested positive for the virus. It is hoped that further performances can be reinstated in due course once the risk of infection has reduced.

Worship and Prayer

During 2021 the pattern of services has altered slightly with an organist playing at all services. The rota for the new enlarged Benefice is still being developed, but for the early part of 2022 will follow the pattern below

1. 1st Sunday – 10.30 am Family Communion (using Common Worship)
2. 2nd Sunday – 6.00 pm Benefice Evensong (using BCP)
3. 3rd Sunday – 10.30 am Holy Communion (using BCP or Common Worship)
4. 4th Sunday – 4.00 pm All Age Worship or Songs of Praise (using modern liturgy)

The Family Communion and All Age Worship services were generally well attended, and increasingly by families with young children. The 8.00 am Holy Communion service was poorly attended in the past and has been replaced. The Benefice Evensong is proving to be popular with those in the wider benefice who prefer a simple BCP Evensong service in the quiet and beautiful surroundings of St Andrews.

We are conscious that families with children are finding it difficult to come to church on a Sunday morning when their children are involved in sport or other activities. We have therefore introduced the 4pm service of All Age Worship on a Sunday afternoon which we hope will be easier for busy families.

The “Songs of Praise” services which had been held on a quarterly basis since 2019 have had to be suspended as it proved impossible for our small orchestral group to play in a Covid compliant manner. We look forward to them being resumed as soon as possible.

A Harvest Festival lunch was held for a small number of people in the village hall following the Festival service in church. A limited Remembrance Day service was again held, as was a reduced St Andrew’s Day Patronal service. A Crib Service held on the Recreation Ground was well attended by families of all ages from the village. This was an opportunity for outreach to people who may not usually come to a service in church and we hope to make this an annual event.

The monthly Healing Prayer Group continued to meet. 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 addition to worship in church the successful series of local on-line services has continued 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. The services have mostly been led by The Rev Canon Dodie Marsden and Rev Richard Sutcliffe, 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.

So popular have these online services become that it was decided to continue them even once regular church services resumed.

Incumbency

Following the departure of the previous incumbent, Rev Craig Marshall in March 2020, it had been expected that the Vacancy would be advertised and a new Incumbent appointed. However, after several meetings with Archdeacon Richard Brand and Bishop David, both online and in person, it has been decided that owing to financial constraints on Winchester Diocese and the Church of England generally, and especially because of the significant reduction in income due to the Covid pandemic, a new appointment will not be made and our Benefice will be merged with the adjoining one of Whitchurch. A special meeting of the PCC was held on 21st June to approve this merger. Formal legal confirmation of this process has yet to be completed, but is anticipated to occur during the first half of 2022.

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

During the year we benefitted from the increasing involvement of Rev David Roche who will become the Incumbent of the new combined Benefices of Whitchurch and Bright Waters consisting of nine churches. In September Rev Helen O'Sullivan was appointed as assistant to Rev David Roche. She brings with her experience of working in multi-church benefices and parishes and a strong background of working with children which we hope will encourage more families to attend church on a regular basis. Both of them have preached on several occasions at St Andrew's during the year and are becoming acquainted with our congregation. We welcome them both.

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. During 2021 there were elections for the Diocesan Synod. These came at a particularly critical time for the Diocese as the Bishop of Winchester is standing down following a long period of reflection and many meetings. There have also been many meetings concerning the pastoral reorganization and the way in which it affects our Deanery. A new structure has now been agreed in principle and is currently undergoing legal implementation.

The church and churchyard

The church was opened to visitors for much of the Summer period when Covid was less prevalent. The annual church and churchyard maintenance day did not take place this year because of the shutdown.

The new contractor appointed to cut the grass in the churchyard has continued throughout 2021. This has resulted in an improved appearance at lower cost. In September a large branch of a tree fell across the new churchyard in a storm. Fortunately none of the graves or headstones were damaged and it was quickly cleared up by our forestry advisors. This occurred despite the careful pruning of many trees and branches the previous year.

The contractor appointed to provide and install the new boiler system carried out the maintenance of the boiler system as usual. The system has proven to be more resilient this year without the breakdowns recorded in previous years.



Pastoral Care

During 2021, pastoral visits were carried out by members of the clergy and the laity, especially including those who felt unable to come to church as they were particularly vulnerable to the effects of catching the virus.

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.

No further work on the Parish Mission Action Plan (P-MAP) was undertaken during the year pending the introduction of new plans for the revised Benefice. 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 £29,190 of which £8,206 was from church fundraising activities including the very successful Midsummer Celebration and auction eventually held in September. Restricted donations of £2,471 were also received and are detailed in the Financial Statements attached to this report.

£25,637 was spent from unrestricted funds to provide the Christian ministry from St Andrew's Church in 2021. This includes the contribution of £13,685 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. This share will increase in 2022 as we are surprisingly now deemed to be in a higher affluence band than our neighbouring villages.

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 12 of these donors using the Parish Giving scheme.

The net result for the year was an excess of receipts over payments of £3,553. Adding the bank balance brought forward at the beginning of the year, the balance carried forward on 31 December 2020 on unrestricted funds is £9,784.

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!

During 2021 we were particularly fortunate that a dedicated team came together to organize the “Midsummer Celebration”. This consisted of a wonderful dinner complete with entertainment provided by local singers and followed by an auction. The event which had to be delayed by three months because of Covid was wonderfully supported by a great number of villagers and raised the sum of £6,391 – approximately the same as would have been the church’s share of the May Fair which had to be cancelled once again this year.

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 without assistance from other villages. Several “taster” experiences have been held recently in the hope of attracting new ringers.

Lay involvement in reading lessons continues, together with leading prayers on occasion. Infrequently the laity are asked to take services when clergy are 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 five times by ZOOM and twice in person during the year with an average attendance of 96%.

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 infrequently in 2021.

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) and will shortly be joined by the Benefice of Whitchurch. The correspondence address is: The Old Parsonage, Hurstbourne Priors, Whitchurch, Hampshire, RG28 7SB. 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 2021 until the date of this report was approved are:

Ex officio members:

Incumbent: Vacant

Churchwardens:

Mr Martin Briant-Evans (Deanery Synod Representative),

Mrs Fenella Williams

Elected members:

Mr Edward Beasley

Mr Charles Ekins

Mr Simon Mattison (Vice Chairman from September 2021)

Mrs Julia Mattison

Mrs Ann Orr (Treasurer and Secretary)

Mr Mark Williams (Vice chairman, sadly deceased September 2021)

Approved by the PCC on

20-MARCH
~~16-MARCH~~ 2022

AT APCM



and signed on their behalf by Mr Simon Mattison, Vice Chairman

Hurstbourne Priors PCC
 Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 December 2021
 Receipts and Payments Accounts

	Notes	Unrestricted fund	Unrestricted designated fund	Restricted fund	Total 2021	Total 2020
RECEIPTS						
Voluntary receipts:						
Planned giving		7,452	-	-	7,452	6,488
Collections at services		3,369	-	-	3,369	1,765
Donations		6,671	-	527	7,198	15,266
Gift Aid recovered		1,863	-	1,944	3,807	4,211
Total voluntary receipts		19,355	-	2,471	21,826	27,730
Activities for generating funds						
Fundraising	3a	8,206	-	647	8,853	1,312
Church Activities	3b	1,629	-	-	1,629	493
Grants		-	-	-	-	2,203
Insurance receipt		-	-	-	-	-
Investment income		-	-	-	-	39
Bank charge refund		-	-	-	-	200
Benefice expenses refund		-	-	-	-	2,282
Transfers		-	-	-	-	-
Total Receipts		29,190	-	3,118	32,308	34,259
PAYMENTS						
Church Activities:						
Common Mission Fund		13,685	-	-	13,685	14,528
Clergy and Staffing costs	3c	2,384	-	-	2,384	1,421
Church running expenses	3d	8,311	-	-	8,311	7,122
Mission giving and donations		946	-	-	946	-
Maintenance and repair of fabric	3e	-	-	6,384	6,384	14,900
Fundraising costs		310	-	231	541	68
Bank charges		1	-	-	1	-
Total Payments		25,637	-	6,615	32,252	38,039
Excess of Receipts over payments		3,553	-	(3,497)	56	(3,780)
Cash at bank and in hand at 1 Jan		6,231	-	19,327	25,558	29,338
Cash at bank and in hand at 31 Dec		9,784	-	15,830	25,614	25,558



Hurstbourne Priors PCC
 Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 December 2021
 Statement of Assets and Liabilities

Notes	Unrestricted fund	Unrestricted designated fund	Restricted fund	Total 2021	Total 2020
Cash Funds					
Bank Accounts	9,784	-	15,830	25,614	25,558
Other monetary assets					
Income tax recoverable	1,504	-	-	1,504	1,660

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

Restricted	Bal B/Fwd	Receipts	Payments	Transfer	Bal C/Fwd
Fabric Fund	11,265	1,229	(231)	-	12,263
Organ Fund	6,475	1,064	(6,384)	-	1,155
Roof Fund	470	825	-	-	1,295
Bell Fund	1,117	-	-	-	1,117
	19,327	3,118	(6,615)	-	15,830

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.

2.a. 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, which can only be spent for that purpose.

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 2021	Total 2020
RECEIPTS					
a. Fundraising					
May Fair	1,357	-	-	1,357	879
Midsummer celebration	6,391	-	-	6,391	
Concerts and events	438	-	552	990	78
Sale of miscellaneous items	20	-	95	115	355
	8,206	-	647	8,853	1,312
b. Church activities					
Bellringers	-	-	-	-	-
Fees for weddings and funerals	1,629	-	-	1,629	493
	1,629	-	-	1,629	493
PAYMENTS					
c. Clergy and staffing costs					
Benefice expenses	888	-	-	888	888
Costs of services	1,496	-	-	1,496	533
	2,384	-	-	2,384	1,421
d. Church running expenses					
Church building running expenses	4,369	-	-	4,369	3,969
Church repairs and maintenance	3,942	-	-	3,942	3,153
	8,311	-	-	8,311	7,122
e. Maintenance and repair of fabric					
New blind	-	-	-	-	1,035
Quinquennial repairs	-	-	-	-	7,504
Oxenbridge tomb	-	-	-	-	1,806
Tree works	-	-	-	-	4,020
Organ repairs	-	-	6,384	6,384	
Other	-	-	-	-	535
	-	-	6,384	6,384	14,900

