



Showing and Sharing God's Love

**Annual Report
and
Financial Statement
of the Parochial Church Council
for the year ended 31 December 2023**

Incumbent

The Revd Richard Wise
The Rectory
10 Stoke Park Road
Bishopstoke

Independent Examiner

Peter Cates

ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

St Mary's Church is situated in Church Road, Bishopstoke, and St Paul's Church is in Fair Oak Road, Bishopstoke. Together the two churches serve the Parish of Bishopstoke. The Parish is part of the Diocese of Winchester within the Church of England. The address for correspondence is: The Rector, 10 Stoke Park Road, Bishopstoke. SO50 6DA.

PCC members who have served from 1 January 2023 until the date this report was approved are:

Clergy

The Revd Richard Wise

Chair

Church wardens

Cherry Challis

Wendy Harris

Also Vice Chair

Ex-officio

Margaret Ward (LLM)

Representatives on the Deanery Synod (Ex-officio Members)

Ann Brown

Jeanette Neale

Until APCM 2023

Wendy Harris

From APCM 2023

Elected Members

Pamela Boyes

Karen Caws

Michael Harris

Treasurer

Jeanette Neale

From APCM 2023

Shirley Smeal

Structure, governance and management

The method of appointment of PCC members is set out in the Church Representation Rules. All Church attendees are encouraged to register on the Electoral Roll and stand for election to the PCC. Licensed Lay Ministers (LLMs) are ex-officio.

Objectives and Activities

Bishopstoke PCC has the responsibility of co-operating with the Incumbent in promoting in the ecclesiastical parish the whole mission of the Church: pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical. It also has maintenance responsibilities for St Mary's Church, Church Road, Bishopstoke; St Paul's Church, Fair Oak Road, Bishopstoke; and the Church Room, Stoke Park Road, Bishopstoke.

Other committees may meet and report back to full meetings of the PCC. Membership of these committees is not necessarily restricted to PCC members.

Standing Committee is required by law and consists of the Incumbent, Church wardens and the Officers of the PCC. It sets the agenda for PCC meetings and has the power to transact the business of the PCC between its meetings, subject to any directions given by the Council.

Church membership, attendance and occasional offices

	2021	2022	2023
Electoral Roll	84 (15 not resident in parish)	88 (16 not resident in parish)	86 (15 not resident in parish)
Worshipping Community	98 (14 under 18)	99 (15 under 18)	108 (19 under 18)
Usual Sunday attendance (adults)	40	46 * (*corrected since last report)	49
Usual Sunday attendance (children)	8	9	7
Baptisms	14	21	16
Thanksgivings	1	2	0
Weddings	5	9	4
Funerals	22 (9 in church)	16 (9 in church)	19 (12 in church)

The average of children on a 'usual Sunday' above has been based only on those at Church Together. The average number of adults at Church Together services was 34 (31 in 2022), and the average number of adults at Parish Communion was 42 (40 in 2022). The average attendance at Messy Church was 19 adults and 17 children.

The Worshipping Community includes all those who attend church on a regular basis, whether or not they are on the Electoral Roll and including those who come regularly to a Fresh Expression (in our case, Messy Church). (The usual Sunday attendance figure does not include Messy Church attendees.) It has been wonderful to welcome quite a number of new or returning people to our church over the past year.

PCC review of the year

The full PCC had nine meetings during the year. As always, practically all the PCC's work is reflected on in other parts of this report. Health and Safety and Safeguarding are standing agenda items at every PCC meeting. Peta Thornton has continued to be our PCC minute taker, for which we are most grateful.

SAFEGUARDING

Safeguarding is a standing item on each PCC meeting agenda and there will be a written or oral report presented for PCC scrutiny. The PCC is the responsible body for Safeguarding for the Parish. Safeguarding in the United Kingdom covers children and young people up to the age of 18 years and also adults who are considered 'at risk' or vulnerable for whatever reason. The parish is taking part in the Diocesan (and national) Safeguarding Dashboard scheme. This evaluates Safeguarding effectiveness at three levels. We have made substantial progress over the last twelve months and currently stand at 86% completion working towards achieving the final Level 3. This means the PCC has reviewed policies and procedures ensuring that these are in line with the requirements of best practice and the duty the PCC has, to have 'due regard' to the House of Bishops Safeguarding Policy and Practice Guidance. Our current area of focus is the Safeguarding arrangements and standards of organisations using parish facilities.

Margaret Ward

WORSHIP

Services

I am very grateful to everyone who has contributed to our worship in any way over the past year, not least Margaret Ward (LLM) and Pat Abbott (BCM Worship) for leading worship and preaching. Thank you to everyone who reads or leads intercessions at our more formal services, and to those who facilitate zones at Church Together.

We used the lectionary readings for almost all the year and continue to use Roots on the Web for resources, which particularly helps with ideas for Church Together. Towards the end of our Church Together service on the Presentation of Christ in the Temple, we went out into the churchyard to plant some new trees and prayed for God's blessing on them, and in February we welcomed Chris Stratta to speak about the work of The Leprosy Mission. For Creationtide (during September) we used this year's theme of 'Let Justice and Peace flow'. All the talks were on Old Testament passages, and we were very pleased to welcome Ruth Jarman, Information Officer at 'Green Christian', to give the second one. During October, we had a couple of sermons focused on Stewardship, and in November we welcomed Trevor Roff to speak about the persecuted church on behalf of 'Open Doors'.

I am very grateful to all who lead and play for the musical aspect of our worship: Jon Senior and our worship band; Ann Arnold, for her playing at St Paul's almost every week of the year and sometimes singing; Phil Dunford for playing at Parish Communion and most of our weddings and funerals. I am also very grateful to Ann and Jon for their song choices, which invariably fit our Bible passages and themes extremely well. At St Paul's we were blessed by using some less well-known 'traditional' hymns, sometimes using Hymns Ancient and Modern or The New English Hymnal, rather than the Songs of Praise hymnbook. At Church Together we learnt a few new songs whilst consolidating others – we now have a large repertoire of contemporary songs! Once again, for Carols by Candlelight Ann and Phil assembled a choir, who sang incredibly well on just four rehearsals.

During the year, we finally returned to the normal way of sharing the chalice during communion and to shaking hands at the Peace, following the restrictions for safety during Covid-19.

For the eighth year running we encouraged people to take part in the global prayer initiative 'Thy Kingdom Come', using prayer journals, and there were also two prayer times in church.

Richard Wise

Children and Young People

Children and young people continue to play a major part in both Messy Church (see p.6) and Church Together.

DISCIPLESHIP

Prayer Healing Fellowship

In our 47th year we are a happy band of pray-ers! It is such a privilege to pray for people at the highest – or lowest – point of their lives.

I report the loss of two members: Jane Lush and Connie Harrison. Jane was housebound but enjoyed cards and visits from us right up to her death in October. Connie was in Sunnybank

residential home from May 2023. She suffered from Dementia; in July she was diagnosed with terminal cancer and died in August. We miss them.

We continue to support our two housebound members, Joy and Chris, with cards and visits.

We have three new members! Ann and Karen come when possible, and recently Julia joined us. We are so pleased they have joined us. We now number 16, plus Joy and Chris.

I am so grateful to Richard, Cherry, Margaret, Pat and Ann for their important part in our meetings. I love all members of PHF and thank them for their loyalty and love. We continue to send cards to all sorts of people for many different reasons, and we praise God for his many blessings to us.

Sheila Sebborn

Home Groups

Two home groups continued to meet on Tuesday evenings during 2023.

Our home group meets in person at St Mary's, usually on the second and fourth Tuesday of each month, and at the end of 2023 we had eight regular members. During the year we worked through the Archbishop of Canterbury's 'Difference' course, looked at 1 Peter, and did the Holy Habits Bible study on 'Making More Disciples'.

Richard Wise

Our home group meets fortnightly, usually on the first and third Tuesday of the month – and we meet on Zoom. That means parents with childcare commitments can join us too. With a full home group, we have ten members across seven screens and are managing lively discussions and quiet prayer times despite online constraints: we share food virtually! Over the last year we have looked at the Archbishop of Canterbury's 'Difference' course; two different studies from the Bible Reading Fellowship's Holy Habits series: 'Making More Disciples' and 'Following Jesus', as well as studies on psalms. Over December and January, we followed four different 'songs' from Luke's gospel, getting fresh perspective on the Christmas gospel. We welcome new members, with online access, especially anyone whose home commitments mean they cannot leave home in the evening for a face-to-face meeting.

Margaret Ward

Tuesday Together, our daytime home group, did not meet during 2023.

PASTORAL CARE

Once again, during 2023 pastoral care has continued in various ways – through home groups, Prayer Healing Fellowship, home visits, individual face-to-face or telephone conversations – within the church family and local community. Home communion visits have also been organised for the housebound.

Since summer 2023, visits and services have been re-established at Orchard Gardens care home in addition to the ongoing monthly communion service at Bishopstoke Park. The church has also visited Stoke Knoll Care home each month, alternating communion with a service of hymns, readings and prayers.

Individually made cards have been sent to people celebrating special occasions such as anniversaries, milestone birthdays and the arrival of a new baby. Get well cards have been signed and sent to several people during 2023. Sympathy cards have also been sent to bereaved families.

You are reminded that the prayer board at St Mary's can be used, and it is hoped that prayer ministry after services will soon be offered again. Please let us or Richard know if you would like prayer, possibly including your name being on the Welcome sheet and read in services, or a pastoral visit.

Ann Brown & Joan Cook

MISSION AND OUTREACH

Events

Our popular Café @ St Mary's was held seven times during the year. In March, we held an 'As One' event, to which the residents of certain roads in the parish were invited for a brunch, where they could get to know one another and were encouraged to set up street associations. One such group was already in progress, but two more were formed as a result, and they held community events for their groups of roads during the summer. Thank you to everyone who worked so hard to make these events, including the cream teas (see below), possible.

Richard Wise

Ladies' Cream Tea

The Ladies' Cream Tea group continues to grow, becoming a much-loved meeting place for women and girls of all ages. Since we started in July 2022, our bi-monthly Saturday afternoon gatherings have become warmly anticipated events filled with friendship over tea and cake. The increase in average attendance shows how much everyone enjoys and values these gatherings. In July 2023, we held a big, inclusive Cream Tea event that welcomed everyone. This special event showed how open and friendly our community is, and it was a huge success. True to our spirit of generosity, we donated to a local women's refuge, reaffirming our dedication to supporting those in our community who are most in need.

Sibo Armstrong

Messy Church

Messy Church continues to take place in St Paul's Church on the first Sunday of each month (except for a summer break in August).

Each session begins with an hour of activities (usually around 8-10 different activities to try out), followed by a short Celebration, where we sing, hear a Bible story and pray. We then move into the hall to enjoy a meal together.

The Young Leaders Team continues to meet once a month for pizza and planning, and it's been great having such a fantastic group of young people leading some of the activities at Messy Church!

A huge thank you to everyone who has been involved in making Messy Church happen in 2023, whether through planning, leading activities, or preparing and serving the food.

Anne Wise

Open the Book

Open the Book is part of the work of Bible Society. Volunteers take assemblies in primary schools, the major part of which is reading and acting out Bible stories wearing costumes, with a brief introduction and closing reflection and prayer.

Our team gives an assembly in both Stoke Park Infant and Stoke Park Junior schools most weeks of the year, but Year 6 pupils cover the assemblies independently in their classes, sometimes doing some written work based on the Bible story. The team includes members of other churches in the area and had nine active members during the year. It's not unusual for us to be greeted in the street with the comment: 'You're from Open the Book!'

Richard Wise

Tots and Tinies

Tots and Tinies is our term-time toddler group at St Mary's on Tuesday mornings, for young children and their parents / carers. There are toys and craft activities, refreshments, and a story and song session at the end. We average around 10 parents/carers each week with their children. and aim to offer support and friendship to all who come.

Many thanks to Wendy and Chris for all their help in running the group.

Anne Wise

Unshakeable

Unshakeable is a group for 11-17-year-olds which meets at St Mary's on alternate Saturday evenings for 'Fun, Food and Faith'. The group has continued to attract a good number, with about 30 young people who come along regularly, many of whom do not otherwise come to any other church events.

Each session has lots of social time when the young people can play games such as snooker, table tennis, board games and xbox, and the ever-popular hide and seek – preferably in the dark! There's usually a cooking or craft activity to have a go at too, and the tuck continues to be very popular! We finish each session with a 'faith' time, mainly working through life issues that are hopefully relevant to the young people in the group.

At the start of 2023 we spent some time choosing a charity to support. We looked at three charities and chose World Vision to fundraise for. We then did a 12km sponsored walk along the river from Winchester back to Bishopstoke as part of World Vision's Global 6k for water – we thought 6k was a bit easy, so doubled it! As part of the walk, group members filled 5l water bottles from the river to carry as they went, to experience a bit of what many children have to do daily in order to have fresh water. The group raised a fantastic total of £700!

Other highlights of the year were another 'All Night Film Night', and a return visit to Ninja Warrior, followed by refreshments at KFC.

Many thanks to Tessa, Brandon and Michael for all they do to help run the group.

Anne Wise

Creation Care

In 2023, when the wildflower meadow in St Mary's churchyard began to grow, the Eco team was excited to see 'yellow rattle' for the first time. This feeds off some of the more invasive grass species, eventually allowing more delicate, traditional species to push their way through, so we are keen to see what emerges in 2024. We built a green roof for our bug hotel and continued to develop it as a good place for the insects to live. We invited local groups and businesses to our 'Eco Wildlife & Grow' event in June with speakers: Brother Hugh from Hilfield Friary and Catharine Gale from Hampshire Swifts.

In the autumn, we planted spring bulbs in the prayer garden and painted verses on stones to put around the churchyard the following spring. We also agreed to embark on a year-long 'Greening Campaign', which involves the community of Bishopstoke in making it a greener place to live. This is a funded, national project.

During the year, the PCC made a resolution that all liquid handwash, washing up liquid, floor / multi-surface cleaner and toilet cleaner used at St Mary's should be sourced from refill shops, in order to reduce the use of plastic as well as use more environmentally friendly products. They also investigated buying toilet rolls produced from more sustainable sources and agreed on those with the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) label.

In September six members of our church/community took part in a Walk of Witness for 'Make Polluters Pay Action Day' in Hedge End, organised by St Luke's and St John's. It started and ended with prayer and worship, and there was also the opportunity to sign a letter to our MP, asking for government commitment to make UK-based fossil fuel companies and other big polluters pay to finance the UN's Loss and Damage Fund (see also Christian Aid report, p.9).

We continue to work towards gaining a Silver Eco Church Award, and all these actions will contribute to that.

Karen Caws

Giving outside the Parish

This year we supported the following organisations financially or 'in kind':

- ARK (Gift & Offertory giving)
- Basics Bank (Offertory giving and in kind)
- Bible Reading Fellowship (Gift & PHF)
- Christian Aid (Collections & Harvest Charity)
- Fledge (Offertory giving)
- Friends of the Holy Land (Christmas Charity)
- Hampshire Swifts (Fundraising)
- Leprosy Mission (Offertory giving)
- Mountbatten Hospice (PHF)
- Samaritan's Purse (PHF)
- Society of St Francis – Hilfield (Fundraising)
- Soroptimist International of Winchester (Fundraising)
- Tear Fund (Café stall)
- The British Legion Poppy Appeal (Gift)

- The Children’s Society (Gift & Christingle Offertory)
- The Red Cross (PHF)
- World Vision UK (Unshakeable)

Christian Aid

The parish supported Christian Aid with three major fundraising events in 2023, as listed below. These amounts do not include Gift Aid. We would like to thank everyone who has helped with fundraising or contributed to the valuable sums raised. This enthusiastic support is so important.

Turkey / Syria Earthquake	£360.50
Christian Aid Week	£1350.09
Harvest Appeal	£248.00
Total	£1958.59

We also outlined the importance of the work of Christian Aid in combatting global climate change in the southern hemisphere in a letter about climate change to our MP, Paul Holmes, sent in October.

Margaret Ward

BUILDINGS AND STEWARDSHIP

Fabric and Goods

St Mary’s

This year has seen further work being done in the churchyard. We have had further tree works carried out by the Parish Council, and we have had the oil tank removed and bicycle stands introduced where the oil tank used to be. We have also had another memorial bench donated for the churchyard. Permission has also been granted to put a noticeboard up on the boundary wall outside the church under the existing noticeboard.

The external works identified in the Quinquennial Inspection (QI) report has been out to tender and costs have been received. This is now the subject of a major fundraising campaign, and the work will be done in two phases.

This year we also had a working party to tidy up areas around the church and prepare the area for the bicycle stands, and we are very grateful to all who came along to help.

Internally, work commenced on the clock and it is hoped this will be completed shortly. We also plan on finishing the work to the vestry following the infestation of dry rot a few years ago. Also, we are investigating the introduction of a safety harness for the ladder in the bell tower – this has been mentioned in the last couple of QI reports as needing doing.

As I finish my time as Church warden, I would like to thank everyone who has helped out over the year, which has made my job so much easier! Your support has been fantastic, and I am so grateful to you all.

Wendy Harris

St Paul’s

During 2023, once we realised that it would be too expensive to rebuild the facility, we started to explore one further option for the future of St Paul’s with Eastleigh Borough Council (EBC). We wondered whether the £400,000 earmarked for the building might still be spent on it, in particular to

provide an additional entrance and toilets for the hall, so that the two parts of the building might be used completely independently. Surveyors from the Council have started to look into this, but they need to work out whether the building as a whole is in a sufficiently good state for the amendments to be made. It also requires a completely new roof, partly because the cheap tiles used when it was built in the 1960s are too heavy for the structure, causing cracks in the walls.

We had an electrical test undertaken on the whole building in the summer, which revealed that a lot of work needs to be done in order to comply with current standards. Only a few minor parts of this have been addressed so far. Following this, the Quinquennial Inspection was undertaken by our architect, and this also highlighted the poor structural state of the building.

Minor maintenance was done on the building during the year, the whole premises is cleaned once a week, and we continue to pay for regular upkeep of the grounds. We also left a portion of grass unmown during the summer for wildflowers to grow. Meanwhile, it remains a popular venue for community groups and other hirers, despite its condition and lack of a separate entrance for the hall.

Church Room

The Church Room continues to be used for both church and charitable storage.

Thank you so much to everyone who helped with building matters during the year, including Cherry Challis and Wendy Harris, our church wardens, and all who clean the churches. We are also very grateful to the Parish Council for all their maintenance work in St Mary's churchyard and Old St Mary's churchyard.

Richard Wise

Financial Review

Summary

The Church's finances in 2023 remained sufficient to cover running costs, but Phase 1 of the works required at St Mary's quoted from £122k inc-VAT (*which may not be recoverable from 2025*) cannot commence until sufficient funds are in place (though some fundraising has begun). Projected works to redevelop St Paul's being mostly unfunded is in suspense – as is the re-ordering of the Vestry space at St Mary's. Accounts were not finalised in time for APCM (Gift Aid provisions are estimated), so Draft figures in red are presented – only I am to blame for being late! Our Reserves policy is to cover 3 months' running costs – after planned increases to Reserve and Fabric funds, unrestricted funds @£3k (2022: £3.5k) showed little movement (and better than forecast). Voluntary income increased – it is good to see some response to appeals – but **to safeguard our buildings, and related missional work, more prayer and action is needed by us all to raise or generate funds, and index-link our giving.**

Shown is our Statement of Financial Activities for 2023 (see p.17-20) with a breakdown of the Income and Expenditure Account as represented by General Funds and Reserves, and Funds Designated or Restricted for specific purposes. Monies are mostly held in HSBC, and Cambridge & Counties.

Income

Excluding small grants, voluntary giving in 2023 increased by over 9% – donations comprise @70% of our income, mainly from parishioners regularly giving, and incorporates a missional giving increase of nearly £1k. Income from fundraising, lettings and building society interest increased notably – total income amounting to @£91k (2022: £85.4k). Statutory fees income decreased (far fewer church weddings). **We receive no state funding.**

Expenditure

Total spending of £74.5k seems to show a decrease (2022: £80.4k), but excluding major capital spends (very little of which in 2023 c.f. 2022) costs actually increased by an above-inflation 10%. The Common Mission Fund (CMF) request increased to £40.6k (2022: £37.5k), *though this reduces in 2024 to 2022's level*. CMF represents over half of our unrestricted spending – paying Richard's wages, housing costs and training, and supports mission here and elsewhere (see www.winchester.anglican.org/common-mission-fund/). Large single-item costs at St Mary's were £1.9k for bell ropes (funded by the bellringers), £1.5k for oil tank removal, specification works for £900, and £676 for lock/key repairs. Utility costs rose significantly over inflation, so total running costs increased despite savings in many areas. *Snagging issues from St Mary's lighting project remain unresolved.*

Stewardship

Financial giving is a sacrificial, rewarding, expression of your faith and worship. Please consider giving regularly via the Parish Giving Scheme, Standing Order or weekly envelopes. We recover tax paid through gift aid. Contact us for forms and details of these or about leaving a financial legacy. You can also give online (please see www.cofebishopstoke.com/giving-to-our-church).

Thanks to our Examiner Peter Cates, and to all who helped to run our church's finances – notably Wendy Dale, Sheila Sebborn, and our Gift Aid Secretary Natasha Redfern.

Mike Harris

THE BELLRINGERS' GUILD

At the beginning of the year there were 24 members of the band at St Mary's. Eight new ringers started during the year. Four stopped or moved away. The other four are still with us and making good progress.

In February the sensors were sent back to David Bagley for servicing and upgrading. It was then connected to the "new" computer, kindly supplied by Ben. The refurbished sensors were reconnected in April by Ben and Roy, and used for numerous "silent" training sessions.

Demonstrations

8 March: A "hands on" demo was given to a Cubs group.

28 November: A similar demo was given to a Scout group.

In March, after the Cubs' demonstration, a new set of ropes arrived from Avon Ropes and was installed. Anything heavy was tied to the ropes for a few days to remove any stretch. Although the sallies are a bit fatter than the previous set, the ringers have had no problems with them.

This year's outing was extended from three to four days. We flew to Belfast on 1 June. We were based in Carrickfergus and rang at 14 of the 17 towers in Northern Ireland.

Only three weddings requested bells this year, well down on previous years. The bells were rung half-muffled for a peal on 11 November, Armistice Day, and again the following day, Remembrance Sunday. 15 quarter peals were attempted, mainly by local ringers. These are a very useful form of advanced practice. Two were lost.

We entered the Winchester District striking competition and came 3rd. Stephen rang in the Winchester & Portsmouth youth team that represented the Guild in the National Youth Competition in York, and they won the method ringing section.

The bells were booked six times by visiting bands. The W&P youth group made several Sunday afternoon visits, which obviously paid off.

Local peals

4 February: Not a local band peal, but congratulations to Elizabeth Skinner who rang Plain Bob Major at Bishopstoke for her first peal. It was rung on her 70th birthday!

7 May: Plain Bob Major was rung to mark the coronation of King Charles III. This was Ben's first peal.

We held a tower barbecue on 12 August, hosted by Roy and Ann. The 36th annual dinner, in lieu of practice, was held on 30 November. Arranged by Julia, 15 of us dined at the Saffron in Eastleigh.

In December, Roy, Graham and Ben removed 6 bags of jackdaw twigs from behind the south louvres before reinforcing the bird netting. That, and the fact that our only complainer has moved, means we are now able to open the sound control again on Sundays and special occasions.

Attendance on Thursdays and Sundays has been good. We always have enough ringers to ring all ten bells on every occasion. Stedman Triples, Cambridge or Bristol Surprise Major and Grandsire Caters are usually rung on Sunday mornings. Occasionally, we had enough to ring Stedman Caters.

Roy LeMarechal

THE WIDER CHURCH

Deanery Synod

There was an outside speaker at each of the three meetings of the Eastleigh Deanery Synod. In March, at St James', West End, we heard from Victor Humphrey, a member of the Diocesan Environmental Group, about "Caring for God's Creation". He reminded us that as individuals we cannot do everything but we each can do something.

In June, at St Boniface, Chandler's Ford, the Revd James Mosher, the then new Southampton Chaplain from The Mission to Seafarers told us about his very varied work supporting seafarers who are often away from home and their families for many months at a time. Sadly, the need for chaplaincy support is often greater than the resources available.

The October meeting at St John's, Hedge End welcomed the Ven. Richard Brand, Archdeacon of Winchester, who came to talk about the wellbeing of clergy. A Clergy Covenant for wellbeing had been passed by an Act of General Synod in 2020. This commits all parts of the Church, as well as individual clergy, to sharing the responsibility for the welfare of ministers and their households.

The Treasurer reported that by October eight of the 12 parishes were up to date with payment of the Common Mission Fund (CMF), but that there was likely to be a slight shortfall overall by the end of the year. The figures that had been published for 2024 were a little lower. All parishes had paid their voluntary contribution to Deanery Synod expenses.

Diocesan Synod updates included the news that Bishop Debbie was to leave the Diocese of Winchester in November to become Bishop of Peterborough. At the June meeting there was no news about a new Bishop of Winchester, but by October it had been announced that the Rt Revd Philip Mounstephen had been appointed and would be installed in January 2024.

In May there had again been an opportunity to worship together at “Churches Together Together” at All Saints’, Eastleigh.

The proposed companion link with the Democratic Republic of Congo had not yet materialised, but we heard that Bursledon Parish had continued the previous link with Bukedi, Uganda. They had helped build an accommodation block at the youth training institute as well as other facilities at Pallisa, and Deanery parishes were asked if they or individuals from their churches might like to provide funds to sponsor students at the institute while we awaited news of our next link.

At each meeting parishes were encouraged to identify and share an item of praise and one of challenge. Items of praise included an increase in outreach in schools and communities, work amongst young people, and the setting up of warm spaces in several church buildings during the autumn and winter. There had been new clergy appointments at Boyatt Wood and St John’s, Hedge End, and there was thanks for the support parishes in vacancy were continuing to receive.

Items of challenge included problems with buildings, the loss of congregational members, and lack of volunteers for activities and PCCs. At the October meeting we heard that Chandlers Ford Parish still had a vacancy, and Hound and Hamble were still considering the Diocese’s proposal that they become one benefice.

Parishes were asked to consider what we could do together, e.g. sharing information about eco matters or creating a directory of expertise. This would be an ongoing discussion in the future.

Ann Brown

Churches Together

The Churches Together in Bishopstoke, Fair Oak and Horton Heath group has continued to meet (almost) every other month online or in person. We share things that each church or area is doing, ways in which we can support each other, and consider things that we might do together across the whole of our area. Regular items on the agenda include Street and School Pastors and work in schools. We continued to have two School Pastors from our church, who visit Stoke Park Junior School on Tuesday lunchtimes, and one local Street Pastor. Sadly, ARK Eastleigh, which we have supported in various ways almost since it started, and which helped a number of residents of Bishopstoke, wound up its work at the end of 2023.

The Bishopstoke united Pentecost service this year was in the format of Church Together service at St Mary’s.

Richard Wise

**Approved by the PCC, and signed on their behalf by
Revd Richard Wise (PCC Chair)**



April 2024

**PARISH OF BISHOPSTOKE
ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING
St Mary's Church, Bishopstoke
Sunday 21 May 2023**

Minutes

The APCM was held at St Mary's Church. Revd Richard Wise presided over the meeting attended by 17 people.

1. Apologies

Apologies were received from Brian and Annette Dodd, Ann Arnold, Cherry Challis, Janet Henderson and Marjorie Young.

2. Election of Churchwardens

Two nominations were received: Cherry Challis was proposed by Sheila Sebborn and seconded by Joan Cook; Wendy Harris was proposed by Karen Caws and seconded by Sibb Armstrong. Following a show of hands both were elected nem. con.

3. Minutes

Copies of the minutes of the last meeting were available and circulated prior to the meeting. The minutes were approved by a show of hands and duly signed as an accurate record.

4. Receiving of the Annual Report

Copies of the Annual Report had been circulated prior to the meeting. It was proposed by Martin Ward and seconded by Jeanette Neale as a true account of 2022, and approved by a show of hands.

5. Receiving of Accounts and Independent Examiner's report

Copies of the financial statements, but without the Independent Examiner's report, had been circulated beforehand. They were proposed by Sheila Sebborn and seconded by Shirley Smeal, and approved by a show of hands. The Independent Examiner's Report is to be published at a future date, probably July 2023.

6. Report of Electoral Roll

This year we have 86 people on the electoral roll, with 15 living outside the parish. This represents 5 people leaving the roll and 3 people joining.

7. Election of Deanery Synod Members

There was one nomination for Deanery Synod: Ann Brown, proposed by Jenny Rogers and seconded by Mike Thornton. During the meeting, Wendy Harris also offered to take up this role. She was proposed by Ann Brown and seconded by Martin Ward. Both were duly elected by a show of hands.

8. Election of Church Councillors

There were two nominations for the Church Council: Jeanette Neale, proposed by Ann Brown and seconded by Pamela Boyes; Pamela Boyes, proposed by Valerie Smith and seconded by Jenny Rogers. Both were elected on a show of hands.

9. Election of sides people

St Mary's: Julia Bancroft, Margaret Bishop, Edna Brown, Wendy Dale, Jenny Rogers, Shirley Smeal, Karen Caws, Martin Ward, Karen Smeal, Jeanette Neale, Liz Farrington.

St Paul's: Joan Cook, Janet Henderson, Marjorie Young.

All were elected on a show of hands.

10. Appointment of Independent Examiner

Peter Cates was approved for a further year on a show of hands.

11. Any other business and questions

Mike Harris was thanked for his clear financial report. He explained that, in financial terms, we were managing at present, but there were significant financial costs associated with our church buildings, and our reserves may not be sufficient to cover the work required. The church needed to increase its level of free will giving, as well as to fundraise.

Jenny Rogers asked about the proposed developments at St Paul's Church. The £400,000 promised some years ago from Eastleigh Borough Council (EBC) was insufficient to cover building costs. During summer 2022, the PCC had investigated the possibility of a 'new build' utilising the EBC funds, and funds from sale of part of St Paul's site and the whole of the Church Room site. A feasibility study was commissioned, and it was clear that, even with the additional funding streams, there was insufficient capital for a new build on what would have been the reduced church site. There was a capital shortfall of at least £200,000. EBC are still committed to improving the hall facilities at St Paul's to increase community use and were impressed by the work the PCC had put into the feasibility study, and this had sustained their interest in the project: focussing on providing a sound building for at least another 20 years. Richard asked for prayers as we continue to work on this project.

Sibo Armstrong enquired about the potential for more daytime use of St Paul's. Richard explained that daytime use is restricted by safeguarding issues for the preschool. There is currently only one entrance and one set of toilets, and these must be kept exclusively for the children for their safety. Work with EBC would look carefully at the provision of a unique entrance and toilets for the hall area and hence for the preschool children. There are, however, many bookings for children's parties at the weekends.

Richard reflected that, looking around the meeting, nearly everyone present had at least one voluntary role in the church. That's a high percentage of the congregation. He thanked everyone for their support – but also asked that the congregation discern if they are being asked to carry on with their roles or try something new: whether they have new gifts to use. Richard is always happy to discuss this.

Richard was thanked for all that he does for our parish.

The meeting closed with prayers.

ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING 2024

Agenda

1. Apologies
2. Election of Churchwardens
3. Minutes of the Annual Parochial Church Meeting 2023

2023

4. Receiving of the Annual Report
5. Receiving of Accounts and Independent Examiner's Report

2024

6. Report on the Electoral Roll
7. Election of Parochial Church Councillors
8. Election of Sides people
9. Appointment of an Independent Examiner
10. Any other business and questions

DRAFT	RECEIPTS & PAYMENTS ACCOUNT				DRAFT	
	FOR THE Period ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023					
PARISH OF BISHOPSTOKE		2023	2023	2023	2023	2022
		General	Revaluation Reserve	Restricted	TOTAL	TOTAL
INCOMING RESOURCES						
Voluntary Income	A	60,380		5,066	65,446	64,303
Activities for Generating Funds	B	4,088		581	4,669	2,975
Income from Investments	C	3,705			3,705	1,379
Church Activities	D	16,579			16,579	15,491
Other Incoming Resources	E	593			593	1,262
TOTAL INCOMING RESOURCES		85,345		5,647	90,992	85,410
RESOURCES EXPENDED						
COST OF GENERATING INCOME	F	149		40	188	373
CHURCH ACTIVITIES	G	43,395		3,142	46,537	42,583
CHURCH EXPENSES	H	23,525		905	24,430	21,975
MAJOR CAPITAL EXPENDITURE	I	3,046			3,046	15,454
TOTAL RESOURCES EXPENDED		70,407		4,087	74,494	80,385
INCOMING RESOURCES						
LESS RESOURCES EXPENDED		14,938		1,560	16,498	5,025
TRANSFERS	K	-27		27		
NET RESOURCES BEFORE OTHER						
RECOGNISED GAINS AND LOSSES		14,911		1,587	16,498	5,025
BALANCES B/F 1 JANUARY		103,123	50,000	32,136	185,260	180,234
BALANCES C/F 31 DECEMBER 2023		118,034	50,000	33,724	201,758	185,260
STATEMENT OF ASSETS & LIABILITIES						
FIXED ASSETS						
Tangible	L				50,000	50,000
CURRENT ASSETS						
Cash at Bank and in Hand	M				151,758	135,260
Total Assets Less Liabilities					201,758	185,260
CAPITAL RESERVES						
Revaluation Reserve	N		50,000		50,000	50,000
CASH FUNDS & RESERVES						
Unrestricted Funds	O	2,895			2,895	3,517
Unrestricted Reserves	O	17,817			17,817	17,017
Designated Funds	O	97,322			97,322	82,590
Restricted Funds	O			33,724	33,724	32,136
Total Cash Funds and Reserves		118,034		33,724	151,758	135,260
Total Funds and Reserves		118,034	50,000	33,724	201,758	185,260

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

DRAFT

	<u>2023</u>	<u>2023</u>	<u>2023</u>	<u>2022</u>
RECEIPTS				
A VOLUNTARY INCOME	General	Restricted	TOTAL	TOTAL
Tax-efficient planned giving	27,500	1,750	29,250	29,201
Other planned giving	13,423	266	13,689	13,520
Collections at Services	3,692	867	4,559	3,545
ALL Other Giving Donations	6,885	2,183	9,068	3,044
Gift Aid Recovered	8,560	-	8,560	10,167
Legacies received	-	-	-	-
Grants	320	-	320	4,826
Voluntary income	60,380	5,066	65,446	64,303
B ACTIVITIES FOR GENERATING FUNDS				
Gross income from fundraising	4,088	581	4,669	2,975
C INCOME FROM INVESTMENTS				
Bank interest	3,705	-	3,705	1,379
D CHURCH ACTIVITIES				
Statutory fees retained by PCC	2,977	-	2,977	3,998
St Paul's Lettings	13,473	-	13,473	11,472
St Mary's & Church Room Lettings	80	-	80	-
Magazine & Cards (Sales)	4	-	4	21
Photocopying & Flower Services	45	-	45	-
Gross income from trading	13,602	-	13,602	11,493
TOTAL (CHURCH ACTIVITIES)	16,579	-	16,579	15,491
E OTHER INCOMING RESOURCES				
Other Income (Ecclesiastical)	130	-	130	-
Other Income (Misc)	171	-	171	1,262
Other Income (Shopping)	292	-	292	-
Other incoming resources	593	-	593	1,262
PAYMENTS				
F COST OF GENERATING INCOME	General	Restricted	TOTAL	TOTAL
Fundraising Activities	149	40	188	373
G CHURCH ACTIVITIES				
ARK	500	32	532	1,144
Basics Bank	-	32	32	470
Fledge	75	30	105	-
Soroptimist International of Winchester	85	-	85	-
The Royal British Legion	40	-	40	40
Friends of the Holy Land	-	659	659	-
Tear Fund	-	-	-	525
The Children's Society	-	50	50	86
Hope Now Ukraine Appeal	-	-	-	30
The Bible Reading Fellowship	4	120	124	220
Open Sight	-	-	-	70
World Vision UK	-	666	666	100
Christian Aid	1,319	1,149	2,467	1,626
Other Eco-Group Giving	150	-	150	-
Leprosy Mission	-	20	20	-
Other PHF Missional Giving	-	385	385	100
Missional giving	18 2,173	3,142	5,315	4,411

	Diocesan Parish Share	40,647	-	40,647	37,531
	Diocesan Parish Share	40,647	-	40,647	37,531
	Salaries, wages & honoraria	-	-	-	-
	Clergy & staff expenses: Incumbent	575	-	575	553
	Clergy & staff expenses: Visitors	-	-	-	88
	Clergy & Staff Expenses	575	-	575	641
	TOTAL (CHURCH ACTIVITIES)	43,395	3,142	46,537	42,583
	H CHURCH EXPENSES				
	Mission and Evangelism costs				
	Youth Work	235	-	235	1,238
	Open the Book	-	-	-	34
	Bibles, books and tracts	67	-	67	222
	Messy Church	586	-	586	259
	Other Outreach	135	-	135	82
	Mission and Evangelism costs	1,023	-	1,023	1,835
	St. Mary's running expenses	4,922	-	4,922	5,118
	Organ Tuning & repairs	-	-	-	170
	St. Paul's running expenses (excl Hall)	3,036	-	3,036	1,819
	Church Rooms	675	-	675	650
	Repairs and Renewals	1,920	145	2,065	4,703
	Upkeep of Services	1,648	81	1,729	472
	Flowers: St Mary's	20	462	482	438
	Clergy and Lay Training	90	-	90	50
	Photocopying and stationery	673	-	673	1,231
	Church Admin and Affiliation Costs	20	-	20	-
	Finance administration costs	125	-	125	185
	Bank Charges	275	3	277	270
	Misc Expenditure	95	215	310	- 19
	Governance Costs	-	-	-	-
	Church Running Expenses	13,499	905	14,404	15,088
	Utilities: St Mary's	3,863	-	3,863	1,785
	Utilities: St Paul's (Church only)	1,950	-	1,950	944
	Utilities: Church Room	102	-	102	96
	Church Utility Bills	5,915	-	5,915	2,825
	Hall Running costs	3,028	-	3,028	2,159
	Cards, etc	60	-	60	68
	Costs of Trading	3,088	-	3,088	2,227
	TOTAL (CHURCH EXPENSES)	23,525	905	24,430	21,975
	I MAJOR CAPITAL EXPENDITURE				
	Major repairs to church buildings: Lighting	-	-	-	3,815
	Major repairs to church buildings: Locks/Doors	676	-	676	-
	Major repairs to St Mary's: Tower	2,370	-	2,370	4,674
	Major PCC repairs	-	-	-	945
	New Buildings Work	-	-	-	6,020
	Major capital expenditure	3,046	-	3,046	15,454
	J OTHER EXPENDITURE				
	Other Outgoing resources	19 292	-	292	-

TRANSFERS								
K Funds Transfers	-	27	27	-	0	-		
BALANCE SHEET					2023	2023	2023	2022
L FIXED ASSETS								
Church Hall					50,000	50,000		
Fixed assets					50,000	50,000		
M CURRENT ASSETS	Bank	Cash in hand	TOTAL	TOTAL				
HSBC Current	35,415		35,415	15,283				
HSBC Community Savings	6,889		6,889	6,725				
Cambridge & Counties B/S	105,491		105,491	101,931				
HSBC Fees Account	48		48	7,414				
Card Stalls	-	-	-	60				
St Mary's Flower Guild	-	-	-	46				
St Paul's PHF	3,829	85	3,914	3,801				
Current assets	151,672	85	151,758	135,260				
TOTAL ASSETS			201,758	185,260				
N CAPITAL RESERVES	General	Restricted	TOTAL	TOTAL				
Revaluation Reserve		50,000	50,000	50,000				
Capital reserves		50,000	50,000	50,000				
O CASH FUNDS AND RESERVES	General	Restricted	TOTAL	TOTAL				
General Fund	2,895		2,895	3,517				
Reserve	17,817		17,817	17,017				
Grub Club	-	223	223	223				
Bendalow Legacy (St Mary's Grounds)	-	227	227	372				
Gregory Legacy (Worship Publications / Projecting, etc)	-	857	857	857				
Eco Group	487	-	487	131				
PA	-	3,821	3,821	3,821				
Alpha	-	14	14	14				
St Paul's Organ	-	230	230	230				
St Mary's Organ	-	1,000	1,000	1,000				
St Paul's PHF	-	3,914	3,914	3,801				
St Mary's Flower Guild	-	175	175	137				
St Paul's Flower Guild	-	261	261	261				
St Paul's Church Improvements	1,675	5,365	7,039	7,039				
Mission in Bishopstoke	1,721	5,641	7,361	4,137				
Tots n Tinies	-	100	100	-				
Vestry & Organ Space	70	4,170	4,240	4,240				
St Mary's Chairs, floor & Carpeting	1,314	383	1,698	1,698				
Youth Fund	-	718	718	718				
Fabric	90,593	-	90,593	77,959				
Equipment / Other	1,463	6,625	8,088	8,088				
Cash funds and reserves	118,034	33,724	151,758	135,260				
TOTAL FUNDS AND RESERVES	20		201,758	185,260				