



Showing and Sharing God's Love

**Annual Report
and
Financial Statements
of the Parochial Church Council
for the year ended 31 December 2022**

Incumbent

The Revd Richard Wise
The Rectory
10 Stoke Park Road
Bishopstoke

Independent Examiner

Peter Cates

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, Churchwardens 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

	2020	2021	2022
Electoral Roll	85 (16 not resident in parish)	84 (15 not resident in parish)	88 (16 not resident in parish)
Worshipping Community	105 (27 under 18)	98 (14 under 18)	99 (15 under 18)
Usual Sunday attendance (adults)	50	40	43
Usual Sunday attendance (children)	13	8	9
Baptisms	3	14	21
Thanksgivings	0	1	2
Weddings	1	5	9
Funerals	28 (11 in church)	22 (9 in church)	16 (9 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 31 (34 last year), and the average number of adults at Parish Communion was 40.

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 numbers.)

PCC review of the year

The full PCC had nine meetings during the year, returning to in person meetings from March. As always, much of the PCC's work is reflected in other parts of this report (including the Fabric and Goods report on p.11-12).

It has been hard to return to all of our current Parish Mission Action Plan, and in at least one case ('Life Matters') things have moved on since Covid. We have got back to social events, however (see p.7-8), and made much progress at Creation Care (see p.10). At almost every meeting during the year the PCC considered issues related to returning to 'normal' following Covid. Health and Safety and Safeguarding are standing agenda items at every PCC meeting.

Our PCC Minutes Secretary, Monica Sossi, stood down following the APCM, and we are extremely grateful to her for several years of providing us with very clear minutes. We are also very grateful to Peta Thornton for taking this role on.

SAFEGUARDING

Safeguarding is a standing item on each PCC meeting agenda, and there is a written or oral report presented for PCC scrutiny. Safeguarding in the United Kingdom covers children and young people up to the age of 18 years, and also adults who are vulnerable for whatever reason. The parish is taking part in the Diocesan (and national) Safeguarding Dashboard scheme. This evaluates Safeguarding effectiveness at three levels, and we have almost completed level 2. This means that 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. As part of this, the requirement to undertake DBS checks every three years rather than every five years, for those volunteers who require them, has been met. (Ref. Safeguarding Report, ACPM 2022). Our target is to fully complete the Dashboard Review over the next twelve months.

Margaret Ward

WORSHIP

Services

It was very good to get practically everything back to ‘normal’ in our worship during the year. The final change of the year was to return to communion once a month at Church Together during October, which meant that at St Paul’s we resumed Morning Worship (as opposed to communion) on the third Sunday of each month. A positive outcome of Covid has been the weekly online Compline service, which still continues.

I am very grateful to everyone who has contributed to our worship in any way, including Margaret Ward (LLM) and Pat Abbott (BCM Worship) for leading worship and preaching.

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. A downside of Roots is that it almost always focuses on the gospel reading, but we had a short series on three passages from Revelation during the Easter season, which made a refreshing change. Once more, we used the ‘Generous June’ series of readings and talks, two of them during June and the other two during the autumn. We also held a ‘Climate Sunday’ during June with visiting speaker, Victor Humphrey, from the Diocesan Environment Group, and at Creationtide we used this year’s theme of ‘The Burning Bush’.

I am very grateful to all who lead and play for the musical aspect of our worship: Jon Senior and our worship band; Phil Dunford and Ann Arnold, for organ playing and singing. Once again, Ann and Phil organised a choir for our Carols by Candlelight.

For the seventh year running we encouraged people to take part in the global prayer initiative ‘Thy Kingdom Come’, using prayer journals.

Richard Wise

Children and Young People

Children and young people continue to play a major part in both Messy Church (see p.8) and Church Together.

DISCIPLESHIP

Prayer Healing Fellowship

Sadly, we lost Janet Ball in May 2022. She had been a member for over 40 years and, although she had been unable to attend meetings for some years now, she maintained a real interest in PHF. We remember her lovely smile – and her always being in the kitchen washing up!

We also lost Pam Andrews in June. Due to dementia she had been unable to attend meetings for a few years. She was a much-treasured member, and I will always be so grateful to her for a book she gave me by Leslie Weatherhead, which has been invaluable when planning PHF meetings.

Our dear Joy, Pam's best friend, has had to give up being our Treasurer, as she is now housebound due to her terminal illness. We thank her for her wonderful work at PHF and her unfailing loyalty, and surround her with our love and prayers.

In November we celebrated 45 years of PHF in the Parish. During that time, we have sent hundreds of cards to people all over the world, and some of the responses have been amazing. I have about 11 scrap books which tell the story of PHF from the beginning!

I would like to thank Cherry, my deputy, for her unfailing support; Margaret for our cups of tea/coffee every month; and all members for their loving support and loyalty to PHF.

We are all getting older, as everyone is, and my own health means I am very restricted in what I can do, but Cherry and I are determined, with God's help, to keep PHF strong, because we believe prayer is absolutely vital for everyone's life.

Sheila Sebborn

Home Groups

Two evening home groups continued throughout the year, each on alternate Tuesday evenings, one online and the other in person. One course they both did was 'Exploring God's Mercy' by Steven Croft, which links Psalm 107 with passages from Mark's gospel. For each session there is an optional short video from the author, and each session includes something creative to do together.

Richard Wise

Tuesday Together home group

The group started to meet again in the spring at St Mary's in the afternoon instead of evenings. We finished the Pilgrim series of studies we had started before Covid curtailed our get togethers, with their publication about The Bible. Then, during the summer, we used the 'Cover to Cover' series with discussions on the fruit of the Spirit, then going on into the autumn with looking at Psalm 23 and how it affects our lives.

Our meetings always end with prayer for the world, our community and each other, as well as refreshments and sharing of news. We are a small group these days, but people are welcome to join us. Perhaps we shall start to meet again in the spring of 2023 when the weather is warmer!

PASTORAL CARE

As in previous years, pastoral care has continued through various channels such as individual conversations, home groups, Prayer Healing Fellowship, and other opportunities within the church family and community.

Communion has been taken to housebound people when requested. Cards and sometimes flowers have been sent to those who have been bereaved or who are not well.

Monthly communion services have continued at Bishopstoke Park with numbers slowly growing and now using a room in the original modernised Mount building. Visits on behalf of the church and services have been re-established at Stoke Knoll rest home but as yet not at Orchard Gardens.

Do let us know if you would like prayer or a pastoral visit for yourself or someone you know.

Ann Brown & Joan Cook

MISSION AND OUTREACH

Events

Following a successful Christmas Café in 2021, we resumed our Café @ St Mary's in March and held it five times during the year. The September café was adapted to a quieter drop-in at short notice following the death of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II. People were invited to light candles in memory of the late Queen, and we provided some other opportunities for our community to do this in the run up to her funeral. Meanwhile, a new event – a ladies' cream tea – was started (see below). I would like to say a huge thank you to everyone who

worked so hard to make these events possible, especially after not having done things like this for quite a while.

Richard Wise

Ladies' Cream Tea

The Ladies' Cream tea group's first meeting was on the 9 July, and it meets on a Saturday afternoon every other month. The meeting gives women of all generations the opportunity to enjoy each other's company over a cup of tea and cake, and to invite friends and relatives. The meeting has attracted an average of 30 women and girls since it started. The women have agreed to donate to a local women's refuge once a year.

Sibo Armstrong

Messy Church

Messy Church continued to take place in St Mary's Church until, for the May Messy Church, we made the return to our pre-Covid location of St Paul's. It has been good to be back: having a kitchen again has meant that hot meals have been able to make a comeback, and it's great to have a safe, enclosed outdoor space to use when the weather is fine.

A new initiative this year has been the formation of a Messy Church Young Leaders Team, consisting of 10-12 of our teens (and almost-teens), some of them regular church members and others from Unshakeable. Some of them are able to use this as the volunteering component for their Duke of Edinburgh awards. We 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 2022, 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 includes people from other churches in the area, and we give an

assembly in both Stoke Park Infant and Stoke Park Junior schools most weeks of the year.

It was so good to be back in both schools for most of the year, following the disruption caused by Covid. We realised that our team had become slightly small for some of the assemblies and were pleased to welcome three new members in the autumn, making a team of ten.

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. Numbers were rather low at the start of the year, but we now average around 10 parents / carers each week with their children. We 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 11-16 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.

Some of the highlights of the year were another 'All Night Film Night', a trip to the Isle of Wight (on a beautifully warm and sunny day!), a visit to Ninja Warrior followed by refreshments at KFC, and a Christmas party to round off the year.

Anne Wise

Creation Care

In 2022, the Eco team gained two members, making us 12 in total. We were delighted to achieve the Bronze Eco Church Award for St Mary's in the autumn of 2022.

We also set up a bug hotel and made a wildflower meadow in the churchyard, attracting wildlife to the churchyard, finding at least nine species of native flower in the wildflower space. One member manages two compost bins that are currently in the churchyard, allowing us soil for future growing projects.

We ran a plant sale alongside the Café @ St Mary's in May in support of Christian Aid and a 'Saving Energy' talk in November, with two experts giving tips on how to save energy in our homes. We have exciting plans for planting trees in the churchyard in early 2023 and working towards our Silver Eco Church award.

Karen Caws

Giving outside the Parish

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

- ARK (Gift & Christmas Charity)
- Basics Bank (Christmas Charity)
- Bible Reading Fellowship (Gift)
- Bible Society (PHF)
- Christian Aid (Café fundraising for Christian Aid Week and Christmas Appeal)
- Hope Now Ukraine (PHF)
- Tearfund (Harvest Charity)
- The British Legion Poppy Appeal (Gift)
- The Children's Society (Christmas Offertory)
- World Vision UK (PHF)
- 12th Eastleigh Scouts (PHF)

BUILDINGS AND STEWARDSHIP

Fabric and Goods

St Mary's

Following the report from the Parish Council last year regarding work to the trees and paths in the churchyard, work has continued this year. Works completed have included felling a self-seeded oak tree on the southern border adjacent to 76 Church Road; relocating the metal fencing that was on the border between the churchyard and 76 Church Road, as it was discovered it had been incorrectly installed; felling of a self-seeded holly tree in order to move the fence; and the relocation of three memorials. Further works to trees in the churchyard and Old St Mary's churchyard have received permission and will be done in due course. A Commonwealth War Graves Commission sign has been introduced and is located on the wall to the right of the gates.

In the church, the new lighting was installed during March, but we are still awaiting a solution for two sections of the lighting where the dimming aspect did not work. A specification has been drawn up for the essential stonework repairs as outlined in the Quinquennial Inspection (QI) Report; this has gone out to tender, and we are awaiting final figures. The clock has also been assessed, and we are currently waiting for the specialist to come and repair it following his assessment.

A working party repainted and polished the south door and external vestry door, which were also been mentioned in the QI Report. Most of the windows on the south side of the church were also cleaned on the same day, amongst other things, and it is hoped that more working party mornings will be arranged for the coming year to do minor works that can be done without a specialist. Thank you to everyone who took part in the last one – it is very much appreciated.

Wendy Harris

St Paul's

We have continued to work with Eastleigh Borough Council (EBC) on a possible future for St Paul's. When the planned work proved too expensive, we acted on advice that a completely new building might prove cheaper than adapting the current building, as well as being better for the environment. We therefore engaged a firm of architects to do a feasibility study. They said that, in addition to the financial support from EBC, we would need to sell some of the land for housing (about two-thirds) as well as the Church Room site. The new building would then need to be a two-storey one on a smaller footprint than the current

building. Unfortunately, once the feasibility study and estimates were completed, there was still a shortfall of about £200K. We intended to apply for grants for any shortfall, but we cannot realistically expect to obtain grants for this amount. We are therefore now considering further options with EBC.

Minor maintenance was undertaken 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, but the usage is restricted during the daytime by there only being one entrance and the pre-school's need for effective child protection.

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 2022 remained stable, sufficient to cover running costs and some capital spends, but **there are clearly insufficient funds in place or being generated to adequately maintain the buildings of St Mary's and St Paul's.** New cost estimates for works required at St Mary's are far greater than available funds, and major works required at St Paul's are also mostly unfunded. Our Reserves policy is to cover 3 months' running costs - but after setting aside inflationary increases to Reserve and Fabric funds, and a small increase in the latter, unrestricted funds decreased to £3,517 (2021: £15,105) - on this trajectory, similar increases to these funds in future are doubtful. Voluntary income is decreasing (and more-so in real-terms when allowing for inflation) - **to safeguard our buildings, and the missional work in them, urgent prayer and action will be required of us all to increase giving and engage in activities to raise extra funds and awareness.**

St Mary's lighting project was completed in 2022, though some snagging issues need resolving. We commissioned an Architect to produce a feasibility report for the development of the St Paul's and Church Room sites - which was informative, and is the subject of further consideration by EBC as to what could

be achieved at St Paul's. We continue to defer other major capital/equipment project, including the re-ordering of the Vestry space at St Mary's. Our Statement Of Financial Activities for 2022 are shown here together 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 held in HSBC, Cambridge & Counties, and elsewhere for small Funds and petty cash.

Income. Excluding some small grants, voluntary giving in 2022 decreased slightly on 2021 – such donations comprises around 70% of our income, mainly from parishioners giving regularly and incorporates an increase in missional giving. Income from fundraising, statutory fees, lettings and building society interest increased such that total income over the year was £85.4k (2021: £76.3k). Other income of £1.2k relates to repayments for services including youth work trips. **Note that we do not receive any state-funding.**

Expenditure. Spending totalled £80.4k – an increase of £10k each year since 2020. The Diocese's Common Mission Fund "bill" increased to £37.5k (2021: £34.1k), through a change to our Parish's affluence band, with this year's rise limited to 10% after we appealed it. This cost represents more than half of our unrestricted spending - paying Richard's wages, housing costs and training, and finances mission support locally, regionally and nationally (see <https://www.winchester.anglican.org/common-mission-fund/> for more info). Other large single-item costs were £4.7k for St Mary's roof survey and work specification, £3.7k for boiler pump repairs, plus £0.7k of plumbing works at St Paul's. Above-inflation rises in utility costs (gas increasing by 250%) and other services contributed to a rise in running costs of over 10%.

Stewardship. Giving financially is a sacrificial yet rewarding expression of our faith and worship. Please consider giving regularly via the Parish Giving Scheme or by Standing Order and to index-link your giving. We also recover tax paid through gift-aid. You can also give via weekly envelopes or online at www.cofebishopstoke.com. Please contact me or Richard for forms and details of these schemes and/or about leaving a financial legacy.

My thanks to our Independent Examiner, Peter Cates, and to everyone involved in running our church's finances in 2022 – particularly Wendy Dale, offertory counters, and a special mention to Joy Barnard who was instrumental in Prayer Healing Fellowship's finances for many years.

Mike Harris

THE BELLRINGERS' GUILD

At the beginning of the year there were 26 members of the band at St Mary's: Sharon Baker, Sandra Caro, Peter Cates, Sally Cates, Julia Clarke, Matthew Dancy, Alex Dicks, John Dodd, Richard Eames, Robert Eames, Reader Englefield, Zeb Graham-Howard, Allen Guille, John Hallett, Ben Knowles, Ann LeMarechal, Kay LeMarechal, Roy LeMarechal, Stephanie LeMarechal, Janet Morris, Alison Parker, Barry Pointer, Fiona Pratt, Elizabeth Skinner, Stephen Wise and Graham Wright.

New ringers: In October Amanda Sheppard and daughter Emily moved into Bishopstoke. Amanda can ring a little and Emily is learning. In December, following a visit from and demonstration to a group of Beavers, two of their leaders, Lora Townsend and Alasdair Mead started.

Lost ringers: Sharon (Shaz) Baker and Zeb Graham-Howard gave up after a few months. Reader Englefield decided it's time to quit, due to ongoing health problems.

The simulator was used on several occasions, especially towards the end of the year with the new recruits.

In February we gave a 'hands-on' demonstration to the church youth group (Unshakeable). Over 20 youngsters had a go, and some showed great aptitude. Sadly, none took up the offer of further lessons.

On 16 November we held another 'hands-on' demonstration, this time to a Beaver group. In terms of recruiting, this was more successful, with two group leaders starting.

The handbells spent some time with Martin Hough and came back looking shiny and new and sounding much more mellow. A peal was rung on some of them, though not with a Bishopstoke band.

In June we held the much-delayed annual outing to Wells. We visited 15 towers, including the heaviest ring of 10 bells at Wells Cathedral and the heaviest ring of 5 bells at East Pennard. It was an excellent social occasion with the usual group meal at an Indian restaurant on the Saturday evening.

Seven weddings requested bells this year.

The bells were rung fully muffled with the tenor open at backstroke following the death of the Queen. This included a full peal rung by some members of the local band and a few visitors. They were rung half muffled on Remembrance Sunday.

19 quarter peals were attempted from Plain Bob Doubles through Cambridge and Yorkshire Surprise Major to Grandsire Caters. They were mainly rung by local ringers. 2 were lost.

We entered no striking competitions as a tower this year, but Matt Dancy rang in the Guild youth team that took part in the National Youth Competition in Exeter on 2 July.

The bells were booked nine times by visiting bands. The Winchester & Portsmouth youth group made several Sunday afternoon visits.

Local band peals:

2nd June: Plain Bob Major to mark the Platinum Jubilee of the Queen.

8th October: Cambridge Surprise Minor at Sparsholt. Stephen and Matt each achieved a 'first'.

On Sunday 11 September Roy, Ann and Steph hosted a tower BBQ in their garden. There were 29 attendees.

The 35th annual dinner, in lieu of practice, was held on 24 November. Arranged by Julia, 15 of us went for a curry at the Saffron in its new location in High Street, Eastleigh.

Attendance on Thursdays and Sundays has been good. Ringing on practice nights continues to cover a wide range of abilities from simple Doubles to Cambridge, Yorkshire and Bristol Surprise Major. Ringing on 10 is confined mainly to Grandsire and Stedman Caters and Plain Bob and Little Bob Royal. On Sundays it is rare that we don't ring Cambridge Surprise Major and Grandsire Caters. It's even rarer when we don't ring all 10 bells, and on one good Sunday in March we had 18 members of the local band present.

Roy LeMarechal

THE WIDER CHURCH

Deanery Synod

Eastleigh Deanery Synod met in February at St Thomas', Fair Oak, in June at St Edward's, Netley Abbey, and in November at St Peter's, Boyatt Wood.

Outside speakers included Chris Hill, the then new Diocesan Mission Trainer, talking about training opportunities for clergy and lay people. Martin and Gina Graham came in November to talk about the 'As One' project, encouraging

friendly communication in the community. This project would be taken up by our parish in March 2023.

We heard that the Common Mission Fund (CMF) had been paid steadily through the year, and it was anticipated that Eastleigh Deanery would have completed their financial obligation to the Diocese by the end of the year. As the Deanery fund for expenses was low it was decided that a voluntary contribution of £20 per parish would be requested in 2023.

Eco church featured at all three meetings. Several parishes, including our own, were working towards A Rocha awards and we heard that St Martin in the Wood, Chandler's Ford had gained a Silver Award. It was stated that the Church of England had declared a climate emergency and called upon its parishes and individuals to review their practices and policies in caring for creation, assessing and working towards reducing their carbon footprint. Winchester Diocese had made a commitment to no future investment in fossil fuels.

At each meeting we heard news from the parishes identifying thanksgivings and challenges. Bishopstoke mentioned that we gave thanks for youth group members helping with Messy Church, English lessons for Ukrainian refugees, the A Rocha Bronze Eco Church Award, and the wildflower area at St Mary's. Our major challenge was the delayed development of St Paul's. It was also mentioned that there was a waiting list for youth group places owing to so much interest.

Other parishes gave praise amongst other things for news of new clergy appointments, successful Diamond Jubilee celebrations and extended youth work. We also heard that some parishes had had problems with getting back to normal after Covid. There had been difficulties with buildings and stress due to extended vacancy periods and future uncertainty.

The ecumenical service at All Saints, Eastleigh, in May was well attended and there were other opportunities for prayer throughout the year. The companion link with the Democratic Republic of Congo, which had replaced the link with Bukedi, has been slow to get going, and Bishop David, who has knowledge of that area, has been asked for further information.

News from the Diocese of Winchester included the retirement of The Bishop of Winchester in February. Bishop Debbie, with assistance, continued as Acting Bishop of Winchester. A Vacancy in See committee was appointed, and they ran an open survey amongst other things to find out what people were looking for in our next Diocesan Bishop. The Archbishop of Canterbury also visited the Diocese, identifying four main strands for us to work at in the meantime: general

morale, reconciliation, financial confidence, and returning to our mission aims . The long process of a new appointment started in the autumn. Towards the end of the year, it was announced that a new Archdeacon of Bournemouth would be appointed.

There was discussion about reviving ‘Life Matters’, which our parish was due to host in March 2020 prior to the first lockdown. More consideration and information would be needed before a decision could be made.

Minutes of all three Eastleigh Deanery Synods are available if you would like more information.

Ann Brown & Jeanette Neale

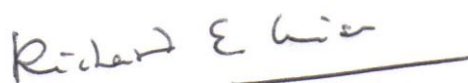
Churches Together

The Churches Together in Bishopstoke, Fair Oak and Horton Heath group has continued to meet (almost) every other month online. 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.

Some members of Bishopstoke churches decorated ‘Easter Rocks’ and ‘Christmas Rocks’, placing them around our community, and there was a Facebook page for people to contribute to. Our all-age united Pentecost service was at the Methodist Church this year and coincided the Queen’s Platinum Jubilee celebrations. It was followed by an outdoor bring-and-share lunch with appropriately national music from Chandler’s Ford Boys Brigade Band, which was open to all the community. The band made a return visit for some outdoor carol singing a week before Christmas, also held at the Methodist Church.

Richard Wise

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

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Richard E. Wise". The signature is written in a cursive style and is positioned above a horizontal line.

April 2023

PARISH OF BISHOPSTOKE
ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING
St Mary's Church, Bishopstoke
Sunday 24 April, 2022

The APCM was held at St Mary's Church. Revd Richard Wise presided over the meeting attended by 16 people.

Before the meeting started there was time for an informal chat and a video from Messy Church was shown.

1. Apologies

Apologies were received from Sheila Sebborn, Pamela Boyes, Mike and Wendy Harris, Margaret Sharp, Karen Caws, Marjorie Young, Wendy Dale.

2. Election of Churchwardens

Two nominations were received. Cherry Challis was proposed by Carol Guttridge and seconded by Joan Cook, and Wendy Harris was proposed by Pat Abbott and seconded by Margaret Ward. 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 (with one abstention) by a show of hands and were 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 Ann Brown and seconded by Cherry Challis as a true account of 2021, and approved by a show of hands.

5. Receiving of Accounts and Independent Examiner's report

Copies of the financial statements had been circulated beforehand. They were proposed by Martin Ward and seconded by Shirley Smeal and approved by a show of hands.

6. Report of Electoral Roll

This year we have 88 people on the electoral roll, with 16 living outside the parish.

7. Election of Church Councillors

There was one nomination for the Church Council: Shirley Smeal, proposed by Ann Brown and seconded by Jenny Rogers. Shirley was elected on a show of hands.

8. Election of sides people

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

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

All were elected on a show of hands.

9. Appointment of Independent Examiner

It was felt unfair to ask David Dimmick to continue as he is so involved as deanery treasurer. Peter Cates, one of our bellringers, is willing to do the job this year, and this was approved on a show of hands.

10. Any other business and questions

Jenny Rogers commented on how good the new lighting is.

Thanks were expressed to Wendy and Mike Harris for arranging the shopping during lockdown.

Thanks were expressed to Martin for his welcoming at the door every Sunday.

Questions were asked about the positioning of noticeboards at St Mary's, but the DAC will not allow them by the Church door.

Russell asked about the trees in the churchyard. The oak tree by the fence will be felled and replaced by other small trees away from the fence. Other plans for the churchyard were ongoing.

Pat asked about plans for St Paul's. We are still waiting for news of the tenders that were put out and may need a new plan that is more manageable. We need to continue fundraising for the roof.

People were encouraged to come forward to read in church.

If anyone would like to take on St Paul's hall bookings or PCC Secretary, they should see Richard.

Cherry thanked Richard for all his hard work.

Richard thanked everyone for all they do for the Church.

The meeting closed with prayers.

ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING 2023

AGENDA

1. Apologies
2. Election of Churchwardens
3. Minutes of the Annual Parochial Church Meeting 2022

2021

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

2022

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