



St John in the Soke
with
St Martin, Winnall

**Annual Report
&
Financial Statements
of the
Parochial Church Council
for the year ended 31 December, 2019**

Priest in Charge:
Rev'd Mike Griffiths
The Rectory
19 Petersfield Road
Winchester SO23 0JD

Bank:
National Westminster Bank
105 High Street
Winchester SO23 9AW

Independent Examiner:
John Murray
9 Burley Road
Winchester
SO22 6LJ

Administrative Information

The parish of St John in the Soke with St Martin Winnall, in the diocese of Winchester, is part of the benefice of East Winchester, being partnered with the parish of All Saints Winchester with St Andrew, Chilcomb.

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

PCC members who have served during 2019 are:

Priest-in-charge: Rev Mike Griffiths (from July)

Associate Priest: Rev Christine Smith

Priest: Rev Jen Holder

Ordinand: Jemima Lewis (until April)

Wardens:

Deborah Hobbs Vice Chairman

Vacancy

Deanery Synod Representatives:

Vacancy

Benefice Safeguarding Officer: Debbie Cramp

Elected Members:

Peter Eagling Secretary & Electoral Roll

Sue Skegg Treasurer

David Stirrup Vice Chair (from April)

Hazel Southam

Richard Skegg (from APCM)

Structure, Governance and Management

The Parochial Church Council is a corporate body established by the Church of England. The PCC operates under the Parochial Church Council Powers Measure.

Objectives and Activities

St John's PCC has the responsibility of co-operating with the rector in promoting in the ecclesiastical parish the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical. In addition to the church building and the churchyard, the PCC also has responsibility for the maintenance of two thirds of the graveyard on St Giles Hill.

Achievements and Performance

Church Attendance

The church has 41 parishioners on the Electoral Roll, 19 of whom live in the parish. Average attendance for a typical Sunday Parish Eucharist, the major service of the week, was about 31 adults and two children, this number rising significantly at the principal festivals.

Review of the Year

PCC Report

Report of the PCC of St John the Baptist, Winchester
The PCC met regularly and some of the main issues discussed were as follows:

- St Giles graveyard
- Setting up a working party to tidy church and gardens
- Holding monthly service of evening prayer with tea
- Refurbishment and repairs to the church
- Shortfall of income resulting in dwindling reserves
- Installation of swift nesting boxes
- Drug abuse in church and security measures to be taken

Priest-in-Charge's Report

2019 was a positive year in the benefice with a number of new initiatives starting that helped us to reach people who live in our parishes with the Good News of Jesus. Messy Church in Winnall (in conjunction with the Salvation Army and other independent churches) has been a huge success and something we are hoping to build on in the future.

I am hugely grateful for the ministries and support of both Rev'd Christine and Rev'd Jen in enabling the congregation in St John's to worship. Thanks must also go to the members of the PCC who work so hard to support us. I am particularly grateful for all the time and energy they commit to enabling the good ordering of worship in the church and the stewardship of the resources we have.

December 2019 represented something of a pivotal moment for the benefice as a whole as it makes the mid point of my three-year interim licence. Much still needs to be done in prayer to discern together all that God is calling us to and then the obedience to put that into practice. One of the significant measures of the vitality of a parish church - in addition to the worshipping

community numbers and Common Mission Fund (CMF) contributions - is the ability to provide good and proper governance. This includes ensuring there are two church wardens each year and that the PCC has the requisite numbers of members (including Deanery Synod representatives). I am particularly concerned about the workload that Deb has been carrying without adequate support. Whilst I am enormously grateful for all that Deb does, it is not fair to expect her to carry this alone. At the next APCM, Deb's term will come to an end. It is vital that we find additional church wardens now. For this annual meeting, can you please give prayerful consideration to how you might be able to help and talk to an existing member of the PCC if you would like to discuss how you might be able to be involved.

The CMF contributions that are asked for from St John's are the smallest in the Winchester Deanery (in terms of per-worshipping community member) and 19th (out of 26) in terms of overall ask (those below have fewer than 15 people in their Worshipping Community). Even so, the financial position of St John's remains finely poised and the parish has been losing money each year. If you are able to increase your regular giving, it would make a massive difference to all that we could achieve. Conversations will be taking place over the coming months (with the Archdeacon and others) to agree a way forward for the benefice as my current licence comes to an end. Please continue to pray for the future of St John's in all of those discussions and do please share with me anything that you feel God is saying.

In addition to looking back, it is also important to recognise the challenges that COVID-19 has brought to our worshipping community. Christine and Jen have worked so hard to provide resources that have enabled us to worship regularly and we are all so grateful to them for that. Thank you to also to Deb, Nick, Richard, Sue, and all those who have worked so hard to make it possible to open up again.

With my love and prayers,

Mike

Churchwardens' Report

First of all, thank you to Mike and Christine for their ministry and encouragement this year. We were delighted that Revd. Jen Holder joined St John's and All Saints during the year. Jen has been presiding and preaching as well as bringing some much appreciated live music to the services. Our ordinand Jemima took a break from training in April.

Ill-health forced some regular helpers to retire this year. Thank you to Anne and Judy for church cleaning for so many years and to Margaret for looking after the church linen. Richard offered to undertake sacristan duties for which I'm very grateful.

Thank you to everyone who joined our church cleaning and gardening working parties during the year. There will be more next year so do come along if you are able. They were fun and provided a good opportunity to work with some of our neighbours and supporters.

As always, thank you to everyone who contributes to our services and provides hospitality for all who come through our door.

Fabric Report

Most of the interesting activity this year took place in our outdoor space. We planted a mini orchard of four different varieties of heritage apple trees in January. This is part of our plan to develop the churchyard for the enjoyment of the community and the benefit of wildlife. We allowed the churchyard to revert to a meadow during the spring and summer months. We also applied for a faculty to install swift nesting boxes in the tower.

In addition to being granted permission for tree planting, we had approval to extend the garden of rest in the south churchyard. A section of stone wall fell down in the St Giles Hill graveyard which will require re-building.

In November, after several months of anti-social behaviour in and around the church the PCC decided to keep the church closed during the week for a temporary period. The church remained closed except when being used for services until the end of the year.

We sought tenders for the quinquennial work required to the south elevation and this is ongoing.

There were no additions to the inventory but we commenced a photographic record of the existing church contents.

Friends of St John

Once again a fairly quiet year on the membership front, but one during which a number of events allowed us to increase the funds potentially available to St John's. Apart from our regular Advent Tea, we had a very successful wine tasting evening, run by Toscanaccio, a superb evening with the Wykeham Six, and not one but two wonderful evenings courtesy of the Pocket Theatre. The latter came to perform a second evening at their request, and the Wykeham Six so enjoyed performing in St John's that they offered to come again next year.

Financial Review

Church income for the year was £26319.30 showing a substantial increase of nearly £5000 on 2018. This was due to the reclaim of Gift Aid payments from HMRC being submitted after administrative delays. As a result, we have gone from a loss in 2018 of £5916 to a small surplus in 2019 of £522. It is hoped that future reclaims can be made on a more regular basis than previously to aid cash flow.

Church expenditure was also down but that was due mainly to a reduction in professional fees paid. Worship expenses shows an increase due to the necessary ciborium repair. No major building work was carried out during the year. St John's has paid its full Common Mission Fund contribution to the Diocese (parish share) for 2019 and this will increase slightly in 2020 after several years of reductions. In order to maintain our improved financial situation further efforts will be required to increase the number of those who are able to commit to regular planned giving.

During the year the congregation supported many external charities which do not show in these accounts including Advent Appeal 2018 for UNHCR £226.77, Church at Lunch Idai Cyclone Appeal £218.76, Harvest Appeal for Trinity Centre £181.52, USPG boxes £150.68 and the Advent Appeal 2019 for Messy Church at Winnall £302.68. A total of nearly £1000 donated.

Reserves Policy

Where possible surplus funds not required for immediate use are placed in the Diocesan Loans Fund. During the year it was agreed that an extra £20k be deposited taking the total to £57,393. Interest is paid quarterly. Reserves The Church currently holds £60,234 as Restricted Funds and £30,061 as unrestricted funds.

Planned Giving Report 2019

My thanks must go to those who donate on a regular basis and provide us with 54% of our income. In addition, this year the tax reclaim of Gift Aid from HMRC on such donations has provided us with an additional 23% of our income – making a total contribution of 77%. (Please note that this amount is distorted this year due to outstanding claims being paid).

During 2019 we had 22 supporters who donated on a regular basis (this includes individuals as well as representatives of families).

The majority of our supporters give via the Parish Giving Scheme run by the Gloucester Diocese, who manage the reclaim of Gift Aid from the HMRC on our behalf - which is a great benefit. We must also thank those who kindly increase their donation annually in line with inflation.

Approved by the PCC on , 2020 and signed on their behalf by

