



St John in the Soke
with
St Martin, Winnall

**Annual Report
&
Financial Statements
of the
Parochial Church Council
for the year ended 31 December, 2020**

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 (or St John the Baptist) 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 2020 are:

Priest-in-charge: Rev Mike Griffiths

Associate Priest: Rev Christine Smith

Priest: Rev Jen Holder

Wardens:

Deborah Hobbs Vice Chair

Richard Skegg (from APCM)

Deanery Synod Representatives:

Andrew Holder (from APCM)

Benefice Safeguarding Officer:

Debbie Cramp

Elected Members:

Peter Eagling (until APCM then co-opted)

Secretary & Electoral Roll

Sue Skegg Treasurer

David Stirrup

Hazel Southam

Richard Skegg (until APCM)

Matt Sturgeon (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 priest-in-charge 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 42 parishioners on the Electoral Roll, 15 of whom live in the parish. Average attendance for Sunday Parish Eucharist from January until lockdown in March was 26. Sunday service sheets were circulated via email from March onwards to 53 individuals and family groups.

Review of the Year

PCC Secretary's Report

The PCC met four times in 2020. The November meeting was held virtually on Zoom. The following topics were discussed:

Fabric issues - including discussions about repair works, installation of security cameras, improving the amplification of the sound system and plans for a door between the nave and the children's area.

St Giles Hill graveyard wall repairs

Church finances

Covid-19 pandemic and lockdown - including detailed arrangements for holding services safely when permitted and opening the church for private prayer.

Priest-in-Charge's Report

Churchwardens' Report

This was a year like no other because the country went into lockdown during the Covid-19 pandemic. We were unable to come to church for many months. Christine and Jen posted out weekly services to everyone via iknowchurch, full of wonderful liturgy, scriptural exposition and inspiring and beautiful music as well as other posts to help lift our spirits. We give them all our love and appreciation. Thank you too to everyone who provided intercessions for praying in the time of Covid.

Mike together with Beth, the All Saints children's worker continued to support Winnall Messy Church families with on-line content and activity packs.

Richard and Sue Skegg did so much at the church post-lockdown and I'm grateful for all their proactive work. Happily, Richard became churchwarden in October so continues to care for the church and all its people. Thank you also to everyone involved in the big church clean up over the summer.

2020 has been a year of loss for so many people. Our church family was devastated to lose David Stirrup to Covid on 25th November. His funeral was held at St John's on 18th December. RIP David.

Fabric Report

This year we were able to complete most of the annual inspections and maintenance tasks including lightening protection, fire extinguishers, smoke detectors, boiler service, gutter cleaning and piano tuning. We also had a smart electric meter installed. Richard Skegg restored and replaced the noticeboard and post which fell during a gale.

Our electrical contractors replaced four high level spotlights with narrow beam LED spotlights. They also installed new electrical distribution boards and lightening surge protection.

One of our large EPNS flagons needed repairing and some newly mended items of church plate have been brought back into use.

We were granted a faculty to install swift boxes in the tower; Hampshire Swifts will arrange to do this work in 2021. In our outside space, a tree specialist pruned some of the trees in the north churchyard.

The following items have been added to the church property register (the terrier) this year – metal toy cupboard and 6 hard hats.

Deanery Synod Report

Deanery Synod comprises all clergy plus lay representatives from the 26 parishes (13 benefices) across the Winchester area, including both city and rural parishes. Lay representatives are appointed to represent the views of their parish at the Deanery Synod and to report back to their parish. Deanery Synod usually meets three times a year, but met only once in 2020.

The meeting on 18th November was the first of the new Synod triennium and the first Synod meeting to be held on Zoom. We heard presentations on three different ways that parish ministry had responded to the challenges of Covid-19. Ruth Guy, Deanery Lay Chair, talked about pastoral ministry and different ways of staying in touch with parishioners in the absence of weekly services. The Rev'd John Rennie described some of the different things that the Upper Dever parishes had tried when communal worship had resumed. And the Rev'd Ed Dines talked about some of the technical issues and options for online worship.

Friends of St John

Financial Review

During 2020 as a result of the Pandemic our income suffered a major decline – our accounts show a deficit for the year of over £7,000. The main reasons were the suspension of services which meant that we were unable to have open plate collections and people were unable to donate via the yellow envelope scheme. Overall our open plate collections were down over £1,000. Also due to the Pandemic we were unable to hire out the church and again this affected our income by £1,000. We received less in fees as restrictions affected plans for weddings and funerals. Our planned giving also suffered a fall in income due to changes in some contributor's circumstances. Consequently our reclaim of Gift Aid from HMRC also fell.

We also had to continue to maintain the building, and electrical work was carried out during the year as well as tree maintenance in the graveyard. Also carried out was necessary routine maintenance such as gutter clearing, fire extinguisher and smoke alarm testing and gas boiler servicing.

On a positive note we paid our Parish Share in full.

During 2021 there will be expenditure on the repair to the wall in St Giles graveyard and also the removal of the two cypress trees in the south graveyard as well as the usual maintenance works. There are also works identified in the Quinquennial Report which will also need addressing – such as the need to re-point the south wall of the church as well as the proposed glass partition beneath the tower.

Planned Giving Report 2020

I am extremely grateful to all our regular givers for keeping faith and continuing to donate to the church during the last year. This forms the major part of our income and its importance cannot be underestimated. During 2020 the number of people who donated via the Parish Giving Scheme and regularly through the bank account dropped from 20 to 18 as a result of changes to people's circumstances. Since this giving is such a vital part of our income we are vulnerable if members leave the scheme, so a request for new donors took place in January 2021 and happily 4 new members are now making regular donations to St John's. It is to be hoped that others will join them.

Approved by the PCC on _____, 2021
and signed on their behalf

