



Showing and Sharing God's Love

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

Incumbent

The Revd Richard Wise
The Rectory
10 Stoke Park Road
Bishopstoke

Independent Examiner

David Dimmick

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 2020 until the date this report was approved are:

Clergy

The Revd Richard Wise

Chair

The Revd Kat Mepham

Assistant Curate Until June 2020

Church wardens

Cherry Challis

Also Vice Chair from May 2019

Ex-officio

Margaret Ward (LLM)

Representatives on the Deanery Synod (Ex-officio Members)

Ann Brown

Jeanette Neale

Elected Members

Pamela Boyes

From October 2020

Edna Brown

Michael Harris

Treasurer

Lucy Moore

Until October 2020

Sheila Sebborn

Until April 2020

Shirley Smeal

Louise Unsworth

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 – formerly Readers) 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, 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

	2018	2019	2020
Electoral Roll	113 (17 not resident in parish)	81 (12 not resident in parish)	85 (16 not resident in parish)
Worshipping Community	130 (30 under 18)	130 (33 under 18)	105 (27 under 18)
Usual Sunday attendance (adults)	53	53	50
Usual Sunday attendance (children)	15	13	13
Baptisms	30	23	3
Thanksgivings	2	2	0
Weddings	10	10	1
Funerals	25 (11 in church)	22 (12 in church)	28 (11 in church)

The usual Sunday attendance figures have been based only on services in the church buildings prior to the first lockdown in March. Online worship has not been included. The usual Sunday attendance figure does not include Messy Church numbers.

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). This year it has been far harder to assess this due to the periods when we have not been able to worship in the church buildings and the restriction on numbers when we have. The Church of England has asked us to be realistic and not to count people who have not engaged with church during the pandemic, but to include them when they return. This year's figures therefore contain an element of approximation.

PCC review of the year

The full PCC had nine meetings during the year. Our March meeting was cancelled due to lockdown and following that we met online, but we held an additional meeting during August. As always, some of the PCC's work this year has been connected to buildings (please see the Fabric and Goods report on p.12-13 for those items).

For most of the year our Parish Mission Action Plan has effectively been on hold due to the pandemic, and much of the PCC's time has been spent on adapting church life and doing new things to respond to this situation. We began to seek advice about how to manage the churchyard in a more environmentally friendly way, and decided on the local (BIFOHH) Street Pastors and The Children's Society as our Christmas charities.

Health and Safety and Safeguarding are standing agenda items at every PCC meeting.

SAFEGUARDING

Margaret Ward took up the position of Safeguarding Officer from Lucy Bucknell in October 2020. A big thank you to Lucy Bucknell for her thorough and careful management of Safeguarding for almost four years. We display mandatory Safeguarding information on posters at the entrance to each of our churches, together with the National Church Safeguarding policy statement. PCC considered Safeguarding issues for our use of Zoom during the pandemic and statements of advice and procedures for parents/carers on safe Zoom use by children and young people are included in all relevant Zoom invites. DBS checks were completed for volunteers taking part in the 'Delegates to the Housebound' scheme, and we continue to use Safer Recruitment procedures for all relevant positions in church. We follow Diocesan guidance for our rolling programme rechecking DBS clearance (every 5 years) and updating

Safeguarding training (every 3 years, although training is currently online) and for completing our parish Role Profiles. The PCC has complied with the duty to have due regard to the House of Bishops' guidance in relation to Safeguarding.

WORSHIP

Services

As with so many things this year, the pandemic completely changed our worship! By a week into the first lockdown we were posting 'church at home' services on our website. We then started to offer a Church Together Chat zone online via Zoom, leading to our first full Zoom service on Easter Day. A few weeks later we added Morning Worship to the offering of Sunday Zoom services. A weekly online Compline service was also started quite soon into lockdown and has a committed following. Many thanks are due to Martin Ward for getting us going with Zoom services and for hosting Church Together throughout the year.

During 2020 when not in lockdown we returned to our church buildings for services, including communion, but it was a while before we were able to hold Church Together. When we did, we were able to run it as a 'hybrid' in person and online service, having obtained a mobile Wifi router for St Mary's. Social distancing was required at all services and at Church Together families were given 'dens' with plenty of activities to keep children occupied. Booking for all services was necessary. Church Together has worked well online, with breakout rooms being used for the zones, but online worship has received a variety of reactions from members of our congregations. It has been particularly hard for some children to engage with it.

I am very grateful to everyone who has contributed to our worship in any way, including to Pat Abbott, Paul Moore and Margaret Ward for their preaching, which now involves being willing to write your sermon out fully and have it on the church website! Paul was able to do more during the pandemic, before he and Lucy departed for the Diocese of Derby in October, and I am extremely grateful to both of them for all they gave to our church and its worship.

We found the 'Holy Habit' of Fellowship a relevant and helpful theme for a few services when we were denied the chance to meet together. At other times in the year we followed the lectionary, discovering how readily some passages related to things we were experiencing in daily life. In July – August we had a series on Jacob, and during September – October we worked our way through Psalm 104 for Creationtide.

I am very grateful to all who lead and play for the musical aspect of our worship: Andy Harrison, Jon Senior and our worship band; Phil Dunford and Ann Arnold, for organ playing and singing; Sheila Sebborn at St Paul's. During the pandemic we have used their gifts wherever possible, despite not being allowed to join in with singing in church. Ann and Phil also organised a small, socially distanced choir (11 people) for our Carols by Candlelight, which we did three times in order to give a reasonable number of people the chance to attend it.

Once the first lockdown came, our monthly worship at Stoke Knoll rest home and communion at Bishopstoke Park were put on hold. There was one communion at Bishopstoke Park with very restricted numbers later in the year before this was not allowed once more.

For the fifth year running we encouraged people to take part in the global prayer initiative 'Thy Kingdom Come', and this year all the resources were online.

Richard Wise

Children and Young People

Children and young people continue to play a major part in both Messy Church and Church Together.

Friday Fun is our occasional (roughly every half term) group for primary-aged children, held at St Mary's, where children and parents share tea together and have time to play together. It hasn't taken place since the first lockdown, but we look forward to resuming it when things are back to normal and we are allowed to.

Unshakeable is a group for 10-16 year olds, which meets at St Mary's on alternate Saturday evenings for 'Fun, Food and Faith'. We have about 16-18 young people who come along regularly to the group, many of whom do not otherwise come to any other church events.

Pre-lockdown, each session would start with social time when the young people can play games such as snooker, table tennis, board games and xbox, or take part in a variety of craft or cooking activities. We would then have a 'faith' time, mainly working through life issues that are hopefully relevant to the young people in the group.

We fitted in four of these sessions in 2020, managing to do some Chinese cookery, make wax burners, have a late-night-film-night, and raise £125 for

Sports Relief with an energetic evening of sponsored activity led by Brandon, before Covid upset everything!

We then didn't meet for a while at the start of the first lockdown, but restarted in June with two Zoom sessions and were able to finish off the summer with a Scavenger Hunt around Bishopstoke and ice-creams in the churchyard.

The first half of the autumn term consisted of lots of outdoor activities as we weren't allowed to meet indoors. The children kept to year group 'bubbles', enjoying a trip to the woods to collect firewood, which was then used in the following meeting to practise their fire lighting skills! We also had a hike and chips evening and managed to fit in pumpkin carving before we once again had to go back to Zoom.

A popular Zoom activity is cookery – we've made mug cakes, toffee popcorn, rocky road, peppermint creams and cheese straws!

It has, of course, been a really challenging year, and there are still many challenges ahead to be able to keep the group going and growing over the coming months.

Many thanks to Tessa Senior, Brandon Grant and Michael Wise for all that they do in running the group, and also to those more occasional helpers who come along to help with activities.

Anne Wise

DISCIPLESHIP

Prayer Healing Fellowship

We last met on 16 March 2020, so there is very little to report! We are so grateful to God that we have all remained relatively well during the pandemic. However, our work of prayer is still going on. When we knew we could not meet for some time Cherry and I decided we would telephone each member every Monday between us, so we can keep an eye on them and tell them if anyone needs extra prayers. Sometimes it slips over to another day, but we know just how much our members have appreciated the calls, whatever day they are on!

We were sad to hear that Brenda Organ had died in December, aged 90. She was unable to come to meetings once she went into a home but continued to be interested in all we did. We have still sent cards to people to encourage,

congratulate or walk beside them during illness or bereavement, though not so many as usual.

We very much look forward to meeting again, when we will be able to hug! The church extension building starts hopefully in May, and we will not meet until it is totally safe to do so, but in the event the church is unavailable to us, Joan Cook has kindly said we can meet at her house, so our work for Jesus will continue.

All members of PHF, and I suspect other members of St Mary's and St Paul's, would like to thank Richard for all his hard work since lockdown last March. Sending the Welcome sheet and all services via email, but especially remembering those with no email. Every week he delivers the Welcome sheet and services through the letterbox. We have really appreciated this kindness, particularly the housebound. Thank you, Richard, for making us all feel so special.

Sheila Sebborn

Home Groups

Fair Oak Road group

We continue to meet on the first and third Tuesdays of each month although our meetings are necessarily online, using Zoom, rather than face to face. Although this was strange at first, and not suitable for all group members, it does have the advantage of removing childcare worries. Our programme was focused on the BRF 'Holy Habits' series until the summer. In autumn and winter we have undertaken studies based on the Book 'Unleashed' by Gavin and Anne Calver. This material was first presented at the virtual Spring Harvest 2020. We also had a New Year Zoom Social with a zany and very enjoyable quiz devised by Jenny. We reluctantly said goodbye to Lucy Moore as she prepared to move to Derbyshire in autumn 2020. Although we miss Lucy's input enormously, we've continued by sharing leadership responsibilities through the group.

Margaret Ward

Rectory group

We have continued to meet on alternate Tuesday evenings, in person at the start of the year and then online. For some of the year we continued to work through the 'Holy Habits' in tandem with the church services on those (Breaking Bread and Fellowship). We have also used material from Tearfund – The World Rebooted – which called us to work for a fairer, more sustainable world post-pandemic, and a course on Mission and Creation Care from the John Ray Initiative and Tearfund.

Richard Wise

Bishopstoke Park Bible study group

The Bible study group met at the start of 2020, but then sadly had to be put on hold from the first lockdown in March.

PASTORAL CARE

Most of the pastoral contact in 2020 had been made by telephone and cards. Pastoral visits and home communion had been suspended from March due to Covid restrictions. Seasonal flower arrangements and Christmas cards were taken to Stoke Knoll and Orchard Gardens care homes in December. Names for prayer support have been communicated to Richard and Prayer Healing Fellowship if requested. If you or anyone you know is in need of pastoral support, please let us know.

Ann Brown & Joan Cook

MISSION AND OUTREACH

Events

Due to Covid-19, the only events this year were two 'Cafés' at St Mary's on Saturday mornings during January and February. We have really missed the opportunity to see people from the church and wider community on these occasions.

Richard Wise

Messy Church

Messy Church in 2020 started with three 'normal' sessions, which now seem like a very distant memory! April, May, June and July were 'messy bag' months, when bags with 4 or 5 activities were delivered to families who requested them, and online Celebrations took place on Zoom. Messy Easter, the first one of these, was particularly popular, although that one didn't have an online Celebration.

After a summer break we met 'face to face' once again in September, but with a very different format to what we are used to... at St Mary's instead of St Paul's; families separated from each other, each in their own 'den'; limits on numbers and booking required; setting up needing to be done 3 days in advance; a much smaller team being able to attend; no food! But wonderful to at least be in the

same building together after so long, and to see both familiar and new faces coming along.

We said 'Thank you' and 'Goodbye' to Lucy at our October Messy Church as she and Paul departed to Derbyshire. We will of course miss her hugely and are tremendously grateful to her for setting up our Messy Church and for being a wonderfully creative and encouraging leader for the last five years.

A huge thank you to everyone involved for another year of hard work.

Anne Wise

Open the Book

Our Open the Book assemblies in Stoke Park Infant and Junior Schools continued until the first lockdown March, when most children had to stay at home. During the summer term, two team members recorded a few videos of Open the Book stories which were circulated to children at the Junior School. All children returned to school at the start of the autumn term, and four team members who felt able to go into school were able to do three assemblies (each of them twice as only one year group was allowed in the hall on each occasion) at the Infant School. It was wonderful to be back and see the children on those few precious occasions. Meanwhile, the Junior School devised a programme to cover all the Open the Book stories for the year using videos.

I would like to thank all the team what they have been able to do over the past year, and we all look forward to getting back to assemblies when we can.

Richard Wise

Tots and Tinies

Tots and Tinies is our term-time toddler group at St Mary's on Thursday mornings for young children and their parents / grandparents / carers. There are toys and craft activities, refreshments and a story and song session at the end. We have recently been working through the Play Along Bible with a Bible story each week. We aim to offer support and friendship to all who come. Over the months a core of attendees has been built up, and before the pandemic we would on average have about 8 families represented. Sadly, since the first lockdown we have been unable to meet at all.

A big thank you to Marianne Harrison and Wendy Dale for all they were doing to make this group happen each week.

Anne Wise

Out-of-doors Delegates to the Housebound

The first lockdown in 2020 arising from the Covid-19 pandemic evoked much uncertainty about basic provisions and medicines – availability (remember the scenes of panic-buying) and accessibility (if told to stay at home, how to shop and collect items needed). We therefore saw a need for those self-isolating, or shielding, or otherwise unable to leave the house, during the coronavirus emergency in our Parish. A small but growing team of volunteers was quickly gathered from (or known to) our church, to respond to house-bound parishioners unable to:

- shop online or get timely delivery slots for provisions
- utilize prescription delivery services
- receive basic essentials from Government-sponsored food aid, or from other alternative sources or volunteer groups

Our project's main thrust was to reassure those seeking help, take their shopping and/or prescription orders, pick up these items and deliver them to their door – shopping to be paid for preferably online or by cheque to the church (and volunteers reimbursed by the church). To operate effectively, safely, securely, and in co-ordination with other organisations, volunteers had to be DBS-checked, formally appointed with role descriptions, and then complete safeguarding training. Risk assessments and procedures to facilitate the project were also quickly developed.

Initially we expected a large take-up and possibly be overloaded, but in the first instance other household members, family, neighbours or friends responded to provide assistance to those that needed it. Also, prescription delivery services and large-scale volunteer groups were set-up in the locality, and supermarkets increased the scale and availability of online shopping. However, we had enquiries from around a dozen households, and provided assistance using 8 volunteers. Over the course of 2020, we completed 40+ shopping/prescription pick-up tasks, and referred-on enquirers with different needs. Into 2021 we continue to offer help with shopping etc. – though currently (March) with less take-up than in the pandemic's first wave, so should you or someone you know need our help please contact us, e.g. at cofebishopstokecoordinator@gmail.com.

Mike and Wendy Harris

Giving outside the Parish

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

- ARK (Gift)
- Basics Bank (Harvest Charity)
- Bible Reading Fellowship (Gift)
- Bible Society (PHF)
- BIFOHH Street Pastors (Christmas Charity)
- The British Legion Poppy Appeal (Gift)
- CAP (Gift)
- The Children’s Society (Christmas Charity)
- Fairtrade (Café stall)
- Fledge (offertory donation)
- Self Help Africa (Harvest Charity)
- Sport Relief (fundraising by Unshakeable)
- World Vision UK (PHF)

BUILDINGS AND STEWARDSHIP **Fabric and Goods**

St Mary’s

The Parish Council has continued to work on the grounds of St Mary’s during the pandemic. During the year, the path along the north side of the church was retarmacked, the ground on either side of the main gate was made more stable and turfed, and undergrowth from alongside the neighbouring house in Church Road was cleared to make way for new metal fencing. A tree report had also been commissioned which said that two large trees may have to be felled. The PCC questioned this, and the Parish Council is now obtaining a report from an arboriculturist.

In the church building the ventilation work to the chancel roof area was undertaken, and we are working on the Faculty permission for the lighting in the bellringing chamber and the rest of the church.

Richard Wise

St Paul’s

We have had a quiet year at St Paul’s. The Pre-school has continued to use the building. We have done a few repairs that won’t hold, such as supporting the kitchen outside door frame that was so rotten that the door may have fallen off,

and the plumbing bits that are always causing a headache, but we hope the building works will start in May.

We were able to use the church in a limited way before the lockdown at Christmas. We hope to have two services at St Paul's before we have the mammoth task of removing much of the furniture so that it won't get damaged. Our biggest problem will come when the roof is replaced, as we were told that it had reached the end of its life when we had leaks fixed. The builders will replace it, but we have to pay for our part of it. I am sure with God's help and lots of fundraising we will manage to do it. Thank you for all your support and understanding over the last year, and we pray that the next year will bring happier times for us all. God bless you all.

Cherry Challis

Church Room

The Church Room continues to be used for both church and charitable storage and we still have the aim of redeveloping the site for a combination of church usage (possibly office, storage, flat for a church worker) together with some accommodation which could be rented out. Some people expressed an interest in helping with this at the Buildings' Information and Action evening in 2019, but we have yet to start work on it.

Richard Wise

Financial Review

Summary. Covid-19 significantly impacted church finances. In May we assessed the potential financial impacts of Covid-19, the lockdown and social-distancing restrictions. Shown below is a comparison of that forecast with the final figures for 2020.

Comparison of 2020 Performance v Estimated Covid-19 impact on General Funds

	<i>as Forecast in May</i>	Actual figures
	£ k	£ k
Reduction in Voluntary Giving (excluding Grants)	8.8	5.6
Reduction in Church Activities: Fees and Net Trading	4.8	4.0
Reduction in Fundraising	1.6	2.5
Reduction to Investment Income	0.1	0.1
Total Reduction to Unrestricted Income	15.3	12.2
Less Reduction to Expenditure (selected)	-3.0	-1.9
Total Reduction to Unrestricted Balances C/F	12.3	10.3

Income from cash collections, lettings, statutory fees, and voluntary giving fell significantly – but less than forecast (and which had not considered a possible second wave). With savings made on reduced parish running costs, the overall impact of Covid-19 on unrestricted balances for the year was £10.3k in comparison with 2019. Nevertheless, the balance of unrestricted funds increased by nearly £3k – but (i) having spent little on buildings maintenance, the Fabric Fund (to cover such contingent spends) was increased by £10k again this year and index-linked, and (ii) the Reserves policy was reviewed to cover 3 months’ running costs (from 2 months’ running costs and hire income). General Funds thus decreased by £11.7k in 2020 – fortunately there is excess of General Funds built up in prior years to cover this.

We deferred major spends on capital/equipment projects and applications for grant-funding during Covid-19, including St Mary’s lighting and St Paul’s development, and planning to re-order the vestry space at St Mary’s and re-imaging the Church Room site have not progressed either.

Our Statement Of Financial Activities for the Year to 31 December 2020 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. We received £67.5k over the year, £13.1k less than the previous year. Normally voluntary giving accounts for around 75% of our income – and the majority of that is regular giving from church members. Importantly, giving

through the Parish Giving Scheme and by Standing Order continued throughout 2020 at previous levels – for which we are most thankful, and we received a small legacy. However, with the churches either closed or with social restrictions in place, receiving cash donations, including giving envelopes and collections, virtually ceased for much of the year. We added a ‘donations button’ to our website (powered by ‘Give A Little’) in the autumn, which gave people more opportunities to give (particularly for missional giving). The pre-school was able to continue, but most other lettings at St Paul’s temporarily ceased after March. Fees income was much reduced with all but one wedding postponed, and no fundraising took place after March (from Café or PHF). The magazine was also put on hold, so sales and advertising revenue from this (or from card stalls) also stopped for the duration. With interest rates now at an all-time low, building society interest also fell despite increasing the amount on deposit. We received minor grants for VAT reclaims and the Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme (for our furloughed St Paul’s cleaner) – but no other state-funding.

Expenditure. 60% of our spending goes to the Diocese’s Common Mission Fund, which increased this year as expected by 3.3%. The Diocese pays Richard’s wages, housing costs and training, and finances mission support locally, regionally and nationally – to find out more about this please visit <https://www.winchester.anglican.org/common-mission-fund/>.

Spending totalled £59.9k, £2.8k less than the previous year – with some savings made on reduced church expenses. With fewer opportunities to be at church as normal, missional giving (and thus spending) was 33% less than 2019’s. Mission and evangelism costs also fell significantly, as did costs to upkeep services. Utilities costs and running expenses were similar to 2019’s, though St Mary’s organ annual service was postponed and spending on equipment renewal was minimal. Higher miscellaneous costs were (i) leaving gifts for Lucy and Paul Moore and (ii) reimbursement of shopping for the housebound – all of which was matched by specific donations or repayments. Whilst major capital/equipment spends were again deferred, works were undertaken at St Mary’s to improve ventilation in the Chancel roof (£2.9k) and address boiler issues (£1.1k).

Stewardship. Giving financially on a regular basis is a sacrificial yet rewarding expression of worship and faith, particularly in uncertain times, and accounts for most of the church’s income. If you usually donate via cash please consider alternatives such as using the Parish Giving Scheme, Standing Order, or online at www.cofebishopstoke.com. We also recover tax paid through gift-aid. Contact me or Pat Abbott for forms and details of these schemes, or about leaving a financial legacy.

Covid-19 into 2021 We anticipate further (and similar) reductions to income in 2021 before legal restrictions to movement are lifted and we can meet at church as normal. The Diocese cut 10% from the original Common Mission Fund 'bill' for 2021, helping to mitigate the impact of Covid-19 to parishes in 2021 (however, the Diocese currently plan to significantly increase our Common Mission Fund for 2022). Whilst General Funds carried over from 2020 should suffice for us to remain financially stable at the end of this pandemic, we will continue to monitor and take action to help ensure we as a church can face future challenges with confidence. On a positive note, St Paul's development will press ahead in 2021 (and share the major costs for a new roof).

Thank you once again to everyone who helped run our church's finances in 2020, even when it became more difficult to handle cash – particularly Wendy Dale, sub-account holders for PHF and card stall, and others in various supporting roles.

Mike Harris

THE WIDER CHURCH

Deanery Synod

There were two meetings of Eastleigh Deanery Synod in 2020. The February one was at St Boniface Church, Chandlers Ford, and in November we met by Zoom. There was also an email published in June dealing with matters arising. Both meetings were chaired by Richard who was appointed Area Dean in February. In November we heard that the Revd Sarah McClelland was to be Assistant Area Dean.

The finance report indicated that by the end of the year there would be a significant short fall of contributions to the Diocesan Common Mission Fund (previously called Parish Share). Several parishes were behind with their payments as funds were low partly due to being unable to hire out their facilities during the Covid lockdown restrictions as well as the lack of collections during services. By October 71% of the 2020 amount due to the Diocese had been paid by Eastleigh Deanery. By the end of 2020 there were 4.5 clergy vacancies within Eastleigh Deanery. All vacancies would be frozen until January 2021. However, it was likely that the overall number of posts would need to be reduced.

The Deanery Mission Action Plan (dMAP) had gone part way to fulfilling its objectives but owing to the coronavirus restrictions it had not been completely achieved in the final year. The next dMAP would be considered after the

Archdeaconry Mission Action Plan (aMAP) had been published and Parish Action Plan (pMAP) will follow on. The Archbishops had called for a month of prayer during the second lockdown and also that every parish should engage in a consultation on 'Living in Love and Faith' at a future date. This is a whole range of Church of England resources on Christian teaching and learning about identity, sexuality, relationships and marriage. In February General Synod set a new target for all parts of the church to become carbon neutral by 2030.

World Mission Partnerships were discussed. It seems that our Deanery would no longer be partnered with Bukedi but, together with Alton Deanery, will be linked to the Democratic Republic of Congo. It is hoped that these plans will be finalised by the time of the Lambeth Conference in 2022.

The plans for the Eastleigh Twinning visits with the usual French and German towns had been postponed until 2021 because of Covid. We heard that the demand for the help of the Eastleigh Basics Bank had increased but that there had been a good deal of generous giving both by individuals and commercial organisations.

Earlier in the year we heard from Anne Molineux about 'Life Matters' – a series of workshop talks. Unfortunately, the one due to be held at St Mary's in March about mental health had to be postponed. The visiting speaker from 'Brepheos' at the February meeting talked about 'Post Abortion support for Everyone' and we were challenged to consider the question: 'Is the unborn my neighbour?'

The next meeting would be in February 2021, again by Zoom.

Ann Brown & Jeanette Neale

Churches Together

Churches Together in Eastleigh (CTiE) gatherings for Pentecost and other occasions have continued online during the pandemic. We are now also in a period of transition to a new Churches Together group for Bishopstoke, Fair Oak and Horton Heath, and have held several meetings open to anyone from the churches in this area.

The Bishopstoke Churches put on a Christmas Tree Trail around the village from mid-late December, which proved very popular with all ages. Each tree was decorated to reflect a carol, and there were goodie bags, including a Christmas story book, for children who completed the trail.

Richard Wise

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



March 2021

**PARISH OF BISHOPSTOKE
ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING
St Paul's Church, Bishopstoke
Sunday 18 October, 2020**

The APCM was held at St Paul's Church. Revd Richard Wise presided over the meeting attended by 7 people plus 7 on zoom.

1. Apologies

Apologies were received from Sheila Sebborn, Wendy Dale, Phil Dunford, Jenny Rogers.

2. Election of Churchwardens

One nomination was received. Cherryll Challis was proposed by Sheila Sebborn and seconded by Joan Cook. Following a show of hands Cherryll was duly 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 unanimously 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 Cherry Challis and seconded by Shirley Smeal as a true record of the 2019 report. This was 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, seconded by Ann Arnold and approved unanimously by a show of hands. Mike Harris was thanked for all his hard work.

6. Report on Electoral Roll. This year we have 85 people on the electoral roll, with 16 living outside the parish.

7. Election of Deanery Synod representatives

There were two nominations. Jeanette Neale was proposed by Cherry Challis and seconded by Wendy Dale, Ann Brown was proposed by Jenny Rogers and seconded by Jill Crockett. Both were elected on a show of hands.

8. Election of Church Councillors

There was one nomination for the Church Council. Pamela Boyes proposed by Ann Brown and seconded by Jeanette Neale. Pamela was elected on a show of hands.

9. Election of sides people

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

St Pauls: Joy Barnard, Joan Cook, Janet Henderson, Caroline Waters and Marjorie Young.

All were elected on a show of hands.

10. Appointment of an Independent Examiner

Richard informed the meeting that David Dimmick had once again done a great job and requested that he be invited to continue with this for next year. Mike was asked to pass on our thanks to him. This was approved with a show of hands.

11. Any other business and questions

Richard thanked Sheila Sebborn who has stood down from the PCC this year. He also thanked Lucy Moore for her time on the PCC and for everything else she has done in the church. Lucy Bucknell was also thanked for her time as Safeguarding Officer and thanks to Margaret Ward who has taken it on. Jules Chiari was thanked for her time on the Messy Church team. Richard thanked Cherry Challis for all she has done as Church Warden, especially regarding St Paul's building plans. Planning permission has now gone through.

Russell Smeal asked about the oak tree at St Paul's. It is deemed basically safe but needs work on it before any building work is started.

Richard thanked everyone for coming and closed the meeting with prayer.

ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING 2021

AGENDA

1. Apologies
2. Election of Churchwardens
3. Minutes of the Annual Parochial Church Meeting 2020

2020

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

2021

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