

ALL SAINTS' BIGHTON PCC REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31/12/21

Due to the Covid 19 Pandemic many of our services and other activities were suspended during the year in line with Government regulations.

All Saints' Church is situated at the western end of the village next to the Manor House.

It is a member of the Winchester Diocese within the Alresford Deanery and part of the Arle Valley Benefice.

The correspondence address is:

The Secretary to the PCC,
Manor Farm House,
Bighton,
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SO24 9RD

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

Under new regulations all charity trustees are now required to be DBS checked and all members of the PCC have completed this.

PCC members who have served during the year are:

Revd. Heather Brearey following her Collation as Rector of the Arle Valley Benefice on 19th November 2021

Ian Waring Green, Lay Minister and Commissioned as Focal Minister for All Saints Bighton on 5th December 2021

Mr Robert Ellis, PCC Vice Chairman (Churchwarden)

Mr Simon McCowen, Deputy Vice Chair (Churchwarden)

Elected Members:

Mrs Sarah White, Secretary

Mrs Susan Gray, Treasurer

Mrs Elizabeth Prescott-Decie

Mr Raymond Jeffrey

Mrs Sally Ellis, Electoral Roll Secretary

Mr Simon Pettinati

Mr Christopher James, Website & GDPR administrator

Mrs Alison Mayne, Deanery Synod Representative

Changes to the PCC during the year

There were a number of changes during the year as noted above.

Structure, Governance and Management

The method of appointment of the 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.

The Living

The Arle Valley Benefice living, previously suspended by the Bishop of Winchester following the retirement of the previous Incumbent, was reinstated upon the Collation of the Revd. Heather Brearey on 19th November 2021 when she became Rector of the Arle Valley Benefice.

Objectives and Activities

All Saints PCC, together with the Rector of the Arle Valley Benefice, has the responsibility of promoting the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical within the Parish.

The PCC is responsible for the upkeep of the Church Building and the Churchyard.

Membership and attendance

The Electoral Roll comprises 32 members, there having been 1 death during the year.

The Church was closed for regular worship from 1st January until 28th March 2021.

Arrangements were made, when services were permitted, to ensure that the social distancing regulations were observed by careful seating within the building, having carried out the required Risk

Assessment. A track and trace list was also compiled for each service, for use should a reported case of the virus within our congregation be received. The services of Holy Communion were limited under the rules, and Communion was given in one kind only.

During the times when services were allowed the average attendance was some 16 souls. We are, as always, grateful to the Ministry Team for their important contribution to our Sunday services.

Our services are in the main accompanied by Dr. John Sargent on the organ, and we thank John for his musical talents.

Weekly Service Pattern

With the reopening of the Church on 12th July, it was decided to reduce our regular weekly service pattern to three Sundays per month, omitting the first Sunday family service.

We are deeply indebted to the Ministry team of Clergy, retired Clergy and Licensed Lay Ministers for their help with this. Ian Waring Green is our main link with the team, and we are extremely grateful to him for his Ministry to us.

The service pattern, when permitted during the year, has comprised both Book of Common Prayer and Common Worship services, and the PCC has made every endeavour to ensure that we have one Parish Communion service each month, again when permitted.

During the times when services were not permitted in Church, we were able to use pre-recorded services from churches within the benefice, which were distributed via the You tube platform.

We also made use of the Zoom platform to produce our own services online at various times.

The congregation were kept informed of the various services available in weekly emails sent out by the PCC.

Review of the Year

The full PCC met face to face three times during the year; in addition to these meetings we held our APCM, with good attendance at each meeting. During times of lock-down, PCC matters were decided by email and Zoom meetings.

There is also an emergency standing committee comprising the Churchwardens and PCC secretary; this committee did not need to meet during the year.

Bishop's Review in the Arle Valley benefice.

In January of 2021 a review of the Benefice was set up under the joint Chairmanship of the Archdeacon of Winchester, The Ven. Richard Brand, and Dr Philip Hiorns, Lay Chair of Basingstoke Deanery.

The review was a form of audit, looking at various aspects of the life of our benefice, including leadership, vision, worship, young people's ministry, pastoral care, community and wider church engagement, the welcome and nurture of newcomers, financial matters and communication.

The main purpose was to assist in determining the role of a new Incumbent for the benefice.

Clergy

Following a successful advertising and selection process, the Revd. Heather Brearey was Collated as the Rector of The Arle Valley Benefice by the Bishop of Basingstoke on Friday 19th November 2021. This date also marks the lifting of the suspension of the living of the Arle Valley Benefice. We welcome Heather to her new role and look forward to working with her to further the work of the Church in the Parish of All Saints and the wider Benefice.

We remained very fortunate in that Revd. Canon Graham Trasler continued to preside at Holy Communion services at All Saints until Heather was Collated as Rector. We are very grateful to Graham for all his help and friendship to us in this Parish over the past years.

Ian Waring Green continues in his role as Focal Minister for the Parish of All Saints and, following representations to the Bishop, Ian was formally commissioned into this role by the Bishop of Basingstoke during a service held in Bighton on Sunday 5th December.

We are also pleased that one of our Parishioners, Alison Mayne was accepted for Bishop's Permission to Preach course (Sept 21-July 22) in June 2021. We wish Alison well in her course and look forward to hearing her preach in the future.

Clergy Support A part-time parish assistant, Penny Forbes, has continued in her role of Benefice Administrator.

Festival Services

The Easter Day service was conducted by Revd. Graham Trasler, the preacher being Ian Waring Green. The Harvest Festival was held on October 10th and was conducted by Ian Waring Green. It was attended by 38 people, and the collection of £222.00 was donated to the Winchester Basics Bank, together with the tinned produce brought to the service.

The Remembrance Day service was led by Ian Waring Green and was attended by 40 people; the sum of £243 was donated to the Royal British Legion.

A traditional Christmas service of Lessons and Carols was held on the evening of 19th December with a congregation of 30 adults and 6 children. The tradition of mulled wine and mince pies was observed after the service, and the collection amounting to £195.00 was donated to the "Farms for City Children" charity.

The regular Carols around the Village could not be held due to Covid restrictions, but a festival of Carols by Carlight was held in the village hall car park. During this some 100 people sang carols and listened to the Christmas story whilst safely sitting in their cars. Father Christmas also made a visit and gifts were given to each child in the village.

The Christmas Midnight Eucharist was conducted by Ian Waring Green using the permitted Communion by Extension at Festivals rule. The Church was beautifully decorated for this joyful occasion and the congregation numbered 22 people.

A special service of Morning Prayer was held on 11th April to mark the death of HRH Prince Philip; it was attended by 24 people.

Social Functions

The social function aspects of Church life were curtailed this year due to the Covid 19 restrictions.

Weddings

September 4th The marriage of Olivia Johnston from Nettlebeds Farm and Ryan Loeffen-Gallagher was conducted by Revd. Stephen Mourant.

Funerals

Sadly the following funerals were held during the year.

April 16th Michael Manley aged 83 years, followed by a private cremation. Michael was a long-time member of the Church, a member of the PCC, former treasurer and Churchwarden.

July 22nd Philip France aged 58 years, followed by private cremation. He sadly died in an agricultural accident.

December 6th Simon Forder, aged 41 years, followed by burial in the Churchyard.

December 13th Mimi Taylor, aged 95 years, following Family Cremation. Mimi was a long-time member of our Church community

Baptisms

We have welcomed two new members to the church this year;

Harriet Mary Lees, the daughter of Jessica and Mark Lees, on 25th July. The service was conducted by Revd. Graham Trasler as part of the regular Morning Prayer service.

Dorothy Josey Purkis, the daughter of Alice and Simon Purkis, on 8th August. The service was conducted by Revd. Peter Owen Jones as part of the regular Morning Prayer service.

Churchyard

The maintenance of the Churchyard continues to be undertaken by Trimmers. We were unable to provide seasonal help from the community this year.

Church Flowers

We are as always grateful to Mrs Philly Sargent and her band of flower arrangers for the beautiful Altar flowers and wonderful festival decorations, particularly as they have had to work under difficult circumstances this year.

BiG4U! An opportunity for families to get together and share fun time with friends and neighbours in a Christian ethos.

We were unable to hold any events during the year.

Mothering Sunday - we were unable to hold a service due to lockdown measures or to make and distribute our usual bunches of spring flowers and so we distributed Sweet pea seeds to each mother in the village.

Easter Day - we distributed to the 50 children in the village chocolate mini eggs or hollow chocolate rabbits for the younger children, as we felt the usual Easter egg hunt was inadvisable.

Advent calendars with a simple religious theme were given to each family in the village as part of our outreach initiative. In all some 30 were distributed, the cost being borne by the Benefice Education Trust.

Church Finance

We are, as always, grateful for generous financial donations and for the supply of heating oil and other consumable items used in Church life. This has been a difficult year for us due to the reduction in income from regular church services and the fact that the Village Fete could not be held. With this in mind we made a renewed effort to encourage people within the Parish to join our Parish Giving scheme to boost our finances. This has met with some success, and we are most grateful to all who contributed in any way to support our Church in the Parish.

It will be noted that an ever-increasing amount of our expenditure is paid to the Winchester Diocese to cover the cost of Clergy and Diocese expenses. The Diocese has taken some limited steps to reduce its expenditure and so reduce our Common Mission Fund request for the coming year. With careful management and the generous donations received, we have been able to meet our Common Mission Fund Target for 2021.

The treasurer's report attached gives examined accounts for the last year.

Reserves Policy

It is the policy of the PCC to hold minimum funds in our current account with Barclays Bank whilst investing our reserves with CBF Church of England Deposit Fund.

The PCC also maintains a Fabric reserve fund which is held with CBF but kept separate from our general expenditure.

Bequests Policy

Unless otherwise stated, the PCC will treat any bequests to the Church as being for the maintenance of All Saints' Church Fabric, and they will be added to the Fabric Fund.

Church Website

Our Church website www.allsaintsbighton.com is administered by our webmaster, Chris James. This is linked to the Bighton village website and the Arle Valley website, and provides details of our services and forthcoming events, Church personnel and various policies we have adopted. The site provides an email contact page so that the outside world can contact us. It also posts pictures of the Church and a potted history of the Church in Bighton.

General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR)

Our policy is in place and our administrator is Chris James. Details of the policy can be found on our website and the church noticeboard.

Safeguarding Policy

Under Church of England regulations we are required to adopt a safeguarding policy of Children and Vulnerable adults. It has been decided that all churches within the Arle Valley Benefice will adopt the same policy and have the same safeguarding officer. Under the terms of the C of E policy all PCC members, in addition to being DBS checked, will be required to complete a short safeguarding awareness course online. Churchwardens will be required to complete 3 further courses.

Details of the policy can be found on the Church website and the notice board.

Health & Safety Policy

This is under review and will be placed on the Church website.

The Future

We are indebted to Ian Waring Green and Revd. Canon Graham Trasler for their support to us to enable the Church to continue in this Parish, especially during the Vacancy.

The Bishop's review gave us a few pointers as to the future and we are fortunate that it did not recommend any changes to the structure of our Benefice which remains the same with the four parishes of St. John's, St. Mary's, St Peter's and ourselves.

The future of our Parish looks more secure and we look forward to working with Ian and Heather to promote the mission of the Church in Bighton. We should however remember that our Church is facing ever-increasing financial demands, and it is important that we continue to find ways of increasing our income to strengthen our financial position.

Rectors report for Arle Valley Benefice APCM's 2022

It is not possible for me to look back over the whole of the past year in the Arle Valley Benefice, because I only arrived here at the end of November 2021.

However, I can give thanks to God for his provision for the Benefice during the vacancy, for wonderful Church wardens and PCC members across the Benefice. Heartfelt thanks go to all who volunteer in whatever capacity for the Benefice. So many people work tirelessly in and for all of our churches, and within our communities in such a breadth of ways all to keep our churches open and running smoothly and to further God's Kingdom in this place.

It is important to acknowledge that this has been a difficult year, not only for our country with the continuing pandemic but also in our church communities where difficulties have been faced, relationships have been tested and uncertainty has been prevalent.

We have much to be thankful for, we have church buildings that are in pretty good order and maintenance has been able to continue (thanks to all those who have assisted with this). We have a large body of not only willing but extremely able volunteers. We have teams in place for all aspects of our church life.

Financially we are in reasonably good positions, certainly better than many other churches across the diocese and indeed across the country.

I know that there have been many outreach events through the year that I cannot comment on, other than to say that I know they have been successful.

I can comment on the events that I have experienced. The Gift from St Johns evening and daytime event was wonderful, a welcome gift for the community, with a really good number of people attending and enjoying the event. We can never know the affect these events have on people as they explore their faith, we can only trust in God to guide us and them by His Holy Spirit.

As a Benefice we are now officially trail blazers having commissioned 2 focal ministers Ian at Bighton and Sue at Old Alresford in December, the first focal ministers for the Diocese. We look forward to their ministry in the Benefice.

Our Christmas services and events across the Benefice were affected again this year by the Covid pandemic, with many people still fearful staying at home and as a church we have had an added responsibility of keeping people safe.

The vast majority of our events were able to go ahead, and I attended almost all of them! The Carols by car light at Bighton, Carol services at Old Alresford, Ovington and Churches Together at St Johns, were all particularly wonderful.

Our ecumenical relations are strong and will continue to be important.

Our crib services, midnight mass's and Christmas morning services were all such joyful occasions and showed our communities that Church is not a hobby, or leisure activity that should stop in the pandemic. Our church services are worship to our loving God and a necessity in the lives of all Christians.

As we move forward we have work to do, the Bishops report needs to be addressed and our first challenge will be to implement a new service rota for the Benefice after seeking the views of our communities.

With my arrival we will of course enter a period of some change, but with consultation, listening and prayer at the forefront of all that we do.

I believe that we have much to look forward to, that God has a plan for us, and we just need to ensure that we follow His plan and not our own interests.

My hope is that we will now enter a time of stability. Having been appointed as your Rector I want to assure you of my intention to be with you for a long time. May we move forward together with love and unity. Nothing is taken for granted and nothing will be achieved without God's help and blessing. As psalm 18 says, 'You are my mighty rock, my fortress, my protector, the rock where I am safe, my shield, my powerful weapon and my place of shelter.' In His hands we proceed.

Blessings

Revd. Heather Brearey

Bighton PCC April 2022.