

Annual Report for the ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING OVINGTON AND ITCHEN STOKE

Held in St Peter's Church on Sunday 2nd April 2023

Agenda

1. Welcome and opening prayer
2. Apologies
3. Vestry Meeting to elect Church Warden

APCM

1. Approve minutes of last APCM held in 2022
2. Matters arising
3. Election of PCC and Deanery Synod rep
4. Election of sidespersons
5. Electoral roll report
6. Verger report
7. Financial report
8. Terrier and inventory
9. Safeguarding
10. Deanery Synod report
11. Rectors Report
12. AOB
13. Closing Prayer

MINUTES OF ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING OVINGTON AND ITCHEN STOKE

Held in St Peter's Church on Sunday May 8th 2022 at 12.00pm

PRESENT: Chair - Heather Brearey (Rector) Pip Stevenson

Liz Stevenson Liz Ribeiro

Bernie Ribeiro Jo Milner

Pat Clark Mary Knill

Vicky Mackintosh Peter Colquhoun

APOLOGIES: Minna Bruce Les Willoughby Gemma Hunt

The meeting started with prayers led by the Reverend Heather Brearey.

MINUTES OF LAST APCM on 02 05 21.

The minutes from last year's APCM have been circulated and were signed by Pip Stevenson.

VESTRY MEETING

Pip Stevenson has stepped down as Churchwarden. As no one came forward to replace Pip, it has been decided that the PCC will continue as a 'Team'.

Pip will become the Verger, with help from the PCC and churchgoers where necessary. Liz Ribeiro will act as minute's secretary. There will also be office help from St John's. Heather is happy with this arrangement and advised that we can keep the church open without a Churchwarden.

ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING

ELECTION OF PCC AND DEANERY SYNOD REPRESENTATIVE

The current PCC members agreed to continue with no changes.

Pip Stevenson - Verger

Liz Ribeiro – Vice Chairman, Minute's Secretary

Gemma Hunt - Treasurer

Vicky Mackintosh – Electoral Roll Officer

Minna Bruce – Deanery Synod Rep

Liz Stevenson

Jo Milner

Pat Clark

Les Willoughby

ELECTION OF SIDES PERSONS

The following sides' persons are to continue.

Liz and Bernie Ribeiro

Liz and Pip Stevenson

Vicky Mackintosh

Roger Harrison

Gemma Hunt

WARDEN'S REPORT

Pip Stevenson outlined his report which is published in the Annual Report.

The COVID pandemic continued to affect our services until restrictions were released. We then held 2 services per month, Communion with Graham Trasler and Morning Praise with Peter Colquhoun. Café Church continued to be held 5-6 times a year.

Our new Rector, the Reverend Heather Brearey was appointed in November.

The Diocese still awaits a new Bishop of Winchester.

The Decalogue tablets in the Chancel Arch were restored, thanks to a generous donation.

There are some still outstanding repairs, but necessary maintenance has continued over the year.

TREASURER'S REPORT AND ACCOUNTS

Gemma Hunt was thanked, in her absence, for producing the Accounts.

The Parish Share (now to be paid by Direct Debit) will be less in the coming year, as a consequence of the smaller worshipping community.

It was confirmed that the Card Reader, which was purchased for the Church last year, will be used at large services, with Gemma Hunt's guidance.

ELECTORAL ROLL

Vicky Mackintosh announced that the Electoral Roll stands at 33. The worshipping community is now 8 on average.

RECTOR'S REPORT

The Rector, Heather Brearey, pointed out that this report was for the last 6 months only, since she was appointed in November 2021. Adding to the Report published in the Annual Report, Heather informed us that she is very involved with the schools in Alresford, and is now a Trustee on the Perins' MAT Trustee Board, at Perins School.

Heather is conducting a review of the services held across the Benefice with a view to a possible Evening Service being included.

Heather also thanked Pip and Liz Stevenson on their retirement as Churchwarden and PCC Secretary for all their hard work and dedication to the Church.

Thanks were given to Peter Colquhoun, Ian Waring Green and Sue Armstrong. And a huge thank you to Penny Forbes who will be doing a lot of extra work for us while we are without a Churchwarden or PCC Secretary. Heather thanked - Gemma for her Treasurer's Report - the PCC - and all others involved in the running of St Peters.

Heather discussed a letter to be sent out to all residents in our Parish, welcoming them to visit the Church for a Hymns and Pimm's Service. This will be held on July 17th at 6pm, at St Peter's and we hope to encourage new people to our worshipping community.

AOB

Bernie Ribeiro suggested a repeat of the Candlelit Carol Service at St Mary's in Itchen Stoke. Liz Ribeiro and Vicky Mackintosh presented flowers and wine to Liz and Pip Stevenson, together with a card signed by the PCC, current and past members. Liz Ribeiro thanked them for their enormous input and unfailing enthusiasm in the running of the St Peter's, and read out a number of heartfelt comments, from the card. They will be missed.

DATE/VENUE OF NEXT PCC MEETING

The next PCC meeting will be held on July 6th at Jo Milner's home, Lane End Cottage, Ovington at 8pm.

Churchwarden's Report for Ovington PCC meeting 29th March 2023. (Sweet Briar) also Verger/ churchwarden's Report for Ovington APCM 2nd April 2023.

1. PCC and Benefice admin.

This report is for the year 1st January 2022 to 31st December 2022.

At the APCM 8th May 2022 Liz Stevenson retired as PCC secretary with the parish secretarial duties being transferred to the benefice Office at St Johns New Alresford.

Pip Stevenson retired as churchwarden but continues to look after the practicalities of St Peter's Ovington and Itchen Stoke.

2. Treasurer and finances for Ovington.

The Parish Share/Common mission payments for 2022 have been paid, see PCC Treasurer's accounts.

The calculation for 2023 will need to be based on a reduced Worshipping Community, currently only 8. The forecast income for 2022 has had no special major event such as a Fete.

Gemma Hunt as PCC Treasurer can monitor our ability to pay as the year progresses.

3. Services.

During 2022 there have been 4 weddings, 3 baptisms 2 funerals.

Easter Sunday had an attendance of 16.

Christmas 2022 included a carol service (50) and Christmas day (65).

Open air carols around Ovington and Itchen Stoke were achieved on 23rd and 24th Dec

The regular pattern of Sunday services remains as second and third Sundays with Café church every 2 months on a first Sunday.

Morning prayer at 9.00am on Thursdays is a regular feature.

This past year Chris Kipling has played the organ and Susan, (LLM from St Johns) is practicing frequently at St Peter's in order to play for future services in the Benefice

4. Church Fabric improvements and repair costs.

The architects Seymour Bainbridge have retired but are replaced by Codd Chedburn who will also now attend to Old Alresford and St Johns New Alresford.

In 2022 repair works to the lead gutters were carried out as mentioned in the Quinquennial report by Seymour Bainbridge. During 2023 repairs to the entrance porch and main doors are being assessed.

Our archive drawings and information with Seymour Bainbridge will be passed on to Codd Chedburn.

The retention payment to TM Roofing for parapet gutter works is due.

5. Itchen Stoke Churchyard. No particular report.

6. Gigabeam. Still in operation We need to check the annual payment due Jan/Feb.

7. Parish Events. A church Fete on 3rd July is planned at Lovington House

8. Churchyard Maintenance. Not much in Jan to March, plenty of snow drops, primroses emerging.

MjS 22/03/ 2023

Electoral Roll The electoral roll as of April 2023 is 27.

Treasurer's Report

Rector's Report

Annual Report from the Rector for 2022

Every annual report is out of date before it is written, let alone presented to an annual meeting. Saying that, annual reports give a useful summary of how things have been and how we have arrived at a present moment in time, and I thank everyone who has contributed to the report and to the activities described in it. The report is, I hope, encouraging, and it suggests that we move forward through 2023 and into the future from a secure base

When I wrote my very short report last year and we looked forward to this year, I don't think anyone expected quite the year we would have. I wrote in last year's report;

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.

I believe that we have had a year of stability in our Benefice.

To try and cover everything would be impossible so here is an ABC of highlights:

Alresford Old not New – Has been blessed with their focal minister in her first year in the role, a new Village Family Praise service is proving to be popular. They have enjoyed Beacon lighting, visits from Mothers Union groups, and a scrummy Harvest lunch in the spectacular Pinglestone barn.

Bighton – Has been blessed with their Focal minister in his first year in this new role, they enjoyed a summer fete, Father Christmas and an amazing nativity.

Church Wardens – We are fortunate to have the most amazing Church wardens and Verger in this Benefice, and I thank each one of you for your hard work and dedication throughout 2022.

Deanery – We are a small Deanery but with a big heart. Meetings have been productive the walk to Winchester was enjoyed by many we look forward to forging links with another Diocese in Rwanda in 2023.

Easter – We zoomed for Compline in Holy week, had Tenebrae and Taizé for Maundy Thursday, Good Friday walk of witness with CTIA, an hour at the cross, we re-introduced the dawn service with breakfast afterwards which we will repeat in 2023. Culminating in four Easter Eucharist's in each church and Egg hunts.

Food – Cakes everywhere at the Watercress Festival, we were packed at St John's as the only indoor place to be! It was lovely to be able to give hospitality to all. We live up to our Church of England reputation by having Cake at every opportunity. Soup and Pancakes in Lent, and wonderful Harvest Lunches/suppers across the Benefice were also enjoyed.

Gift from St John's – Another chance to give to our communities, with craft, food, hot drinks including the much-appreciated coffee donated by Coffee#1, very many more people than last year came through our doors resulting in many good conversations about life and faith.

Hymns and Pimms - Ovington and Itchen Stoke had a successful time of singing in the summer and again in winter with Carol singing in both villages.

I is not in team – One of the most positive attributes of our Benefice is that we are one team. We may do things differently in each parish, but we do work well together. As Rector I am particularly grateful for the team of Church Wardens and our Ministry Team who I meet with regularly.

Jubilee – We certainly celebrated our late Queens Jubilee. The most wonderful display in St Mary's Church, followed by lighting of the Beacon drew huge numbers of people. Bighton and Ovington had big parties in the villages, St John's had a service with obligatory tea and cake afterwards.

King – Although in sad circumstances we had a new Monarch ascend to the throne. We prayed in our churches for King Charles III. This also raised a problem of having our Book of Common Prayer books reprinted to reflect the new monarch. Books that have been in our churches for 70 years!

Lent and love – We joined together for our Lent course, looking at Jesus from birth to Resurrection and everything in between, illustrated with pictures of The Holy Land. We have grown together in love as a Benefice with joint services and events. We will build on this as we move forward.

Monday Meet and Eat - welcomes families for play and a free hot meal. This is not only a Benefice initiative but ecumenical with our brothers and sisters in Christ from CTIA.

New Alresford – Summer Fun and the light party were held in St John's; we have also added 2 new house groups to our 4 already thriving groups. The graveyard has been tidied twice but continues to cause us concern over the cost of keeping it tidy for all who visit. We need to be creative to find a solution to managing the maintenance.

Occasional offices – We have baptised 14 children, married 11 couples and looked after many grieving families when loved ones have died. We are thankful for our Licensed lay ministers who have helped with funerals and thankful for our pastoral support team and bereavement team who have given care to many in our community.

PCC's – We are blessed with four PCCs with many wonderful volunteers attending our regular meetings and sharing wisdom in decisions made on matters of general concerns and importance for each parish. Thank you to each and every member of our PCC's. We do have spaces and indeed a need if as you read this you feel called to serve on the PCC in your parish. Minimum age is 16yrs and there is no maximum age!

Queen – In September we had the devastating news that our beloved monarch, Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II had died. We immediately arranged to gather as a community to grieve together and we were assisted at our special service by members of Alresford Community choir, who have also sung for us at other services this year and we hope to grow this relationship. We were pleased to be able to show the funeral of our late Queen on the big screen in St John's, we plan to do the same for the Coronation of King Charles III in May.

Rota Review - We began 2022 with a review of our service rota, which concluded with a rota that works well for each parish and a fair distribution of my time and presence in each church. We are all part of the body of Christ and for me that means being relational. I have devoted a huge amount of time meeting with as many people as possible, parishioners in all 4 parishes as well as organisations. A list too long to include but many hundreds of people.

Schools – I am a Trustee for Perins multi academy Trust and spend time in Perins and Sun Hill Junior School. I lead assemblies in the junior school each term and we were thrilled to have the infant and junior school come into church a class at a time to 'Experience Easter'.

Together we are stronger – A little bit cheesy but I do believe that the more we work together in our Benefice, in our teams and with each other the stronger we will be to do God's work. We are all Disciples of Christ, we follow Jesus and his command 'Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like unto it, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself.' There is much love within our Benefice which will help us to commit to growing the Kingdom of God as we have been commissioned to do in the words of the great Commission to *Go and make disciples of all nations, baptising them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you.*

Ukraine – The War in Ukraine shocked the world. The Christian world responded with prayer and practical support. Bighton collected vast amounts of clothing and other necessary items. We prayed for the people of Ukraine and for peace at the beginning of every service. We continue to pray every day for the war in Ukraine to stop. The ribbons on a tree in the graveyard of St John's remind all who see them to persist in prayer.

ReView – (allow me this for V!) We have reviewed some things throughout the year, including our energy use and not least we reviewed the salary we pay to our administrator. This resulted in a much-deserved pay rise for Penny.

WWW – not the World Wide Web but Winter Wednesdays Warm, Welcome! We have opened our doors to those in need of warmth, a cuppa and company, although we ensure that the doors are actually closed to keep the warmth in! St Mary's have followed with a monthly coffee morning in The Christy hall. Both these initiatives are finding their feet and providing a welcome to all.

Xcellent Bells! – We are so fortunate to not only have bells in our churches but to have a truly wonderful team of ringers. Our bell ringers have had a busy year as detailed in their report, we are very grateful for all their ringing.

Young people – We restarted Chill Chat and Chomp on Wednesday afternoons which does exactly what it says, along with Our place on a Sunday as a more lively youth group. We are excited to see what the Lord has planned for our young people in 2023.

Zzz – On the 7th day God rested. Jesus also talked about the importance of rest. We all need to make time to rest in God's loving embrace, some of us are not as good as others in doing this and 2023 needs to be a year to improve this!!

The ABC of 2023!

But the year will be remembered acutely as the year we lost our longest reigning monarch

The death of our Queen was shocking and upsetting, along with an unsettling time in the leadership of our government, we as a country felt a little adrift. We as Christians clung tightly to our Rock, Our God, who held us all.

As we look ahead, we have the Coronation of our new monarch His Majesty King Charles III, a time to celebrate and to hold him and our country in prayer as we move into a new period in our Country's history. It has been a privilege and a joy to minister among you and to share ministry with you.

No annual report can effectively communicate everything a parish does within a year. There are countless acts of ministry that go unnoticed, and many efforts that fail to receive thanks. Suffice it to say, I am grateful for every member of each of our churches who works to make Our Benefice so vibrant and healthy.

So, my challenge at the end of our Annual Meetings is this, that as we learn to live with Covid, a rising cost of living crisis and a world at war with itself, we work out together how we can share the love of Christ more effectively. I'll end by saying that I hope that everyone, I do mean everyone, will at least try to pray more regularly, come to worship more often and volunteer to help. Each of us has something to give, however small or inadequate we feel that might be. The list of the ways in which everyone can play their part is almost limitless.

And 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.

May God bless us all in our endeavours to play our part in making sure that every member of our community in The Arle Valley Benefice encounters the love of God in Christ.

Reverend Heather Brearey – Rector.

29th January 2023