

Annual Report for the ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING –

OVINGTON AND ITCHEN STOKE

Held in St Peter's Church on Sunday 12th May 2024 at 1215

Agenda

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

APCM

1. Approve minutes of last APCM held on 2nd April 2023
2. Matters arising
3. Election of PCC
4. Electoral roll report
5. Verger report
6. Financial report
7. Terrier and inventory
8. Safeguarding
9. Deanery Synod report
10. Rectors Report
11. AOB
12. Closing Prayer

7 TREASURER'S REPORT AND ACCOUNTS

The accounts, which are attached to the annual report had been passed by the PCC at their last meeting. It was agreed that maintenance should be carried out on the porch and the outside door. The fete is being held this year, which is a good fund raiser as is a safari supper which was so successful last year. There are many people who are happy for fund raising proceeds to go into the fabric fund and not the general fund as they do want it to go towards the Common Mission Fund (Parish Share). Gemma is looking into getting a smart meter and also investigating possibly changing electricity supplier. Gemma was thanked in her absence for her role as treasurer and for producing the accounts.

8 TERRIER AND INVENTORY No change

9 SAFEGUARDING There have been no incidents in Ovington. Peter Colquhoun has done the leadership training. Heather said that the first point of contact if need be should be to her and then Sarah Wilding who is the Benefice safeguarding officer.

10 DEANERY SYNOD REPORT Minna said there is a 3 year Diocesan financial plan questionnaire which she has completed. The diocesan link to Rwanda is being promoted.

11 RECTOR'S REPORT

The rector's report is attached to the annual report, but The Rector wanted to add a huge thank you to Chris Kipling for playing the organ for Ovington on the second Sundays. He will not be continuing after August, but Susan Roberts is practising hard and has offered to take over second Sundays as well as any other services we would like her to play. We are very grateful to both of them. Heather said that Itchen Stoke was very much on the radar and there would definitely be a service there this summer. She thanked all those who keep Ovington church going and particularly Peter for taking our third Sunday service.

12 AOB None to report.

The meeting closed with a prayer at 12.45.

Electoral Role Report

The roll for 2024 is 27.

Verger Report

Verger/ churchwarden's Report for Ovington APCM 12 th May 2024.

1. PCC and Benefice admin .

This report is for the year 1st January 2023 to 31 st December 2023.

Parish secretarial duties are transferred to the benefice Office at St Johns New Alresford .

Pip Stevenson as verger looks after the practicalities of St Peter's Ovington and Itchen Stoke and attends meetings of the Benefice wardens

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2. Treasurer and finances for Ovington.

The Common mission payments for 2023 have been paid; see PCC Treasurer's accounts.

The calculation for 2023 is based on a reduced Worshipping Community, currently only 8.

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

3.Services .

During 2023 there has been no weddings, 1 baptism, no funerals.

Easter Sunday had an attendance of 16.

Christmas 2023 included a carol service (63) and Christmas day (69).

Open air carols around Ovington and Itchen Stoke were achieved on 23 rd and 24 th 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 the organ has been plaid by Susan, (LLM from St Johns).

4.Church Fabric improvements and repair costs.

The architects are now Codd Chedburn who also now attend to Old Alresford and St Johns New

Alresford.

During 2023 repairs to the crumbling plaster to the entrance porch and wooden main doors were

notified to church architect, Richard Codd of Codd Chedburn

Our archive drawings and Quinquennial report from Seymour Bainbridge are now with Codd Chedburn.

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

The PCC may have enough in the Fabric fund to carryout internal church redecoration and repair the church porch plasterwork.

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 2 nd July took place at Lovington House with an attendance similar to previous

years.

8.Churchyard Maintenance. General grass cutting by George Hunt and Pip, plenty of snow drops, primroses emerging.

There is a continuing need to remove ivy from the flint and mortar churchyard walls and in due

course make repairs as patches of loose flints are found. There is a small stock of flints by the churchyard shed.

MjS 27/04/2024

Financial Report

St Peter's Ovington, Treasurers Report

Key points:

1. Income is £16,893, down £2,000 from 2022. This is primarily due to
 - a. lower parochial fees (down £1,500)
 - b. lower collections (down £1,000),
 - c. lower planned giving (down £1,500)
 - d. and offset by an increase in fundraising and donations (up £2,000)
2. Expenditure is £18,220, down £17,600 from 2022. This is primarily due to
 - a. Very spending on church maintenance in 2024 (£1,200 in 2023 vs £19,000 in 2022)
 - b. Lower parish share (down £1,000)
 - c. Offset by higher energy bills (up £2,300 *** SEE NOTE 1 BELOW***)
3. Cash at 31 Dec 24 is £41,788 (Fabric = £28,287, General = £13,501).

NOTE 1: Energy Bills

Energy bills were higher due to increased wholesale prices in 2023 vs 2022 so we were expecting

higher expenditure for 2023.

Expenditure has exceeded these expectations for the following 2 reasons

1. From Jan – June 2023 Utility Warehouse was our supplier and, in an effort to close out their

business supply accounts, increased tariffs steeply. We exited from Utility Warehouse in June 2024 and spent £1,501.24 in this period. This is about double what we would normally have paid due to the generally higher prices and Utility Warehouse's increased tariffs.

2. In June 2023 we entered a fixed price contract with SSE for 12 months at a much-reduced tariff. The expected bill for the remainder of the year was approximately £1,000.

a) In October, SSE billed us £8,026.90 and removed the money by direct debit before we could challenge it. A complaint was raised and £5,631 was refunded in March 2024. This gives a balance of £2,395 paid to SSE for the 6 months from July – Dec 24 which is reflected in the 2024 accounts.

b) Unfortunately this amount (£2,395) is incorrect due to an error in the starting meter readings for one of the meters. By my calculations, this amount should be £1,000.24. I am in protracted email discussions with SSE and now have a point of contact that I am trying to resolve this with. I have raised an official complaint with SSE and will go to the ombudsman in mid-May if they have still not resolved it. I have not assumed that this money will be refunded to us in the 2023 accounts. When we receive the refund, I will reflect it in 2025 accounts

Rectors Report for APCM 2024

Another busy year for the Arle Valley Benefice.

There have been challenges in 2023 but there has also been much to be thankful for.

Some new beginnings:

We held 2 alpha courses, bringing more people to relationship and deeper relationship with Christ.

A Deanery wide Befriend the End group was started by four members of our Deanery, 2 of whom are from our Benefice. The group uses the library each month to welcome people to talk about death and dying, to share, to support and to inform.

A new Benefice event began in September. Bringing families together at St John's once a month on a Sunday afternoon for fellowship, a story, craft, song and prayer.

Some re-starting:

CTIA away day in Ropley was a wonderful event with excellent speakers and time to get to know our sisters and brothers in Christ across the town.

Table talk began with a Lent course and continues.

Some one off's:

We spent an afternoon encountering God through music.

We had a very lovely walk and afternoon tea for St Mary's.

An open day and another successful carol singing at Itchen Stoke.

A wonderful service for Mother's Union Worldwide president who visited St Mary's and planted a tree.

Bighton celebrated their Focal ministers 30yr anniversary of being licensed as an LLM.

Many regular events continued, just a glance at our Benefice Calendar tells a story of all that is happening in our Benefice.

The big occasion of the year was of course, The Coronation, with each of our parishes holding many varied and lovely events to celebrate the Coronation of His majesty King Charles III.

We sadly lost many over the 12 months including The Reverend Canon Jackie Browning, a beautiful person and priest, known to many of us who now rests with our Lord.

The life and work of this parish is only possible because of the contribution of many, many people, who are offering their gifts and time for the building of God's kingdom. I am often humbled by the remarkable dedication and generosity shown and would like to take this opportunity to express my gratitude to everyone who contributes in many varied ways to our Benefice.

As you read this report, please pray for the work and ministry of the different groups and teams that are in our Benefice and thank God for those who serve through them.

Finally, is God calling you to play a part in seeing lives changed through God's love through your parish? Many of those who hold roles and responsibilities in our parishes are feeling tired and we really need new people to take on these roles. IS THAT YOU? If so, we'd love to hear from you! Whatever, your calling, your gift, or your passion there is a role for you in helping to grow the Kingdom in this place and time.

With my prayers and love,

Revd Heather Brearey