

**ST MARY-THE-LESS PARISH CHURCH  
CHILBOLTON, SO20 6BQ**

**ANNUAL REPORT**

**AND**

**FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

**OF THE**

**PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL**

**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2019**

**Incumbent  
Reverend Jax Machin**

**Secretary**  
Mrs Wendy Fakes  
Grafton  
Village Street  
Chilbolton  
Stockbridge  
Hampshire, SO20 6BE

**THE PARISH OF ST-MARY-THE-LESS, CHILBOLTON  
IN THE DEANERY OF ANDOVER  
AND THE DIOCESE OF WINCHESTER**

**INTRODUCTION**

The responsibility of Chilbolton Parochial Church Council (PCC) is to cooperate with the Rector in promoting in the parish the whole mission of the church - pastoral, evangelistic and ecumenical.

**MEMBERSHIP**

Members of the PCC are either ex officio or elected by the Annual Parochial Church Meeting in accordance with the church Representation Rules.

During the year 2019 the following served as members of Chilbolton PCC.

<b>Incumbent</b>	Reverend Jax Machin	
<b>Churchwarden</b>	Vacant	
<b>Deanery Synod Representatives</b>	Mr Andrew Kent Mr Colin Sheath	
<b>Elected Members</b>	Mr Neil Bowen Mrs Wendy Fakes Mr Andrew Kent Mrs Lesley Kent Mrs Charlotte Nash Mr Michael Payne Mr Colin Sheath Mr Lawrence Wild	(PCC Secretary) (PCC Chairman)    (PCC Treasurer)

**Electoral Roll**

There were 58 names on the Electoral Roll.

**Usual Sunday Attendance**

The average Sunday attendance figure over the year was 34 (29 adults and five children).

## ACTIVITIES OF THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL IN 2019

Chilbolton PCC met five times during the year with an average attendance of 85%. The PCC is divided into five sub committees, which meet between PCC meetings. The sub committees may co-opt parishioners to serve.

### 1. FINANCE

As a result of some excellent fund-raising and generous giving, the General Fund produced a surplus of £5,634 in 2019 compared with £2,141 in 2018. Our sincere thanks go to the many people who contribute regularly and to those who organise or assist with the fund-raising events.

Standing Orders held up well and the lower amount of envelope giving was more than made up for by higher regular cash collections (which also attract Gift Aid). Collections at special services were nearly £2,000 compared with £580 in 2018. Tax reclaimed for the General Fund (£6,224) was a record, and there is £1,438 to come from the Q4 claim.

Fund-raising during the year amounted to £19,765 gross, or £16,459 net, compared to a net £14,100 in 2018 (when no Auction of Promises was held). The fete raised £10,654, down by nearly £2,000 on 2018 partly because of extreme heat on the day. A further £1,207 arose from Gift Aid because of generous advance sponsorship for the fete. The Auction raised an amazing £5,283 plus some Gift Aid. Because of other events (eg a very successful choral event) the traditional Christmas Fair was not held in 2019.

Weddings, baptisms and funerals produced fees of £1,891 (higher than usual, though £1,000 down on 2018) and the Parish Council made its usual grant of £600 towards the costs of grass cutting.

Our Common Mission Fund payment to the Diocese was up by £603 to £23,908. Benefice administrative costs were £4,516 - down by over £1,000 on 2018 (when redundancy costs were incurred).

Charitable and Outreach donations of £2,352 were up a little on the previous year. Ministry working expenses were up by £217 to £1,471 though the cost of visiting priests was down by £222. Churchyard maintenance costs were £2,169, close to last year's amount. Electricity bills were back up to a more normal £889 and insurance costs were up £70 to £2,313.

The General Fund stood at £37,840 at the end of 2019.

The Building Fund stands at £5,578, up by £450 partly as a result of a £1,000 transfer from the Joint Fund. Total payments out of the fund in 2019 were £1,175. There is £172 to come from tax reclaims. We are aiming for a minimum balance of £10,000 in this fund.

Donations allocated to the Legacy Fund in 2019 totalled £3,250 and this fund now stands at £3,899.

The Joint Fund (largely the magazine) rose to £6,828 as a result of record advertising receipts of £9,985. As approved by the magazine committee, there were transfers of £1,000 each to Wherwell PCC and the Chilbolton Building Fund. The Joint Fund will gradually reduce over the coming months because of printing costs of around £600 per month. The next round of advertising monies arrives in the summer.

The Organ Fund fell by £203 during the year and stands at £1,254. The Choir Fund at £218 is barely changed.

Total PCC funds rose in cash terms by £10,731 to £55,617 during 2019, with a further net £1,523 due (mainly from tax). The bulk of the money is in an instant access account earning 0.75% interest.

## 2. SOCIAL

All the events both locally and in the benefice would not have been possible without people to organise them and then to people who on the day set up tables, made cakes, served food, manned the stalls, washed up, provided musical entertainment, etc. A big 'thank you' to all who contributed in so many ways to make these events happen and be so enjoyable.

In March the Auction of Promises was held. Many thanks to the organisers, those who donated promises and more importantly those who bought the promises. It was a fun evening made even more so by our Auctioneer David Smith who enticed us to part with our money.

In early April the social committee provided refreshments before the Lent Series talk in Chilbolton.

Saturday, 30 June saw the day of the fete dawn with a heatwave. The social committee was as usual in control of the tea tent and challenged with trying to keep stallholders and visitors hydrated in temperatures of nearly 30 degrees. A very successful day. A big 'thank you' to Tessa and Richard Youells for the use of their garden.

August saw the church filled to capacity to hear the Bexley Phoenix Choir sing. The choir was provided with tea before the performance; the audience with wine and soft drinks in the interval.

Harvest Festival was somewhat different in 2019 due to a clash of bookings for the village hall. It coincided with the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the opening of the village hall. It was decided jointly by the village hall management committee and the PCC to hold a joint celebration with a BBQ and live music. The day was very wet and windy but 100 people braved the elements and enjoyed the event.

December saw the annual Christmas lunch which was unusual as it was shared in the village hall with voters as it coincided with the General Election. Twenty-three people sat down to a traditional Christmas lunch accompanied to piano playing by Ros. This event was very much appreciated by those who attended.

### 3. **FABRIC AND HOUSEKEEPING**

With the agreement of the PCC and Diocese the Common War Graves Commission has fixed a metal plate on one of the posts of the lychgate as part of its national commemoration scheme of 2018. This plate indicates that the churchyard has a number of buried war dead. There are two from the First World War and one from the Second World War. Also one from the war in Iraq.

Examination of the north aisle roof revealed that on the lower slope a high percentage of tiles showed frost damage and were flaking. The church architect has been asked to produce a specification which will be used to obtain costings for either piecemeal replacement of tiles or full replacement. Grants will be sought for the latter.

The tower clock has needed extra attention by our clock winder. However it has been necessary to call in a specialist company to investigate a recent problem. Part of the mechanism which strikes against one of the bells was found to be bent. The company's quotation for repair will be considered early in 2020. Meanwhile the clock has continued to work but without it chiming the hours.

Following a review of the churchyard as a whole, a new area has been identified for future burials in a strip parallel with the west wall of the church.

There was a good turnout of helpers for a spring clean of the church when many of the more inaccessible areas were dealt with.

The missing Book of Remembrance has not been returned. There was no response from the article in the parish magazine.

### 4. **WORSHIP AND EDUCATION**

The past year has seen a varied pattern of services each month as follows:

First Sunday	Family Service
Second Sunday	Morning Prayer
Third Sunday	Common Worship Holy Communion
Fourth Sunday	Evensong
Fifth Sunday	Benefice Service

There have been other enjoyable seasonal services and celebrations including Mothering Sunday, Easter, the Thanksgiving following the fete held in the marquee, Harvest Festival and Christmas. The Carol Service, Crib Service and Christmas Day service combined drew over 250 adults and 46 children.

On Maundy Thursday 18 people from Chilbolton and Wherwell shared a meal and Holy Communion at Michael and Joyce Payne's home - always a very special evening.

The Airborne Forces Service was led by Reverend Jax in September. REME came for its annual visit in November - as in previous years it was a pleasure to welcome the representatives who appreciate their links and visits to the church.

The Family Services continued to develop with several families involved. In addition to the Sunday services, families met on Good Friday to hear the Easter story, made the Easter garden and enjoyed hot cross buns. In December a family activity afternoon was held when adults and children had an enjoyable time making Christmas crafts, playing games and decorating the Christmas tree. Grateful thanks go to Gaynor Childs and Janie Painter for their help and leadership with the services and these activities.

Chilbolton Homegroup continued to meet for Bible study and prayer, offering the opportunity to ask questions and discuss our faith in an informal setting and to pray for each other. Members who felt able to do so took it in turns to host and lead the meetings. During the year there were a couple of social gatherings - in January lunch was held at Longstock Nursery and in the summer a time of worship and prayer was organised in Jenny and Paul Seddon's beautiful garden. If there is anyone who would be interested in joining a homegroup please contact Charlotte Nash.

Thanks were extended to Reverend Jax and Caroline McAulay who worked tirelessly to enable the smooth running of our services. Also to Pat Lloyd as choir leader, to Pat and Sue Simmonds who chose the hymns, and to the organists (and CD operators) who brought music to the services.

## **5. CHOIR**

Although the choir did not have many extra duties during the year it was encouraging that a choir was available at all the services. During 2019 there were five regular members and extra voices were available for the Seven Lessons and Carols in December.

## **6. MIDDAY MUMS**

The coffee morning, for those with small children, has continued to be held once a month, except mid summer, in Wherwell Village Hall. However by the end of the year numbers were declining.

The team was the same, consisting of Susan Ansell, Lesley Kent, Michael and Joyce Payne.

## **7. RESIDENTIAL CARE HOMES**

Throughout 2019 our commitment and support of residents in Care Homes, Hospital and Hospice settings within our benefice has continued, with many requests to Reverend Jax for sacramental and pastoral 'end of life' care and subsequent funeral services for those who have died. Monthly Holy Communion services at Westholme, Flowerdown Care Homes and our connections to residents in Sunrise and The Dower House have continued to be deeply valued by all who receive them. Many pastoral relationships have flourished

at critical points in people's lives, bringing the comfort of Jesus' grace to patients and their families.

Thankfully, Bishop Tim gave his permission for our LLMs and BCM Lay team to lead services of Communion by Extension in the care homes of Flowerdown and Westholme which was a huge help.

Reverend Jax expressed her grateful thanks to all those who offered their gifts and skills in this challenging work in Christ's name, leading and supporting the Communion services, visiting the sick in their rooms and in playing the organ at our lively worship services.

## **8. PARISH VISITORS**

Another successful and encouraging year of PV visiting and prayer perseverance has been completed. A dedicated team of PVs has been prepared to sacrifice time and effort to share the love of Jesus with those in need, as well as a faithful prayer team.

The team has been keen to maintain PV training and a speaker from the NHS Chaplain's Department came to talk about mental health with a focus on recovery-orientated support and exploring skills to help encourage those you visit who may be struggling with their mental health and faith. The meeting proved most successful and the team was left with a number of encouraging verses and prayers to use when necessary. It was essential to receive training as it enabled the PVs to meet specific needs to the best of their ability.

Reverend Jax has worked tirelessly to support her parishioners, particularly in 2019 when there were so many bereavements as well as mental and physical needs. She has been a great encouragement to all PVs too, always showing her appreciation.

Should you need any form of support, help or fellowship please contact the Benefice Office on 01962 880845 or by email at [office@downsbenefice.org.uk](mailto:office@downsbenefice.org.uk).

## **9. GENERAL**

Finally the PCC wishes to thank all the many volunteers who help with the running of the church – they are too many to name individually. Thank you to all who help with:

- (i) organising the various rota duties for services
- (ii) maintaining the churchyard
- (iii) cleaning the church
- (iv) displaying flowers in the church
- (v) providing refreshments for services
- (vi) organising the church fete and other fund raising activities
- (vii) opening and closing the church daily
- (viii) winding the clock.

Your support is invaluable to us. THANK YOU.

