

**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 2018

**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 the 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 2018 the following served as members of Chilbolton PCC.

Incumbent	Reverend Jax Machin	
Churchwarden	Vacant	
Deanery Synod Representatives	Mr Andrew Kent Mr Colin Sheath	
Elected Members	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 57 names on the Electoral Roll.

Usual Sunday Attendance

The average Sunday attendance figure over the year was 27 (24 adults and three children).

ACTIVITIES OF THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL IN 2018

Chilbolton PCC met five times during the year with an average attendance of 90%. 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, generous giving and unusually large fees, the General Fund produced a surplus of £2,141 in 2018 (compared with £3,006 in 2017). Gift Aid tax reclaimed for this fund (£5,793) was close to being a record, and there is £1,333 to come from the Q4 claim.

Fund-raising during the year amounted to £16,370 gross, or £14,100 net, compared to £16,780 net in 2017 (when an Auction of Promises was held). The fete raised £12,574 (up by over £1,000 on 2017) and the Christmas Fair produced £1,090 (similar to the previous year). Weddings, baptisms and funerals produced fees of £2,881 (well up on 2017, though not always for the best of reasons) and the Parish Council made its usual grant of £600 towards the costs of grass cutting.

Charitable and Outreach donations of £2,225 were marginally less than the previous year's record amount. Ministry working expenses were down a further £450 to £1,254 and the cost of visiting priests was stable at £585. With no major tree work this year, churchyard maintenance costs were down by nearly £1,000 to £2,199, though some more repair work will soon be done on the boundary wall. Electricity bills were down 10% to £775 and insurance costs were up £100 to £2,243.

The Common Mission Fund (our payment to the Diocese) was little changed at £23,305, though it will rise by £600 in 2019. Benefice administrative costs rose by £767 to £5,548 partly as a result of redundancy costs.

The General Fund stood at £32,206 at the end of 2018. We aim to keep a minimum balance of £25,000 in this fund.

The Building Fund stands at £5,128 with £588 owed to scaffolders, offset by £309 due from Gift Aid and VAT. Early in the year it received £609 from a VAT reclaim. Total payments out of the fund in 2018 were £1,367. We aim to keep a minimum balance of £10,000 in this fund.

The former Rector and Churchwarden's fund has been re-named the Legacy Fund. A booklet on legacy-giving was printed early in the year and widely distributed. Donations in 2018 totalled £1,115 and (with tax relief) these were just enough to cover the cost of two digital terrain surveys of the graveyard, leaving the fund with £16.

The Joint Fund (largely the magazine) rose to £5,863 as a result of record advertising receipts of £9,465. 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. A considerable amount of work continues to be done by volunteers on setting and distributing the magazine and on attracting advertisers.

Largely because of VAT recovered, the Organ Fund rose by £75 during the year and stands at £1,457. The Choir Fund rose by £103 to £217 as a result of donations.

Total PCC funds rose in cash terms by £5,179 to £44,886 during 2018, with a net £1,373 due (mainly from tax). The bulk of the money is in an instant access account currently earning 0.75% interest.

3. **SOCIAL**

All the events both locally and in the Benefice would not have been possible without people to organise them as well as those who on the day set up tables, make cakes, serve food, man the stalls, wash up, provide musical entertainment, etc so a big ‘thank you’ to all who contribute in so many ways to make these events happen and be so enjoyable.

The fete was held on 30 June and took place at Watch Cottage. Grateful thanks go to Jennie Pope for all her hard work in organising this event and to Jolyon Pope for providing and transporting the equipment for the fete. ‘Thank you’ to the village community for joining together to provide the support for this event by way of putting up marquees, manning the stalls and for clearing away afterwards.

In the middle of September there was the Service of Remembrance for the Airborne Forces. Refreshments were served after the service.

Harvest Festival followed by Harvest Lunch in the village hall was also in September. About 40 people sat down to a two course buffet lunch.

Christmas was soon upon us and the Christmas Fair was held at the end of November in the village hall. It had stalls selling handmade cards, jewellery, cakes and lots of other gifts. Children had the opportunity to make craft items under the watchful eye of the Simply Sunday Team. The raffle table dipped under the weight of the Christmas hamper, baskets of fruit, bottles of wine and other prizes and the bottle tombola was very popular. A big ‘thank you’ to those who organised this event and to all the other people who helped set up the hall before the event and manned the stalls.

In the first week of December 26 people from Chilbolton and Wherwell sat down to a Christmas Lunch with all the trimmings in the Durnford Room of the village hall. Two people who had accepted the invitation but could not come on the day had their Christmas meal delivered to their door. The afternoon ended with carol singing and a visit from Father Christmas.

Every Sunday throughout the year the PCC was fortunate to have people on the coffee rota who provided refreshments after the services.

4. **FABRIC AND HOUSEKEEPING**

A new bench has been positioned in front of the west wall. It was privately funded as a memorial to Alan and Amy Ball.

During the year a number of maintenance items were carried out including repairs to the vestry roof where water had penetrated following a heavy storm. The suspension lines of the figure of Christ sculpture have been replaced.

On 10 August 2018 a Parochial Visitation was carried out by a member of the Archdeaconry Team. This entailed examination of parish records and 'moveable items', ie furnishings in the church, all as compared with the previous visitation of 2007, while taking into account items added or disposed of in the intervening years (as entered in the log book). Those present were complimented by Mr Peter Clarke for the state of records and the assistance given to him.

Book of Remembrance

A book has been prepared by the PCC to mark the centenary of the end of the First World War and is displayed in the church below the war memorial plaque. It contains as much information known about Chilbolton's Fallen in all conflicts - 19 villagers from the First World War, eight from the Second World War and one from the Iraq War. If anyone has any additional information please contact the PCC so that it can be included in the book.

5. **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 (Evening Prayer in homes during the cold months of January to March)
Fifth Sunday	Benefice Service

There have been other enjoyable seasonal services and celebrations including Mothering Sunday, Easter, Thanksgiving following the fete held in the marquee, Harvest Festival and Christmas. These services were all well attended. On the fifth Sunday of the month the parishes have enjoyed worshipping together as a Benefice. Trinity Sunday was celebrated at Northwood Park followed by a barbecue.

On Maundy Thursday Chilbolton and Wherwell shared a meal and Holy Communion at Michael and Joyce Payne's home, which again was a very special evening.

The Airborne Forces Service was led by Reverend Jax in September. REME came for its annual visit in November - as always it was a pleasure to welcome the representatives who appreciate their links and visits to the church. Remembrance Sunday (which fell on 11 November this year) commemorated 100 years since the end of the First World War and was held in church. It was a very moving service led by Andrew Kent to a full congregation. In January Andrew completed a course to continue as a valued Lay Leader.

During the year an updated Holy Communion service was introduced which has been well received.

The Family Services have continued to develop and grow. In addition to the Sunday services, families gathered on Good Friday to make the Easter garden and listen to the Easter story. In the dark days of November, and to offer an alternative to Halloween, a Light Party was held in the church which was fun and very colourful, it included a treasure hunt as well as hot dogs and hot chocolate. At the beginning of December the families had an enjoyable time making Christmas crafts, playing games and decorating the Christmas tree. Thanks were extended to Gaynor Childs and Janie Painter for their help and leadership with the services and these activities.

The Benefice Lent series attracted an interesting variety of speakers, but sadly the evening Chilbolton was due to host the meeting it had to be cancelled due to snowfall.

Chilbolton Homegroup continued to meet fortnightly and prompted some interesting discussion in an informal setting.

Thanks were extended to Reverend Jax Machin and Caroline McAulay who work tirelessly to enable the smooth running of our services.

6. CHOIR

Every effort was made to have a choir at all the services, be it large or small. In 2018 there were two occasions at which the choir was asked to sing, firstly at a wedding in Wherwell in May and secondly at a Blessing of Marriage with a Baptism in Chilbolton in July.

At the Seven Lessons and Carols Service in December extra voices were recruited, including Marie Theresa - a Salisbury Chorister - who sang the first verse of Once in Royal as a solo. Wonderful.

The choice of hymns for services was not an easy task but to receive favourable comments on those chosen from both the Clergy and the congregation has been most helpful and appreciated. Grateful thanks to everyone for their support.

7. **MIDDAY MUMS**

The coffee morning, for those with babies and toddlers in the villages, has continued to be held monthly in Wherwell Village Hall. A time for mums/carers to meet each other and for the children to play. The team involved was Susan Ansell, Lesley Kent, Joyce and Michael Payne.

8. **RESIDENTIAL CARE HOMES**

Throughout 2018 our commitment and support of residents in Care Homes, Hospital and Hospice settings within the benefice has continued apace, with a significant increase of requests to Reverend Jax for sacramental and pastoral 'end of life' care. Monthly Holy Communion services at Westholme, Flowerdown Care Homes and our connections to residents in Sunrise and The Dower House has 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.

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 lively worship services.

9. **PARISH VISITORS**

2018 has seen a continued growth in the work of our Benefice Pastoral Visitors team. Reverend Jax extended her grateful thanks to all those who offer their pastoral gifts in this valuable work in Christ's name.

The team has welcomed Anna Cockram as its Parish Visitor Administrator, and she is doing a fabulous job in allocating and monitoring trained Parish Visitors as they visit the vulnerable, sick and bereaved in each parish. In addition, our Benefice is blessed by the ministry of Licensed Lay Home Communion Assistants who support Reverend Jax in the provision of Communion to individuals and groups in Nursing Homes, Hospice and home settings. Holy Communion to the sick in hospital settings continues to be conducted by Hospital Chaplaincy staff via a formal request from Reverend Jax.

In Chilbolton the team comprised Anna Cockram, Lesley Kent, Charlotte Nash, Mary Hook and Colin Sheath.

Anyone requiring a Pastoral Visitor or Holy Communion in Hospital, Hospice, Care Home or home setting should contact Reverend Jax Machin or Anna Cockram through the Benefice Office on (01962) 880845 or by email at office@downsbenefice.org.uk.

10. 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.