

**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 2017

**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 2017 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 Jolyon Pope Mr Colin Sheath Mr Lawrence Wild	(PCC Secretary) (PCC Chairman) (PCC Treasurer) (resigned April 2017)

Electoral Roll

There were 70 names on the Electoral Roll.

Usual Sunday Attendance

The average Sunday attendance figure over the year was 33 (30 adults and 3 children).

ACTIVITIES OF THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL IN 2017

Chilbolton PCC met five times during the year with an average attendance of 89%. 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 standing orders, the General Fund produced a surplus of £3,006 in 2017 (compared with £318 in 2016). This was before the transfer of £1,000 from the Joint Fund. Gift Aid tax reclaimed for this fund (£5,860) was again a record, and there is over £1,300 to come from the Q4 claim.

Fund raising during the year amounted to £21,577 gross, or £16,780 net, compared to a net £12,248 in 2016 (when no Auction was held) and £18,845 net in 2015. The Fete raised £11,541 (up by over £1,000 on 2016), the Auction brought in £5,901 and the Christmas Fare produced £1,141. Fund raising expenses were high because of the purchase of tables and chairs costing nearly £2,500. However, these have already attracted donations from some users. Weddings, baptisms and funerals produced fees of £1,512 (down £200 on 2016) and the Parish Council made its usual grant of £600 towards the costs of grass cutting.

The new General Data Protection Regulations (the 'GDPR') come into effect on 25 May 2018 and will influence the way sponsorship money is raised.

Charitable and Outreach donations of £2,314 were a record (up by £625). Ministry working expenses were down £543 to £1,706 and the cost of visiting priests was stable at around £600. Churchyard maintenance costs were up by £1,370 to £3,157 owing to some major tree works and the shared cost of work on a boundary wall. Electricity bills and insurance costs were stable.

The Common Mission Fund (our payment to the Diocese) was unchanged at £23,255 and will be a similar amount in 2018. Benefice administrative costs fell by £314 to £4,781 but are expected to rise by 10% in 2018 as a result of less projected fee income to the Benefice.

The General Fund stood at £30,065 at the end of 2017. The aim is to keep a minimum balance of £25,000 in this fund. A deficit of over £2,000 is forecast for 2018.

The Building Fund stands at £2,877. Early in the year the fund received £4,036 from a VAT reclaim and a £2,000 grant from Hampshire and the Islands Historic Churches Trust, both as expected. A further £678 VAT reclaim should be settled in 2018. Payments out of this fund in 2017 were £4,539. The Quinquennial Inspection took place late in the year and the cost of this (£723) was largely reimbursed by the Diocese. Some expenditure (mainly on the roof) will result. The roadside wall has further deteriorated and will need some attention in 2018. A complete rebuild would cost some £30,000. It has the same Grade 1 listing as the church, thus preventing cheaper solutions. Various

grant options are still being explored, though the PCC would probably have to contribute at least 50% of the cost.

The Joint Fund (largely the magazine) was £5,246 at the end of the year. Advertising receipts were over £8,800 (similar to 2016). As approved by the magazine committee, there were transfers of £1,000 each to Wherwell PCC and the Chilbolton General 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 Rector/Churchwardens Fund (to be renamed Legacy Fund), the Organ Fund and the Choir Fund hardly changed during the year.

In summary, PCC funds rose in cash terms by £6,186 to nearly £40,000 during 2017, with over £2,000 owing (mainly from tax). The bulk of the money is in an instant access account currently earning 0.35% interest.

2. **LAYFIELD AND SILVA CHARITY**

Whilst not strictly part of Chilbolton Parochial Church Council's responsibilities, this Charity has as its trustees the Rector and two past or present PCC members (currently Lawrence Wild and Jane Brown). Moreover, the charitable awards can be viewed as part of the church's wider mission.

The aims of the charity are:

1. relieving either generally or individually persons resident in the parish of Chilbolton who are in conditions of need, hardship or distress;
2. assisting persons who have not attained the age of 25 years resident in the parish of Chilbolton who are in need of financial assistance and who are preparing for, entering upon or engaged in any profession, trade, occupation or service. Otherwise promoting the education (including social and physical training) of such persons.

At the end of 2017 the fund stood at £650, having made a grant of £150 during the year. The income was £18.

3. **SOCIAL**

All the events both locally and in the Benefice would not have been possible without people to organise them and then to those who on the day, set up, 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 to be so enjoyable.

Early in June saw the Trinity Sunday Service and this year it was Chilbolton's turn to join with Wherwell in providing the tea and coffee and wine for the annual BBQ.

On 24 June the fete took place at Broxton House. Thanks go to Jennie Pope for all her hard work in organising this event and to Jolyon Pope for providing and transporting the equipment. A 'thank you' was extended to the village community for joining together to provide the support for this event by way of putting up marquees, manning the stalls on the day and then for clearing away after the event.

In August a special service was held to commemorate the repair of the church tower and the clock which was followed by refreshments provided by the social committee.

In the middle of September there was the Service of Remembrance for the Airborne Forces. This year it was held in the church and was preceded by a flag raising ceremony in the churchyard. 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.

At the beginning of December the Christmas Fair was held 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 Mary Gilbert who helped Lesley Kent to organise this event and to all the other people who set up the hall before the event and manned the stalls.

In the first week of December 25 people from Chilbolton and Wherwell sat down to a full 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 church has been fortunate to have people on the coffee rota to provide refreshments after the services.

4. FABRIC AND HOUSEKEEPING

Quite a number of routine maintenance items have been dealt with during the year including some tree work which was to prevent damage to property or for safety reasons.

It was realised that no internal cleaning of the stained glass and leaded light windows had been done for very, very many years. The view was that cleaning was well overdue and should be carried out. Cleaning of the windows would also complement, in terms of appearance, all the work undertaken in 2016 to the spire and clock. Arrangements were entrusted to Salisbury Cathedral Stained Glass. The method involved use of de-ionised water and cotton swabs. In the company's opinion, external cleaning would not achieve any long term advantage. However it recommended and carried out cleaning down by dry brushing.

A notice was placed in May and June in the Parish Magazine seeking knowledge from any relatives or descendants of Walter Sydney Hooker and Andrew Anderson Bell of their burial over 50 years ago. This enquiry was in connection with providing an access at the western end of the churchyard. No contact was received. The advice of the Diocese was that it would be in order to cross over these two graves as a means of providing the access. This access would be for a possible extension of the churchyard on Church Commissioner`s land. The extension proposal is currently under consideration and contact with the land agent via James Painter is continuing. If a scheme is developed further it will be subject to all necessary consultations and approvals.

Every five years the Diocesan appointed architect is charged with an inspection of the church and churchyard and to produce a report. As the previous report period covered to October 2017 a new report was due and has been received. This stated that good work had been done to address defects identified in the previous five year report. The new report stated that in general the church was in good condition and continued maintenance would help to defer any major repairs for many years to come. The following works, other than the usual small repairs, were achieved in the five year period to October:

- (i) renewal of tower boarding externally;
- (ii) repairs to louvres and repainting of clock face;
- (iii) strengthening of spire at area of decay;
- (iv) reinforcement of belfry/tower frameworks with connecting bolts;
- (v) repairs to tiling on the south aisle roof;
- (vi) painting of window ferramenta externally;
- (vii) securing of churchyard wall at north-eastern end to prevent collapse into road.

The report identified the routine regular items of maintenance. It also identified those items which required attention within the next two years, those which required attention within five years and those that may become necessary in five to ten years' time.

5. WORSHIP AND EDUCATION

There were many memorable services in 2017, including those at Christmastime which were very well attended. Other memorable moments included a short outdoor service of Thanksgiving on Sunday, 6 August for the extensive repairs to the clock and tower. In September there was an Airborne Forces service in the church and in October REME came and took part in a Holy Communion service which was very appropriately led by Reverend Bob Green, a retired army chaplain. Other special services have included Thanksgiving for the Fete, Harvest Festival and All Souls

It was pleasing that numbers at Family Services showed a small increase, mainly thanks to Gaynor Childs who has played an important role in involving families by holding a series of meetings to discuss what families would like and to plan services. As a result, family services have lasted 30-40 minutes which has included a craft activity for the children. As from January 2018 Family services will take place on the first Sunday of the month with the hope that families will begin to travel between Wherwell and Chilbolton. As a result Evensong will move to the fourth Sunday.

In 2017 the Lent series consisted of a selection of speakers talking about organisations for which they worked. In Chilbolton Michele Price gave a very interesting talk on the Nightshelter. The Lent series ended with a supper in Littleton Memorial Hall hosted by Alan and Christine Disher at which Bishop Nick Drayson, one of the Littleton Mission Partners, spoke about his work in Northern Argentina.

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

The PCC was delighted that Gaynor Childs was awarded the Bishop's Commission for Mission Award (BCM) for Pastoral Mission.

Thanks were extended to Reverend Jax Machin as well as to Caroline and Carrie in the Benefice Office who have worked tirelessly to enable the smooth running of services.

6. CHOIR

Chilbolton has been fortunate to have a choir singing at all the services, although at times the number was small. In 2017 the choir was invited to sing at a wedding in Sparsholt and at a Benefice Service. It was appreciated that a few extra members were able to sing at Festival Services. A few more members would be ideal.

It has been most helpful to receive the congregation's favourable comments on the hymns chosen for the services.

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 new mums to meet each other and for the children to play. The same team was involved - Susan Ansell, Lesley Kent, Di Wild and Michael Payne.

8. RESIDENTIAL CARE HOMES

Throughout 2017 services have been provided to residents of Care Homes and Hospice settings within the benefice. Monthly Holy Communion services at Westholme and Flowerdown Care Homes were deeply valued by all who received them. Many pastoral relationships have flourished at critical points in people's lives, bringing them the comfort of Jesus' grace.

Reverend Jax expressed her grateful thanks to all those who offered their gifts and skills in this (often 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

2017 saw the re-shaping and equipping of Benefice Parish Visitors (PVs) through a Parish Visitors Course designed and undertaken by the Rector. Team meetings have proved beneficial and have helped to develop best practice. Reverend Jax was grateful to all those who offered their pastoral gifts in this valuable work in Christ's name.

A Parish Visitor Administrator was appointed to have central control and each parish has a good number of trained PVs able to visit the vulnerable, sick and bereaved. In addition a number of Licensed Lay Home Communion Assistants have supported Reverend Jax in the provision of Communion to individuals and groups in nursing homes, hospice and home settings.

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

The PV team has worked well across the whole Downs Benefice and it is planned to continue supporting its communities wherever possible.

(In general, Holy Communion to the sick in hospital settings is conducted by Hospital Chaplaincy staff via a formal request from Reverend Jax. Anyone requiring a Pastoral Visitor or Holy Communion in hospital, hospice, care home or home setting should contact Reverend Jax through the Benefice Office on 01962 880845 or by email at office@downsbefice.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.