ST MARY'S CHURCH, ALDERBURY

Annual Report of the Parochial Church Council
For the year ending December 2023

The Annual Parochial Church Meeting will be held on

Wednesday 24th April 2024 at 7:00pm for 7:30pm

Alderbury And West Grimstead School Hall

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Annual Parochial Church Meeting
Wednesday 24th April 2024 at 7:00pm for 7:30pm
Alderbury And West Grimstead School Hall

Vestry Meeting

1. Opening prayers
2. Election of Churchwardens

APCM Business agenda

3. Apologies for absence
4. Minutes of meeting held on 19th April 2023 (*included in Annual Report*)
5. Matters arising
6. Reception of the Annual report (*previously circulated*)
7. Review of the year
    a. Team Rector's report
    b. Team Vicar's Report
    c. Warden's Report (Churchwarden)
    d. Presentation of the Inventory & Log (Churchwarden)
    e. Presentation of the Accounts (Treasurer)
    f. Electoral Roll Officer's Report (ER Officer)
    g. Other reports
8. Any Other Business. (notice of items to be given to chair before meeting)
9. Elections
    a. PCC representatives – There are 3 vacancies.
    b. Appointment of Independent Financial Examiner
10. Closing prayer.

This meeting will be followed by a short PCC meeting to elect:

- Lay Chair,
- Secretary,
- Treasurer,
- ER Officer,
- Team Council Reps,
- Safeguarding officer.

ST MARY'S CHURCH, ALDERBURY

Annual Parochial Church Meeting
Wednesday 19th April 2023
Held at Alderbury & West Grimstead School

Present: Rev Ruth Schofield, Andrew Larkham (Chair) and 15 others.

VESTRY MEETING

Election of Churchwardens: There were two nominations:
1) Andrew Larkham: proposed by Henry Wilkinson and seconded by Robert Eggar.
2) John Fuller: proposed by Andrew Larkham and seconded by Phil Spooner.
There being no other prior nominations they were duly re-elected.

ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING

1. **Opening**: Rev Ruth opened the meeting with prayer.
2. **Apologies for absence**: Apologies received from Stuart Blackman, Carole Johnston, Tim Ricketts and Diane Tapper.
3. **Minutes of the Last APCM:** The minutes of the APCM held on Wednesday 18th May 2022 were agreed as accurate and signed.
4. **Matters arising from the Minutes:** No matters arising.
5. **Reception of the Annual Report:** The report was well received and thanks expressed to Andrew Larkham for all the work compiling it.
6. **Review of the Year:**
    1. *Team Vicar's Report*: Rev Ruth thanked all those involved over the past year.
    2. *Warden's Report*: The Church has made a full recovery following the covid pandemic and re-established stable attendance figures. The new altar frontal looks delightful. The church inventory has been transferred onto Word documents.
    3. *Presentation of Inventory and Log*: The inventory and log have been displayed.
    4. *Presentation of the Accounts*: Thanks were expressed to all those giving and making donations. Investment income is down but the church hasn't needed to draw on its reserves. The meeting thanked Sarah for all her work and James Fletcher for working as independent examiner of the accounts. The 2022 annual accounts were accepted.
    5. *The Electoral Roll Officer's Report*: There are now 71 names recorded on the Roll.
    6. *Other Reports*

    The remaining reports can be read in the Annual Report. Brief verbal reports covered the following:

    i) Safeguarding Report: There has been an ongoing vacancy situation since David Marshall completed his parish safeguarding officer work, but Jane Sims has kindly now stepped into the role.

    ii) GDPR Report: As per section 14 of the Annual Report.

    iii) Choir: The choir has been maintained well and extra singers drafted for special Services. The music group playing at all-age Services has also been very pleasing.

    iv) Childrens Work: Despite struggling with numbers over the past year there are now signs of growth and significant progress being made.

    v) Missions and Charities: A new two-year cycle has now started and Steven Mansfield kindly offered to take the lead role.

    vi) Lay Pastoral Assistants: Diane Tapper has been commissioned.

    vii) Prayer and Home Groups: These have functioned well. The Prayer Table in the south aisle has been well maintained and a valuable addition to the church. Overall 'St Mary's in the Community' has bounced back well after Covid.

    viii) AWGS: the new curriculum has been implemented and church-school links are very good.

7. Any other matters of Parochial/Team interest:

a) Sarah Cross reminded the meeting of the importance of remembering the village Time Capsule buried beneath the village sign and its planned opening in 2200.
b) Much gratitude and thanks were expressed to Keith and Jane Foster and the late Susan Wiltshire who did so much to aid St Mary's Church. More recent examples are Sue's link to Sophie Hatcher who helped the altar frontal development and Kenneth's ongoing church architectural design knowledge.
c) The Queen's Diamond Jubilee is being celebrated by St Mary's with a 'Songs of Praise' service.

8. Elections

a) <u>PCC Representatives</u>

There are 3 vacancies for three-year terms.

- Diane Tapper was proposed by Sue Fuller and seconded by Anne Tompson. Henry Wilkinson was proposed by Andrew Larkham and seconded by Robert Eggar. Sue Fuller was nominated by Colin Nelson and seconded by Tim Ricketts. The meeting unanimously agreed their appointments. In addition, Colin Nelson was nominated by Sarah Cross and seconded by Robert Eggar for a two-year term having already served as a co-opted member of the PCC for one-year – unanimously agreed.

b) <u>Two Deanery Synod Representatives</u>

Andrew Larkham agreed to continue as a representative. A second representative is being sought to replace Stuart Blackman. Ruth emphasised the importance of the Synod with national interests going directly to local Synods for feedback and decisions.

c) <u>Appointment of Independent Financial Examiner</u>

James Fletcher was proposed by Sarah Cross, seconded by John Fuller and the appointment was accepted.

11. Closing Prayer:

The meeting ended in prayer at 8.20pm.

6. Team Rector's Report

2023 has been a year of finally getting back to what feels like normal following on form the 2020 pandemic year. In May, we reintroduced the common cup for communion, and our service pattern for the whole year has been full. Team Services happened the 5th Sunday: for Candlemas in January in Winterslow, April in Alderbury, July in Whiteparish, October in Pitton and on New year's eve at West Dean. These were great chances for us to worship together, and to visit each other's churches sharing fellowship and prayer. Holy Week services were held in West Grimstead, and in May there were Special Services across the churches marking the coronation of King Charles III on the weekend of the 6th May when many from our communities came together. In addition our usual 'fresh expressions' got back into their normal pattern with Café Church in Alderbury, Breakfast Church in West Dean, Breakfast and Eucharist in Whiteparish, and Winterslow starting their monthly Breakfast church in their village hall. These services are great for our communities, and make Jesus known to some who find the traditional worship less appealing. Thank you to all who put so much time and effort into making these happen.

It was with sadness as we said goodbye to Revd Ruth Schofield, our Alderbury based Team Vicar ,on Advent Sunday, as she left us for health reasons. Ruth was a great priest, leader, preacher and pastoral guide and we have missed her in many ways, both as part of the ministry team, and locally in the parishes. The process of appointing her replacement is underway, and we hope to be welcoming someone new in the summer of 2024.

Lisa Jones also left us as team administrator early in January, and we were delighted to appoint Rachel Funnell as Team Administrator who started just after Easter with us. Rachel has brought a wealth of skills, and she has now brought the team accounts into a new framework which should ensure transparency and efficiency in the work she does for our parish treasurers in collecting statutory fees. This was in no way a small task, and thanks to Mandy Kerley and her services for bringing us back in line.

Our work in our four primary Schools has continued well, with Alderbury joining with Pitton and Winterslow in the Pickwick Academy trust later in the year. Our Open the Book teams in all our schools continue to bring the bible accounts alive through drama and a reflective prayer time, their work is not only fun, but so hugely valued by all.

2023 has again not been a year without worries and the high price of basic supplies has continued to hit our churches. A huge thank you on behalf of the ministry team, for those key people who keep our churches alive for our communities, both in finance and practical help. We have continued to remain faithful to God as we continue to worship and pray for individuals, our communities and the wider world. We continue to share our gifts to make Jesus known to each other and within our villages. Thank you.

Revd Simon Chambers – Team Rector – April 2024

Lord God, the source of our unity, faith and love:
bless the Clarendon Team, that sharing our gifts
we may proclaim the gospel and reveal your glory,
in Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

7. Team Vicar's Report

As 2022 closed and 2023 began, we continued to provide a Warm Space in Alderbury at St Mary's Hall. Once a week, we opened the hall for soup, hot drinks, games and conversation, continuing until school time to allow parents and carers to drop by with children for hot chocolate. Our regular activities continued through the year, as detailed elsewhere in this report.

During 2023, there were seven weddings at St Mary's Church and we welcomed five children to Christ's church in baptism. It was a year in which we said farewell to several significant members of our church family, including Revd Anthea Cochrane who died in October. In total there were ten funerals, either in church or at the crematorium.

We held various services outdoors to enjoy the wonderful countryside that surrounds us. In May, we held a service for Rogation at Witherington Farm, held two walks with reflection and prayer starting and ending at Church, as well as two events for families, one in the churchyard and one walking in the nearby fields.

Café Church was held every month, and we were able to invite two of the charities we support as a church to give presentations of their work: The Bridge and Salisbury Trust for the Homeless. The Remembrance Service held at the War Memorial attracted some 250 people from the village. This included dozens of children from the Guiding and Scouting groups who had joined us in Church for a service and then paraded with the Royal British Legion from Church to the Green.

As the year progressed, frustratingly my own health deteriorated, and I found myself unable to carry out my ministry fully. In September I took the difficult decision to resign, in order to recover, and left the Clarendon Team with a final service on December 3rd. I am so grateful to colleagues in the ministry team, and also to everyone in the church family, for your fellowship and support. My heartfelt thanks to our Churchwardens, John Fuller and Andy Larkham, and for everyone who plays a part in church life.

In the summer, Revd Sue Sampson who holds PtO joined the wider ministry team, and in September Sharon Grant was transferred to the diocese from the diocese of Europe as an LLM. Their ministry has been warmly welcomed in the parish, and together with Revd Canon Robin Coutts, and Alison and Andy Larkham our Lay Worship Leaders, will be much appreciated during the vacancy.

Revd Ruth Schofield

8. Churchwarden's Report

Numbers attending our Sunday Services have stabilised over the year, and at the end of the year numbers were between 35 and 50 each Sunday. Some have chosen to attend the mid-week communion at St Marys Hall instead, and numbers there are around 12-15 each week. We have had several new folk join us, and it is good to see some signs of growth within the fellowship.

Although our membership has returned to pre COVD levels, we have not been so fortunate with our children's and young people's work. In the last year the church has concentrated on regular Family events, and our 3rd Sunday Service has moved from a Family Service to an All-Age service. We still maintain close contacts with the village school and take worship there once each week. Fortunately, we have a small team willing to do this – and present Open The Book sessions periodically.

Due to the generosity of The Boundary Coffee Shop we were able to replace our piano with a modern electronic instrument – that doesn't need tuning - and replace our radio microphones. The new piano has made a great difference to our All-Age service when we try to use other musicians rather than the organ. Our old radio microphone system was showing its age, and technology has come on a long way in the last 20 years. The new system is much clearer, and has the advantage of having two handheld microphones as well as two lapel microphones. All four can be used at the same time.

Work on maintaining the churchyard has continued throughout the year. As well as grass cutting, the gravel path has been regularly weeded. Broken tree branches and a dead tree have been removed and overgrown shrubbery cut back. Snowdrop bulbs have been successfully planted. At the church hall, work has started on trimming and shaping the hedges and pruning the shrubbery along the south side of the building.

Increasing use is being made of the hall kitchen and the PCC agreed that a hot water supply was needed. To provide this, a water heater has been installed over the sink. The PCC have also agreed to install an outside storage shed at the hall to accommodate the equipment used by the Parent and Toddler group that will be moving to the hall in the spring.

A beautiful set of new kneelers has been made for the altar rail step by a church member. The lightning protection system has been inspected and the annual maintenance of the fire extinguishers has been carried out.

The latest Quinquennial Survey Report on the condition of the church fabric was issued by our architect in November. The general condition of the fabric is good but the following work will need to be carried out during the next 18 months:

a. Replacing the iron bars and repairing the damaged stonework of the windows on the south side of the nave,
b. Repairing several broken/slipped tiles and a section of lead flashing on the roof,
c. Adapting downpipes and gutters on the chancel/south chapel to cope with the volume of water.

The overhead heaters are now nearly 50 years and consume a considerable amount of electricity. There is also a need to balance more effectively the electrical consumption across the three-phase supply to the church. Modern infrared heaters are much more efficient and will give more flexibility in heating the church in combination with the under-pew heaters, enabling a reduction in overall energy consumption and the ability to adjust the heating according to the weather conditions. New heaters are being investigated and it is hoped that it will be possible to install them before next winter.

We were saddened towards the end of the year when Rev Ruth told us she was having to stand down from her role as Team Vicar and Rural Dean for health reasons. She moved from Alderbury during December. She has had a significant impact on the life of St Mary's and will be missed. We pray that her health issues will be resolved soon, and that she will find a 'home' in a local church.

We are both grateful for the help and support that the Deputy Wardens and Sidespeople give on a Sunday morning – our thanks to all of them. There are also many others without whom the church would not function. They may not be named individually here – but their contribution is recognised and appreciated

Andy and John.

9. Treasurer's Report & Accounts

2023 has been another satisfactory year regarding the church's financial position. Our regular income has been maintained at similar levels and we continue to benefit and be well supported by our congregations and local community. There continues to be some growth in those using the Parish Giving Scheme and we would encourage all regular givers to use this if they are not doing so already.

Expenditure was kept within planned budgets for the year. There were some final payments for the improvements made in previous year in the church also some required maintenance on St Mary's hall. We are in a strong position going forward into the next year with plans to look into further improvements, in particular with the electricity supply required for improved heating.

Our investments did better this year and increase in value by approximately 12%. We have not required to withdraw from these invested funds for any of the maintenance works this year and hope not to have to do so in the current year.

The PCC feel that the finances for St Mary's are in a good position to cover general expenditure and some planned improvements as well as being able to continue with charitable giving at similar levels to previous years.

Sarah Cross (Hon Treasurer Alderbury PCC)

10. Electoral Roll Officer's Report

The number on the Electoral Roll as at 31st December 2023 was 69.

Sarah Cross (Electoral Roll Officer)

11. Alderbury Deanery Synod Report

Alderbury deanery synod met three times in 2023. St Mary's was represented by Andy Larkham, and after the APCM by Alistair Johnston. The February meeting was held in Bramshaw, and included updates on the diocesan vision process and Living in Love and Faith. The May meeting included a celebration of Ascension Day with a Eucharist at All Saints Winterslow, followed by a social gathering. In October Bishop Andrew spoke to synod about his role as joint Church of England lead for Church buildings, with both inspiration and more practical advice on how to keep our buildings open and finance their maintenance.

12. Clarendon Team Council Report

There were 5 meetings in 2023. Meetings are alternate months and alternately in St.Mary's Hall, Whaddon or the Team Office in Winterslow.

Meetings have included@-

- The beginning of a revue of Orders of service - beginning with one for emergency use when a vicar is unable to attend at the last minute (Red Box)
- Following the departure of our Team administrator Lisa, arrangements began for appointing a new Team Administrator (Rachel Funnel started after Easter and has settled in brilliantly)
- Members roundups have focused on Worship, Communication, Mission and Children's and Families (one topic at each meeting)
- Review of safeguarding policy and familiarisation with new Safeguarding Dashboard
- Adjustments to the services rota to fill gaps in the vacancy following the much regretted resignation of Revd Ruth Scholfield

The Team treasurer stepped down after the APCMs and there is now a vacancy.

There is also still a vacancy for a Team safeguarding officer.

Alison Larkham and Diane Tapper (Team Council Reps)

13. Safeguarding Children, young people and adults experiencing, or at risk of abuse and neglect.

Jane Sims took over the role of Safeguarding Officer following her election at the APCM in April 2023. Since this time Jane has brought the PCC up to speed with the new approach for Safeguarding as set out by the Diocese. Alderbury are considered to be in good position with regards to the actions set out on the Safeguarding Dashboard; the measure used to ensure that churches are meeting their safeguarding requirements.

All volunteers and church officers have completed or are in the process of completing any necessary training and checks have been carried out by the Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) as necessary for their role. We follow Safer Recruitment procedures for new volunteers.

There were no serious incidents or reports during the year.

Jane Sims – Parish Safeguarding Officer.

14. General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) Report

Legislation came into force in 2018 changing the way all companies and organisations store and use individual's personal information. Although in many instances the church can contact people on a 'legitimate Interest' basis, there are times when an individual's permission must a given for St Mary's to hold data about them. We are endeavouring to comply fully both within St. Mary's and within the wider team.

15. Worship and Music

Services in 2023 have continued in our usual format. 1st Sunday of the month Café church in the afternoon at Alderbury Village Hall has continued to be popular, with an average congregation of about 35. 2nd Sunday Holy Communion with Sunday squad (3yrs-10yrs), 3rd Sunday – All age worship and 4th Sunday Healing Communion. Numbers varied averaging at about 45.

We had a lovely sunny day at Witherington Farm in May for our Rogation service and enjoyed apple pie and cream in September after our Harvest service. As usual gifts were taken to Alabare, Trussell trust and the Alderbury Bungalow,

The Remembrance service at church in November was very well attended by congregation, the uniformed organisations, and their parents and the RBL and by about another 50 people at the war memorial on Fountain Green for our Act of remembrance. Probably close to 200 altogether

It was with great sadness that we said goodbye to Rev Ruth Schofield in December. It seemed like much longer than 18 months that she had been with us. We have seen congregations grow in numbers and spiritually and will miss her wise council and leading very much.

Carols by candlelight led by our extended choir and followed by mulled wine and mince pies was enjoyed by all and the Crib service on Christmas eve was a very noisy and joyful event – with over 100 attending.

Our thanks also to our organists and music group for their input into our services.

Alison Larkham

16. Children's work at St. Mary's

Sunday Squad

Diane Tapper now leads Sunday squad once a month. Charlotte attends regularly and is sometimes joined by other younger ones. They use the Rootsontheweb material which follows the lectionary readings in activities etc for children. Our thanks to those who support as helpers.

Alderbury Parent and Toddler Group

The group continues to meet on a Thursday morning led by Diane Tapper and I, with an average attendance or 8 children and their mums/grandmas. We are well supported by Imogen Mathewson and Zoe Miller who represent the parents as Leaders and by Jenni Gardner who comes alternate weeks to make the refreshments. We had a very enjoyable outing to Riverbourne Farm in the summer and have enjoyed many activities on a Thursday morning at the Catholic Chapel.

We received the news towards the end of the year that the Catholic chapel is to close, so Toddler group will be moving to St., Marys Hall in 2024. The group started in 1981 at St. Mary's Hall and moved to the Chapel (then the Methodist Chapel) in about 1983. We are very grateful to the Catholics for allowing us to use the building for all these years.

Family and children's events

We made the decision that in 2023 we would change our focus of activities to 'all the family' rather than just the children. We have had bimonthly activities. February was Pancake party attended by 16 families and 31 children. Everyone enjoyed the activities and of course the pancakes. We were unable to get to the church at the last minute because of the road works and so had to change the venue to the Catholic Chapel – we think the notice of this at school and closer proximity caused the high numbers. April was Experience Easter on Good Friday with 10 families and 17 children. The Mothers union as usual provided Hot cross buns for us afterwards. We were able to leave some of the displays up so that the congregation were able to 'Experience Easter' over the weekend. June was Muddy church – a Sunday afternoon walk with reflections in the fields around the church. We then came back to the grass area behind the church for smores (toasted marshmallows between chocolate digestive biscuits) made on a fire pit. 8 families and 14 children enjoyed this. September was another muddy church after school on a Friday but this time just around the church. We focussed on Growing with God and again finished around the fire pit with hot dogs! 6 families and 9 children attended this with several apologies that they couldn't come. As you can see, we have tried various different times and days to see what suits families the best but the key thing seems to be Food!!!

We decided to be completely different in December and we did a Posada – Mary and Joseph figures in a shoe box travelled around the village, moving on every night to their next house. 12 families signed up and Mary and Joseph had quite some adventures. They returned to church at the Crib service. We also were pleased to have been given permission by the Parish council to use the bus shelter at the top of Silver street to set up a Nativity scene. This was made by a team of adults and children from St. Marys and was incredibly popular – over 120 likes on Facebook to just one of the photos that was put up. A very, very positive 'St Marys in the community' event which will definitely be repeated next year.

We've learnt a lot from this year's activities and whilst we are not getting families to church at 9.15 on a Sunday morning we are reaching and teaching them – messy church, muddy church, pancakes – maybe that is church for today's families. An enormous thankyou to all those who have helped in any way with our activities in 2023. You are sowing seeds for the future in our village families.

Many thanks to you all for your support and Prayer

Alison Larkham (Children's work coordinator)

17. Missions

In line with our Charities giving policy, and following an invitation to all church members to nominate charities for support, 10% of our income in 2023 was shared between:

- Julia's House,
- Bible Society,
- Salisbury Hospice,
- Salisbury Trust for the Homeless,
- Christians against Poverty,
- The Bridge Project.

Arrangements are periodically made for these charities to have an opportunity of presenting on their work, normally at a Café Church service, and in 2023, presentations have already been received from Salisbury Trust for the Homeless and The Bridge Project.

The Harvest Festival and Advent collections (NB non-monetary) involved Alabare and Salisbury Foodbank (NOTE - not to be confused with the Trussell Trust). There was some discussion both about, and with, the Alderbury Bungalow, which resulted in a similar gifting, made in previous years, being shelved by agreement for the time being.

Other established areas of support in 2023 continued to include the church's supporting Tearfund through the Quiz Night where funds raised were given to the charity. We also continue to give an annual donation to Wiltshire Historic Churches Trust, and to support their Ride and Stride challenge event. For information, in recent years, the church's support across its various charity partners has, annually, exceeded £5,000.

Stephen Mansfield

18. Lay Pastoral Assistants

The Lay Pastoral Assistants provide pastoral care for individuals, families and groups within the church and neighbourhood. There are currently three LPAs who meet together on a regular basis. A pastoral network list is in place providing oversight of members of the congregation and is monitored for any concerns, so that support can be offered. Additional pastoral support is offered through homegroups and prayer groups as well as on an informal basis amongst Church members. During the vacancy any pastoral matters needing clergy support are referred to the Team Rector.

Diane Tapper acts as the contact person for Baptism families and also takes home Communion to those unable to get to Church.

LPAs were available to offer support at the All Souls Service, which was well attended and appreciated. Throughout the year, LPAs have access to Continuing Ministerial Development courses provided by the Diocese of Salisbury on a range of topics including recent updating safeguarding training.

Sue Fuller

19. Prayer Groups

Prayer Groups

Three prayer groups have continued to meet regularly, on a monthly basis over the past year.

Prayers for the village: meets at 9.30am on the first Sunday of the month, in St Mary's Hall. Numbers attending have remained constant and it has been encouraging to see how God has answered prayers. Items for prayer for the month are circulated to all members of the Church.

A team of people provide a range of materials for the prayer table, which is changed on a monthly basis. Do take a look and make use of the ideas provided. There is a book in which to write requests for prayer.
A card giving a prayer walk around the various features of the Church is available on the welcome table, and prayer cards are in each pew.
Prayer for healing: Members of the group have continued to meet regularly to pray for the sick and those in need. A confidential list is updated every month. Prayers for healing are also offered once a month during Communion.
The Julian Group: The group is ecumenical and newcomers are always welcome. The half hour of silent prayer is much appreciated by all those who attend. The group meets in the homes of the different members who also provide a 'thought for the day' and a cup of tea!
Sue Fuller

20. Homegroups

There are three homegroups, each different in format and regularity of meeting. Two meet in the evening and the other in a morning.
The Thursday evening group meet fortnightly, in a home and have enjoyed studies in the Psalms as well as other topics. Several new members have joined the group during the year.
The Monday evening group has become more established over the year, meeting weekly in St Mary's Hall even when numbers are small. A series on the Fruit of the Spirit provided some interesting and helpful discussions. Members also support each other through a WhatsApp prayer group.
The Tuesday morning group meets weekly, at St Mary's hall. This year's studies have included looking at how to live out faith in daily life and looking at Jesus' parables. Both series resulted in interesting and challenging discussions.
The leaders of the three groups meet regularly, to review, plan and share ideas. It has been encouraging to see growth in the number of people involved in homegroups over the year. Groups provide a valuable opportunity to meet in an informal setting and look at a range of topics, seeking to gain a greater understanding of faith and how it applies to everyday life. There is also chance to get to know people, to share pray needs and enjoy a coffee. New members are always welcome.
Sue Fuller

21. St Mary's In The Community

The Boundary Coffee Shop continues to provide an opportunity for folk in the village to meet socially with friends. During 2023 we took £3,938 in income and donated nearly £1,600 to the local school and other village organisations. We contributed £1135 to the upkeep of the village hall by means of a weekly charge.
The Coffee Shop would not be the success it is without the help of those who serve on a Friday morning – and those who bake cakes for us. Thanks to all of you.

Men's Breakfast met only 3 times during 2023 due to illness. Each Breakfast attracts 20+ men, and continues to be a worthwhile activity. After 16 years Andy feels it is time to step down from organising the Men's Breakfast, and hopes others will come forward to keep it going.

Lunch Club We only managed 3meetings in 2023 but we have one planned for 7 February 2024. We visited the Green Dragon in Alderbury on 24th May and 28th November both of which meetings were well attended by up to 20 people and the Red Rover in Wellow on 23 February, again with a good attendance.
If you know of anyone, especially those living alone, who would benefit from a time of sociability over a meal, please do make sure they get a copy of the menu invitations that are now being sent out with the regular church circulars and are placed at the Coffee Shop.

22. Mothers Union

The Mothers' Union Prayer & Fellowship membership increased by two new members during 2023 but sadly lost one very devoted member with the death of Revd. Anthea Cochrane in October. At the end of the year our membership stood at 13. The group has continued to support the church and community . Three members take part in the monthly Open The Book assemblies in the school and six members are part of the Tuesday Home Group studying the bible. Our monthly programme, usually in St Mary's Hall ,consisted of talks, discussions, creative activities and social gatherings in members' gardens. We continued to raise money for the worldwide MU Projects for those in need.
Mary Hinchcliff (Secretary)

23. Alderbury and West Grimstead School Report

The major focus of 2023 for the school was the implementation of our new curriculum, "Curious City", which we had launched in September 2022. Ongoing staff training took place, and by the summer, pupils were confidently and enthusiastically, talking about their learning.

At the start of 2023, Governors approved a decision to join "Pickwick Academy Trust" (PAT). In recent years there has been a clear direction of travel towards academisation, both from National Government, Wiltshire Council, and the Diocese. The PAT is a mixed academy, meaning they have both church and non-church schools. It also enables us to work more closely with neighbouring schools (Pitton and Winterslow, who we already had links with, are part of the PAT).

From an administrative point of view, much of the year was spent working on this transfer, with various legal aspects to worked through, including leases on the land and buildings, as well as the TUPE process for staff. The school finally joined PAT on 1 December 2023.

The School Vision **"Foundations for Life"** based on the parable of the wise and foolish builders, told by Jesus (Matthew 7:24-27) has become well embedded and our curriculum makes clear links with this vison:

- **L**earning – We encourage our pupils to be independent, reflective, resourceful, responsive and resilient.
  The curriculum encourages pupils to enquire and develop these skills.
- **I**ndividuals – We encourage our pupils to have freedom of thought and speech, showing respect for themselves and others.
  The curriculum encourages pupils to enquire and think for themselves.
- **F**riendship – We encourage our pupils to form a strong and cohesive community, developing positive relationships in school and beyond.
  The curriculum encourages pupils to work co-operatively on enquiries.
- **E**nvironment – We encourage our pupils to take responsibility for the environment and to look after the earth's resources.
  The curriculum has a strong environmental theme running through many of the enquiries.

The school was visited by Amanda Brockway, SIAMS Inspector, in November 2023. She was rightly impressed with the work of the school in allowing both pupils and adults to flourish. She happened to visit on our World Views day, and couldn't speak highly enough of the work the school was doing to promote awareness and respect for other world views. She concluded:

Alderbury and West Grimstead is a highly successful church school with strong Christian leadership.

- Leaders live out the distinctive Christian vision of building strong foundations for life. Leaders' strategic oversight and day to day management of school improvement is strong and purposeful.
- Enquiry-based learning experiences inspire pupils to engage well and to have high aspirations. Opportunities for spiritual development are built into the curriculum. Pupils show confidence to question, reflect and express their thoughts.
- As a result of the vision, a nurturing culture has been built and is treasured. Everybody is treated with kindness, justice and respect in line with the school's Christian values. Pupils are articulate ambassadors for their school.
- Leaders ensure that collective worship is carefully planned to be meaningful and relevant. Pupils are actively involved in leading this, enhancing the impact upon them and their peers.
- Pupils learn about a breadth of diverse beliefs and cultures. This successfully enables them to have respect and understanding for all people.

The full report is available on our website: AWGS SIAMS Report Nov 2023

As a school we are thankful for the ongoing support of the Church in many different ways:

- Those from the Church who lead our Worship on a Wednesday (Rev. Ruth, Mrs Larkham, Mrs Fuller & the "Open the Book" Team)
- The ongoing support of the congregation, both through prayer and in practical ways.

Wesley Thorpe - Headteacher

ST MARY'S CHURCH, ALDERBURY

ANNUAL REPORT & ACCOUNTS OF THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

Introduction

St Mary's Church, Alderbury, is situated in Tunnel Hill, Alderbury, and the parish is part of the Clarendon Team Ministry. The PCC Secretary is Mr Phil Spooner, and the address for correspondence is The Old Police House, Southampton Road, Alderbury, Salisbury SP5 3TF

Members of the **PCC**

The following persons served on the PCC during the year:

Churchwardens	Andy Larkham, John Fuller
Deanery Synod:	Andy Larkham, Alistair Johnson
Team Council	Alison Larkham and Diane Tapper.
Elected to 2024	Alison Larkham, Sarah Cross, Phil Spooner
Elected to 2025	Mary Clarke, Tim Ricketts, Colin Nelson
Elected to 2026	Henry Wilkinson, Susan Fuller, Diane Tapper

Advisers

The Bankers are Lloyds Bank plc, Salisbury, and CCLA Investment Management Ltd who also manage the investments. The independent examiner is Mr James Fletcher.

Object and legal status of the PCC

The object of the PCC is to co-operate with the Rector in promoting in the parish the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical.

The PCC is a charity exempted from registration with the Charity Commission and is not linked to any other trusts or charities.

Organisation

The PCC is organised into the following committees:

1. Standing Committee- empowered to deal with urgent matters arising between full Council meetings.
2. Finance and Fabric Committee - to advise the PCC on all matters of finance, fund-raising and the buildings and fixtures at the Church and St Mary's Hall.

The Missions, Prayer and Outreach Teams are not part of the PCC, but include PCC members and other parishioners.
They seek to develop initiatives in the parish to promote Christian ministry and Pastoral Care.

Attendance

There were 69 members on the Electoral Roll at December 2023.
The Usual Sunday attenders were between 35 and 50.

During the year the PCC met on six occasions, in addition to the APCM.

Two further meetings were held with the other PCCs in the Team. The purpose of these meetings was to encourage working together as part of the Clarendon Team.

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT
TO ALDERBURY PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

This report on the accounts of the PCC for the year ended 31 December 2023, which are set out on pages 4 to 7, is in respect of an examination carried out under Regulation 3(c) of the Church Accounting Regulations 2006 ('the Regulations') and section 145 of the Charities Act 2011 ('the 2011 Act').

Respective responsibilities of PCC and examiner

As the members of the PCC you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts, and you consider that the audit requirements of Regulation 3(c) of the Church Accounting Regulations 2006 and section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011 do not apply. It is my responsibility:

- to examine the accounts under Regulation 3 of the Regulations and Section 145 of the 2011 Act
- to follow the procedures laid down in the General Directions given by the Charity Commission under Section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act;
- to state whether particular matters have come to my attention

Basis of independent examiner's report

My examination was carried out in accordance with the General Directions given by the Charity Commissioners under the Act and to be found in the guidance from the Central Board of Finance of the Church of England. That examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the PCC and a comparison of the accounts with those records. It also includes considering any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts and seeking explanations from the PCC concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently I do not express an audit opinion on the view given by the accounts.

Independent examiner's statement

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention.

(1) which gives me reasonable cause to believe that the requirements

(a) to keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the 2011 Act; and

(b) to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and which comply with the accounting requirements of the 2011 Act, as also contained in the Church Accounting Regulations 2006

have not been met; or

(2) to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

17 April 2024

....2024

James Fletcher FCA
9 Old Chapel Close
Alderbury
Salisbury SP5 3EZ

ALDERBURY PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	Total 2023	Total 2022
INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS FROM					
Donations and legacies					
Planned giving	42,256	-	-	42,256	42,695
Other collections	4,479	-	-	4,479	3,724
Donations and grants	6,133	-	-	6,133	5,713
Charitable activities	2,908	-	-	2,908	1,842
Fund-raising activities	3,939	-	-	3,939	3,369
Investments	895	-	-	895	890
Total income	60,610	-	-	60,610	58,233
EXPENDITURE ON					
Raising funds	1,951	-	-	1,951	1,680
Charitable activities					
Christian worship, ministry and mission					
Maintenance of services	1,852	-	-	1,852	1,649
Youth work	181	-	-	181	330
Diocesan Share	30,204	-	-	30,204	29,325
Team expenses	3,263	-	-	3,263	2,421
Donations to other charities	5,565	-	-	5,565	7,513
Maintenance of Church and Hall	9,697	-	-	9,697	7,233
Church improvements and major repairs	7,855	-	-	7,855	7,681
Church contents and furnishings	1,055	-	-	1,055	4,800
Administrative costs	202	-	-	202	341
	59,874	-	-	59,874	61,293
Total expenditure	61,825	-	-	61,825	62,973
NET INCOME BEFORE INVESTMENT GAINS	(1,215)	-	-	(1,215)	(4,740)
Realised gains on investments	-	-	-	-	-
Unrealised gains/(losses) on investments	9,461	-	2,815	12,276	(11,434)
NET INCOME	8,246	-	2,815	11,061	(16,174)
Fund balances at 1 January 2023	130,396	-	29,921	160,317	176,491
Fund balances at 31 December 2023	£138,642	£0	£32,736	£171,378	£160,317

ALDERBURY PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL
BALANCE SHEET
AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2023

		2023		2022	
FIXED ASSETS					
Investments (at Market Value)					
CBF Investment Fund	Note 3		117,487		105,211
			117,487		105,211
CURRENT ASSETS					
Debtors	Note 4	3,150		3,540	
Current Accounts		54,741		55,983	
		57,891		59,523	
LESS: CURRENT LIABILITIES					
Creditors and Accruals	Note 5	4,000		2,417	
NET CURRENT ASSETS			53,891		57,106
TOTAL NET ASSETS			£171,378		£162,317
Representing:					
ENDOWMENT FUNDS					
Mrs A C Davies's Bequest		11,121		10,165	
Miss E C Mitchell's Bequest		21,615		19,756	
			32,736		29,921
RESTRICTED FUNDS	Note 6				
Church Fabric Fund		-		-	
			-		-
UNRESTRICTED FUNDS	0				
General Fund		138,642		130,396	
			138,642		130,396
			£171,378		£160,317
			-		

Approved by the P.C.C. on 14th April 2024

AJ

ALDERBURY PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL
NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS
AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2023

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

a. Basis of accounting

The accounts have been prepared under the historical cost convention, modified by the revaluation of investments. They have been prepared in accordance with the Church Accounting Regulations 2006, the Statement of Recommended Practice on Accounting and Reporting by Charities and applicable accounting standards. The accounts have been prepared on the going concern basis because the members of the PCC consider that the PCC is a going concern.

The accounts include all the funds for which the PCC is legally responsible; moneys whose use is subject to specific trusts are shown as restricted funds.

b. Tangible fixed assets

The Church building, St Mary's Hall and the church contents are not shown in the Balance Sheet since they are inalienable assets. Equipment is written off on purchase since it has no economic value.

c. Investments

Investments are stated at market value and the unrealised gains arising in the year are credited to the funds in which the investments are held.

d. Income

Income is recognised when received, except that income tax recoverable is recognised at the same time as the related net income.

e. Grants and donations payable (including Diocesan Share)

These are recognised in the year out of whose income they are payable.

2. CLERGY EXPENSES

These are included in Team Expenses

3. INVESTMENTS

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	Total
Market value at 1 January 2023	75,290	-	29,921	105,211
Disposals	-	-	-	-
Revaluation	9,461	-	2,815	12,276
Market value at 31 December 2023	£84,751	£0	£32,736	£117,487

The investments are held in the Central Board of Finance Investment Fund

4. DEBTORS

	2023	2022
Income tax recoverable	3,145	3,200
Other debtors	5	340
	£3,150	£3,540

ALDERBURY PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL
NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS
AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2023

5. CREDITORS

	2023	2022
Grants payable to other charities	4,000	1,701
Other creditors	-	716
	£4,000	£2,417

6. MOVEMENTS ON RESTRICTED FUNDS

	Fabric Fund	Specific Donations	Total
INCOME			
Donations and grants	-	-	-
	-	-	-
EXPENDITURE			
Church repairs and improvements	-	-	-
	-	-	-
Net income/(expenditure)	-	-	-
Realised gains on investments	-	-	-
Balance at 1 January 2023	-	-	-
Balance at 31 December 2023	£0	-	£0

Clarendon Team
Accounts
January - December 2023

	Total
Income	
100 Team Subscriptions	
101 Alderbury	3,263.00
102 Farley & Pitton	2,686.96
103 W Dean & E Grimstead	1,488.00
104 West Grimstead	768.00
105 Whiteparish	3,359.00
106 Winterslow	3,935.00
Total 100 Team Subscriptions	**£ 15,499.96**
120 Statutory Fees Retained	6,304.90
160 Other income	
161 Other Team income	855.28
162 Income from Team Services	353.95
Total 160 Other income	**£ 1,209.23**
Total Income	**£ 23,014.09**
Expenses	
200 Ministers Expenses	
202 Computing Software Subscriptions	464.19
204 Mileage	4,224.63
205 Retreats	282.14
206 Rector's Discretionary	100.00
208 Stationary	61.89
209 Telephone	793.75
Total 200 Ministers Expenses	**£ 5,926.60**
300 Team Administrator	
301 Team Administrator Salary	6,081.25
Total 300 Team Administrator	**£ 6,081.25**
400 Team Office Expenditure	
401 Team Office Computing Subscriptions /software	94.39
402 Electricty - Heating & Lighting	1,423.10
403 Insurance	376.22
404 Equipment rental - Photocopier	947.66
405 Postage & Stationary	163.32
407 Telephone & Broadband	854.88
408 Office Equipment	171.61
Total 400 Team Office Expenditure	**£ 4,031.18**
500 Team Other Expenditure	
502 Subscriptions (RSCM/VL/Roots)	287.00
504 Website	127.99
506 Other Professional Services	972.00
507 Other Expenses Gifts	825.28
508 Charity Giving	191.98
Total 500 Team Other Expenditure	**£ 2,404.25**
Total Expenses	**£ 18,443.28**
Net Income	**£ 4,570.81**