ST JOHN'S CHURCH

WEST GRIMSTEAD

REPORTS

FOR

THE ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING

2024

Administrative Information

St John's Church is situated in Church Lane, West Grimstead. It is part of the Clarendon Team within the Diocese of Salisbury. Correspondence address is The Rectory, The Copse, Alderbury.

The Parochial Church Council (PCC) is a charity excepted from registration with the Charity Commission.

Team Vicar: Position Vacant

Church Wardens: Graham Paramor and Liz Bayford

PCC Elected members:

Lynne Rose - Secretary

Jane Mundy - Treasurer

Representative on the Deanery Synod: position vacant

Team Council representative: position vacant

Parish Safeguarding Officer: position vacant

'Ordinary Members' of the PCC

George Bayford
Ann Read
Lin Shrapnell

Paula Fryer - Electoral Role Officer

St John's is an active member of the Clarendon Team

Structure Governance and Management

The method of appointment of PCC members is set out in the church representation rules. All Church attendees are encouraged to register on the electoral roll and stand for election to the PCC.

Objectives and activities: St John's PCC has the responsibility of co-operating with the incumbent, in promoting in the ecclesiastical parish the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical.

PCC Meetings

The PCC met in January, March, June, August and October

A large focus of our meetings again in 2023 were around fundraising in order to increase the church finances and ways to increase congregation numbers as well as connecting with the village community in different ways.

We were sadly not in a financial position to pay all of the share owing to the Diocese so our fundraising continued with afternoon Tea and Chat, Festival Events and another successful Crib Festival. Our longer term plans include a letter to all residents outlining the financial difficulties in the hope that we get a positive and generous response.

As we are only a very small church with an equally small Church Council, it has been at times hard work trying to keep the church functioning.

Church Attendance

The Electoral Roll for St John's Church, West Grimstead at 2023 stands at **25** people. This number has increased by **4** since 2022.

Electoral Roll Summary Report

2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
24	25	21	21	25

The next FULL Electoral Roll will be 2025.

The returns will be made to the Diocese in due course

Church Wardens Report

Sadly last December we had to say goodbye to Revd. Ruth Schofield who had to retire on ill health grounds so we are now waiting for a new figure for Alderbury, West Grimstead, West Dean and East Grimstead.

Our services have remained the same but with fewer people in the congregation! Our Morning Worship on the second Sunday is better attended. Maybe people like to have the coffee and biscuits afterwards!

With regard to the upkeep of the churchyard, Hurdcott Machinery will be asked to cut the back later on when the daffodils have all died down. We desperately need more people to help with the front grass.

A very successful Lent Group was organised and the topic for the course was The Lord's Prayer. The course was very interesting and organised by Revd David Bacon from the Landford Churches.

We continue to have our Give A Little online giving portal and a QR code that we have utilised on giving cards for the church pews, on our advertising of village events and in the Parish Magazine Grimstead Life.; although we haven't seen a large use of these to make donations to the church. We hope that in 2024 our plans to write directly to the community will encourage more support at church events and regular giving.

In mid December we held another very successful Crib Festival in the church. There were new and previous cribs of various designs around the church. The paper angels that were so popular last year were again strung across the chancel from the pulpit to the hymn board and this year were joined by paper stars made by members of the congregation. These again stayed in place until Candlemas when together with the Christmas Tree were taken down and stored for next year.

We are pleased to report that nearly 100 people attended the Carol Service which was followed by mulled wine and mince pies in the village hall. This year we held the service in candlelight with each person attending the service receiving a candle as they came into the church.

We held a very successful Harvest Supper in September with approximately 50 people attending. £500 was raised.

With help from Rev Ruth we added explanations of the format of Sunday services in the village magazine to help people who may be unsure of what to expect

1st Sunday Morning Worship with Baptism

Coffee at the end of the service

2nd Sunday Morning Worship

a 45-minute service of hymns, Bible readings and prayers with a short talk, suitable for all ages. Coffee at the end of the service

3rd Sunday

Holy Communion BCP

a very traditional service with no singing, in which we share Holy Communion

4th Sunday

Hymns at Hollyville

Hymns, bible readings and coffee and biscuits

We hope this will help to encourage people to come along to our services.

Safeguarding

West Grimstead PCC has formally adopted all Safeguarding Policies and practice guidance issued by the House of Bishops. It has a Parish Safeguarding Policy which commits it to the safeguarding and protection of all children, young people and adults experiencing, or at risk of abuse or neglect. The policy is reviewed annually. A procedure for the safer recruitment

of volunteers is in place for all new appointments. It follows the Church of England Practice Guidance: Safer Recruitment and Safer Recruitment Checklist for Volunteers.

Until the end of her time as Team Vicar, Rev Ruth Scholfield was acting Safeguarding Officer. Discussions started around Jane Mundy taking on the role in 2024

There were no serious incidents or reports during the year. All volunteers and church officers are trained and checked by the Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) as necessary for their role, and we follow Safer Recruitment procedures for new volunteers.

Statement: 'The PCC is working positively towards fulfilling its duty to have due regard to House of Bishop's Guidance on Safeguarding'

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

Alderbury & West Grimstead CEVA Primary School Report

Head Teacher – My Wesley Thorpe

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:

Learning – We encourage our pupils to be independent, reflective, resourceful, responsive and resilient

The curriculum encourages pupils to enquire and develop these skills

Individuals – 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

Friendship – 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

Environment – 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.

Treasurer's Report

Treasurer's Report - Financial Statements for the year ended 31 December 2023

The draft Financial Statements have been prepared, using receipts and payment basis (cash accounting).

The total of Unrestricted funds includes the HSBC main account and CCLA account (Rector Churchwardens and Treasurers fund.)

The balance as of 31 December 2023 for both CCLA accounts is £2924.49 and we are now receiving regular statements from The CCLA

Gift Aid has been claimed for the period up to December 2022, but is yet to be received, we are expecting c£2K.

The claim for the period to December 23 will be submitted by May 23. The in-year movement, a deficit £1382.74 of Unrestricted funds, and a surplus of £58.43 of Restricted Funds making a total in-year loss of £1324.31.

Total Funds: The PCC committee agreed to pay £6721.72 towards the Share but were unable to commit to paying the whole amount. With this exception, our outgoings are very low, with the other highest expense being the insurance. We are endeavouring to negotiate our electricity costs going forward.

Unrestrcited	**2023**	**2022**
CCLA	1170.79	1134.43
HSBA	6,102.63	7521.73
Total	**7273.42**	**8656.16**
Restricted		
CCLA	1,753.70	1699.24
HSBC Fabric	265.67	261.70
Total	2019.37	1960.94
Total	**9292.79**	**10617.10**
In year Loss of	***-1324.31***	

Reserves Policy not applicable April 2024.