

## **ALL SAINTS' BIGHTON PCC REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31/12/23**

All Saints' Church is situated at the western end of the village next to the Manor House.

It is a member of the Winchester Diocese within the Alresford Deanery and part of the Arle Valley Benefice.

The correspondence address is:

The Secretary to the PCC,  
Manor Farm House,  
Bighton,  
Alresford,  
Hampshire.  
SO24 9RD

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

Under new regulations all charity trustees are now required to be DBS checked and all members of the PCC have completed this.

PCC members who have served during the year are:

Revd. Heather Brearey, Chair  
Ian Waring Green, Lay Minister and Focal Minister for All Saints Bighton  
Mr Robert Ellis, PCC Vice Chairman (Churchwarden)  
Mr Christopher James (Churchwarden) Website & GDPR administrator  
Elected Members:  
Mrs Sarah White, Secretary  
Mrs Susan Gray, Treasurer  
Mrs Elizabeth Prescott-Decie  
Mrs Sally Ellis, Electoral Roll Secretary  
Mr Simon McCowen  
Mrs Alison Mayne, Deanery Synod Representative  
Mrs Joanna Gray

### **Changes to the PCC during the year**

None

### **Structure, Governance and Management**

The method of appointment of the 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.

### **The Living**

The Arle Valley Benefice living is held by the Revd. Heather Brearey.

### **Objectives and Activities**

All Saints PCC, together with the Rector of the Arle Valley Benefice and the Focal Minister, has the responsibility of promoting the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical, within the Parish.

The PCC is responsible for the upkeep of the Church Building and the Churchyard.

### **Membership and attendance**

The Electoral Roll comprises 31 members.

The average attendance was some 13 souls.

We are, as always, grateful to the Ministry Team for their important contribution to our Sunday services.

Our services are in the main accompanied by Dr. John Sargent on the organ, and we thank John for his musical talents.

## **Weekly Service Pattern**

Our regular weekly service pattern remains at three Sundays per month. and comprises:

First Sunday of each month - No Service.

Second Sunday of each month – Service of Morning Prayer - Book of Common Prayer

Third Sunday of each month - Service of Morning Prayer - Common Worship

Fourth Sunday of each month – Service of Holy Communion – Common Worship

Morning Prayer is said in the Church on each Monday morning and Parishioners are invited to attend.

Festival Communion Services are led by our Focal Minister and we are permitted to offer Communion by Extension.

We are deeply indebted to our Rector and Focal Minister for leading these services.

Our Focal Minister, Ian Waring Green, is our main link with the Ministry team, and we are extremely grateful to him for his Ministry to us.

## **Review of the Year**

The full PCC met face to face five times during the year; in addition to these meetings we held our APCM, with good attendance at each meeting.

There is also an emergency standing committee comprising the Churchwardens and PCC secretary; this committee met once during the year.

## **Clergy**

Rector: Revd. Heather Brearey.

Focal Minister: Mr Ian Waring Green, Licensed Lay Minister

Bishop's Permission to Preach: Mrs Alison Mayne

*Clergy Support* A part-time parish assistant, Penny Forbes, has continued in her role of Benefice Administrator.

We are grateful to our Clergy Team and look forward to working with them to further the work of the Church in the Parish of All Saints, the Arle Valley Benefice and the wider Church.

## **Festival Services**

The Easter Day service was one of Communion by Extension and was led by Ian Waring Green who also preached. It was attended by 43 adults and 7 children. There were 35 communicants.

A special service to celebrate the Coronation of King Charles 3<sup>rd</sup> and Queen Camilla was held on Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> May. It was attended by 35 people. The service was followed by a celebration party and Hog Roast at the Village Hall attended by over 160 villagers.

The Harvest Festival was held on October 15<sup>th</sup> and was conducted by Ian Waring Green. It was attended by 28 people, and the collection of £188.00 was donated to the Winchester Basics Bank, together with the tinned produce brought to the service.

The service was followed by the Harvest Lunch of Cottage Pie; it was attended by 25 guests and raised the sum of £183 for Church funds.

The Remembrance Day service was led by Ian Waring Green and was attended by 39 people; the sum of £376 was donated to the Royal British Legion.

A traditional Christmas service of Lessons and Carols was held on the evening of 17<sup>th</sup> December with a congregation of 44 adults and 9 children. The tradition of mulled wine and mince pies was observed after the service, and the collection amounting to £205.00 was donated to the "Farms for City Children" charity.

The annual Carols around the Village event this year was organised by Joanna Gray, a member of the PCC. During this some 100 people sang carols at the Village Hall before visiting the Church to listen to the Christmas story. Gifts of Christmas Tree decorations, made in the Holy Land from Olive wood, were given to each child. The group then retired to the Three Horse Shoes Pub where they enjoyed refreshments and a visit from Father Christmas, who distributed gifts to each child in the village.

The Christmas Midnight Eucharist was conducted by Ian Waring Green using the permitted Communion by Extension at Festivals rule. The Church was beautifully decorated for this joyful occasion and the congregation numbered 26, with 23 communicants.

## **Social Functions**

The main social aspects of Church life are very closely linked with village life; the Churchwardens and members of the PCC are responsible for producing the village newsletter and serve on the Village Hall committee and lead the village fete committee which in turn is responsible for the fete, village carols and other social events.

## **Weddings**

None this year.

## **Funerals**

Sadly the funeral was held on 14<sup>th</sup> February for Wilfred Charles Langridge (Wilf) who had lived in the Parish since the age of 3. The service was attended by 75 people.

## **Baptisms**

There were two baptisms this year: 30<sup>th</sup> July - Edith Charlotte Lees  
20<sup>th</sup> August - Ariella Hannah May Brooks Fielder.

## **Churchyard**

The maintenance of the Churchyard was undertaken by Trimmers until August of this year when, without prior notice, they ceased trading. We have been fortunate in securing the services of Mike and Sarah Routledge who have taken on the work from October of this year. We also provide seasonal help from the community during the year and we are grateful to the Parish Council for the grant which we receive annually towards the cost of the Churchyard.

## **Church Flowers**

We are as always grateful to Mrs Philly Sargent and her band of flower arrangers for the beautiful Altar flowers and wonderful festival decorations.

## **Family Events**

Mothering Sunday - a service of Holy Communion attended by 16 adults and 2 children. Bunches of spring flowers and cakes were distributed to members of the congregation and the mums in the village community.

Easter Day - we held an Easter Egg hunt in the Churchyard for the younger members of the congregation.

Advent calendars with a simple religious theme were given to each family in the village as part of our outreach initiative. In all some 30 were distributed, the cost being borne by the Benefice Education Trust.

## **Church Finance**

The Financial life of our Church has been over-shadowed and hampered by the activities of our former bankers, Barclays. In April they, in common with many other banks, carried out a review of all account holders, especially charities, in line with FCA rules to ensure that they were being operated to comply with the rules. All Saints Church, in common with all C of E churches, has a Parochial Church Council who act as trustees for all matters regarding the Church and has legal Governing Documents as laid down by Acts of Parliament:

Parochial Church Council (Powers) Measure 1956

The Church Representation Rules.

We are also a registered charity.

These documents were deemed sufficient by the Diocesan Registry to prove our validity as a fit body to hold a bank account; however Barclays did not accept this and closed our account without further warning in October.

Our treasurer and wardens have been actively seeking alternative banking arrangements since then and at the time of writing this report (March 2024) we have just been successful in opening an account with Lloyds PLC following further certification from the Diocesan Registry.

The PCC is grateful to our treasurer Sue Gray for her work in this respect and to our insurers for maintaining our Church Cover during this time.

The treasurer's report attached gives examined accounts for the last year.

We are, as always, grateful for generous financial donations and for the supply of heating oil and other consumable items used in Church life.

We were also fortunate that there were two community events in the village this year and members of the PCC played a significant role in the organisation of both.

The first was to celebrate the Coronation of King Charles III and Queen Camilla for which we held a special Church service and then joined the community for a Hog Roast Lunch Party.

We were also able to hold the traditional Village Fete on 10<sup>th</sup> September. The event was a great success and a donation of £3277 will be added to Church funds once the new bank account is in place.

We continue to make renewed efforts to encourage people within the Parish to join our Parish Giving scheme to boost our finances. This has met with some success, and we are most grateful to all who contributed in any way to support our Church in the Parish.

It will be noted that an ever-increasing amount of our expenditure is paid to the Winchester Diocese to cover the cost of Clergy and Diocese expenses. We would normally expect to pay our full share of the Common Mission Fund request, but due to the fact that our banking facilities were withdrawn by Barclays bank we were unable to receive our funds from the village Fete or generous donations from village members and therefore we have been unable to do so. The Diocese has taken some limited steps to reduce its expenditure and so reduce our Common Mission Fund request for the coming year. With careful management and the generous donations we hope to receive, we expect to be able to meet our Common Mission Fund Target for 2024.

### **Reserves Policy**

It is the policy of the PCC to hold minimum funds in our current account with Barclays Bank whilst investing our reserves with CBF Church of England Deposit Fund.

The PCC also maintains a Fabric reserve fund which is held with CBF but kept separate from our general expenditure.

### **Bequests Policy**

Unless otherwise stated, the PCC will treat any bequests to the Church as being for the maintenance of All Saints' Church Fabric, and they will be added to the Fabric Fund.

### **Church Website**

Our Church website [www.allsaintsbighton.com](http://www.allsaintsbighton.com) is administered by our webmaster, Chris James. This is linked to the Bighton village website and the Arle Valley website, and provides details of our services and forthcoming events, Church personnel and various policies we have adopted. The site provides an email contact page so that the outside world can contact us. It also posts pictures of the Church and a potted history of the Church in Bighton.

### **General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR)**

Our policy is in place and our administrator is Chris James. Details of the policy can be found on our website and the church noticeboard.

### **Safeguarding Policy**

Under Church of England regulations we are required to adopt a safeguarding policy of Children and Vulnerable adults. It has been decided that all churches within the Arle Valley Benefice will adopt the same policy and have the same safeguarding officer. Under the terms of the C of E policy all PCC members, in addition to being DBS checked, will be required to complete a short safeguarding awareness course online. Churchwardens will be required to complete further courses.

Details of the policy can be found on the Church website and the notice board.

### **Health & Safety Policy**

This is under review and will be placed on the Church website.

### **Church Maintenance**

Over the past three years the roof has been cleaned, timber to the Southwest elevation has been replaced and rendering has been repaired.

The heating oil tank has been repositioned to comply with regulations and the heating system repairs have been completed. Further work on the heating system may be necessary.

We are also awaiting the Quinquennial report from our Architect but we have been made aware that some conservation and repair work will be needed in the near future

### **The Future**

We are indebted to Ian Waring Green and Revd. Heather Brearey for their leadership and support to us to enable the Church to continue in this Parish.

Following the Bishop's review we remain part of the Arle Valley Benefice which comprises the four parishes of St. John's, St. Mary's, St Peter's and ourselves.

The future of our Parish looks more secure and we look forward to working with Ian and Heather to promote the mission of the Church in Bighton. We should however remember that our Church is facing ever-increasing financial demands, and it is important that we continue to find ways of increasing our income to strengthen our financial position.

### **Annual Report from the Rector for 2023**

Another busy year for the Arle Valley Benefice.

There have been challenges in 2023 but there has also been much to be thankful for.

#### **Some new beginnings:**

We held 2 alpha courses, bringing more people to relationship and deeper relationship with Christ.

A Deanery wide Befriend the End group was started by four members of our Deanery, 2 of whom are from our Benefice. The group uses the library each month to welcome people to talk about death and dying, to share, to support and to inform.

A new Benefice event began in September. Bringing families together at St John's once a month on a Sunday afternoon for fellowship, a story, craft, song and prayer.

#### **Some re-starting:**

CTIA away day in Ropley was a wonderful event with excellent speakers and time to get to know our sisters and brothers in Christ across the town.

Table talk began with a Lent course and continues.

#### **Some one-off's:**

We spent an afternoon encountering God through music.

We had a very lovely walk and afternoon tea for St Mary's.

An open day and another successful carol singing at Itchen Stoke.

A wonderful service for Mother's Union Worldwide president who visited St Mary's and planted a tree.

Bighton celebrated their Focal minister's 30yr anniversary of being licensed as an LLM.

Many regular events continued, just a glance at our Benefice Calendar tells a story of all that is happening in our Benefice.

The big occasion of the year was of course, The Coronation, with each of our parishes holding many varied and lovely events to celebrate the Coronation of His majesty King Charles III.

We sadly lost many over the 12 months including The Reverend Canon Jackie Browning, a beautiful person and priest, known to many of us who now rests with our Lord.

The life and work of this parish is only possible because of the contribution of many, many people, who are offering their gifts and time for the building of God's kingdom. I am often humbled by the remarkable dedication and generosity shown and would like to take this opportunity to express my gratitude to everyone who contributes in many varied ways to our Benefice.

As you read this report, please pray for the work and ministry of the different groups and teams that are in our Benefice and thank God for those who serve through them.

Finally, is God calling you to play a part in seeing lives changed through God's love through your parish?

Many of those who hold roles and responsibilities in our parishes are feeling tired and we really need new people to take on these roles. IS THAT YOU? If so, we'd love to hear from you! Whatever, your calling, your gift, or your passion there is a role for you in helping to grow the Kingdom in this place and time.

With my prayers and love,

Revd Heather Brearey

## All Saints Bighton Accounts

### Receipts and payments

For the year ending 31st December 2023

	Fund			Total 2023	Prior year 2022
	General Unrestricted	Kneeler	Fabric		
<b>Receipts</b>					
Weekly collections	-			-	-
Gift aided collections	4,348			4,348	4,542
Donations & Regular Giving	6,704			6,704	4,040
Parish Giving Scheme	4,263			4,263	4,652
Bequest				-	-
Fees	877			877	1,987
Interest received			226	226	92
Gift Aid recovered	958			958	1,163
<b>Activity receipts</b>					
Village Fete	-			-	3,290
Harvest Lunch	-			-	235
Beetle Drive	-			-	-
Carols round village	-			-	180
Jubilee Lunch	-			-	753
Parish Council Grant/Education Fund/M	500			500	527
<b>Total Receipts</b>	<b>17,650</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>226</b>	<b>17,877</b>	<b>21,462</b>
<b>Payments</b>					
Parish Share	7,200			7,200	12,258
Building insurance			1,440	1,440	1,612
Church event expenses	-			-	64
Fees to Deanery	150			150	225
Fees to Diocese	-			-	1,015
Electricity	210			210	342
Churchyard maintenance	1,187			1,187	1,456
Building repairs			-	-	12,018
Website	229			229	229
Queen's Jubilee booklets				-	-
Donations	-			-	514
<b>Total Payments</b>	<b>8,976</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>1,440</b>	<b>10,415</b>	<b>29,732</b>
Gain (loss) on Account	8,674	-	(1,214)	7,460	(8,220)
Gain (loss) in Share Value			13,643	13,643	(11,365)
<b>Totals</b>	<b>8,674</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>12,429</b>	<b>21,103</b>	<b>(19,585)</b>
Opening Balance 01/01/2023	30,467	164	90,965	121,596	141,181
Gain (loss)	8,674	-	12,429	21,103	(19,585)
Fund transfer	-			-	-
<b>Closing Balance 31/12/2023</b>	<b>39,141</b>	<b>164</b>	<b>103,395</b>	<b>142,699</b>	<b>121,596</b>

## All Saints Bighton Accounts

### Balance Sheet

As at 31st December 2023

	2023	2022
CCLA Share Fund	122,219	108,576
CCLA Deposit Fund	7,307	7,081
Cash at Bank and In Hand	13,173	5,939
<b>Total Funds</b>	<b><u>142,699</u></b>	<b><u>121,596</u></b>
Represented by Parish Funds :		
General Fund	39,141	30,467
Kneeler Fund	164	164
Fabric Fund	103,395	90,965
<b>Total Funds</b>	<b><u>142,699</u></b>	<b><u>121,596</u></b>

### **CCLA Fabric Fund**

01/01/2023	Opening balance 2046.75 @ 5304.80p	<b>108,576</b>
31/12/2023	Closing balance 2046.75 @ 5971.38p	<b>122,219</b>
	Gain (loss) in Share Value	<b><u>13,643</u></b>

### **CCLA Deposit Fund**

01/01/2023	Opening balance	7,081
07/01/2020	Transfer to Barclays	-
	Interest received	226
31/12/2023	Closing balance	<b><u>7,307</u></b>

### **Cash at Bank and In Hand**

01/01/2023	Opening balance	5,939
	Cash received	30,047
	Payments	22,813
31/12/2023	Closing balance	<b><u>13,173</u></b>