

st.peter's
bishop's waltham

APCM 2023

Reports for 2023/2024

Prepared for the Annual
Parochial Church Meeting
of **St Peter's Church 2024**

st.peter's
bishop's waltham

Your Church
Always Welcome

*Helping people experience
the joy of knowing Jesus*

STATISTICS 2023-2024

<u>Worshipping Comm</u>	<u>2023</u>	<u>2022</u>	<u>2021</u>	<u>2020</u>	<u>2019</u>	<u>2018</u>	<u>2017</u>	<u>2016</u>	<u>2015</u>	<u>2014</u>
Children 0 -10	32	18	25	16	13	23	28	28	24	28
Young People 11-17	9	18	19	9	9	10	21	17	26	27
Adults 18 - 69	112	111	121	117	122	130	132	126	135	142
Adults over 70	124	<u>119</u>	<u>147</u>	<u>151</u>	<u>152</u>	<u>163</u>	<u>148</u>	<u>134</u>	<u>133</u>	<u>137</u>
Total	277	266	312	293	296	326	329	305	318	334

<u>Joined/Left</u>	<u>2023</u>	<u>2022</u>	<u>2021</u>	<u>2020</u>	<u>2019</u>	<u>2018</u>	<u>2017</u>	<u>2016</u>	<u>2015</u>	<u>2014</u>
<u>Joined 18+</u>										
1 st Time	7	1	10	5	1	4	3	3	2	2
Moved into Area	4	11	20	4	4	9	14	11	6	4
Moved Local Church	5	6	9	0	2	1	6	0	2	2
Returned	16	<u>2</u>	<u>12</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>12</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>0</u>
Total	32	20	51	9	19	20	25	14	12	8

<u>Left 18+</u>										
Death/Unwell	3	6	3	9	5	5	3	9	4	10
Moved Away	2	2	7	4	7	4	1	4	6	3
Moved Local Church	6	13	13	2	3	2	4	3	1	1
Not Worship anywhere	13	<u>36</u>	<u>9</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>18</u>	<u>9</u>	<u>9</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>3</u>
Total	24	57	36	16	33	20	17	22	16	17
Net Change 18+	+8	-37	+19	-7	-14	0	+8	-8	-4	-9

<u>Joined under 18</u>										
1 st Time	7	7	13	5	2	3	1	11	4	2
Moved into Area	4	0	1	0	1	1	0	0	1	5
Moved Local Church	5	3	3	0	3	0	0	0	9	0
Returned	16	<u>0</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>9</u>	<u>0</u>
Total	32	10	22	5	8	4	1	11	23	7

<u>Left under 18</u>										
Death/Unwell	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Moved Away	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Moved Local Church	0	3	2	0	0	1	0	0	0	6
Not W anywhere	16	<u>15</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>16</u>	<u>15</u>	<u>2</u>	14	<u>5</u>	<u>0</u>
Total	16	18	4	1	16	16	2	14	5	6
Net Change Under 18 ³	+16	-8	+18	+4	-8	-12	-1	-3	+18	+1

<u>Electoral Roll</u>	<u>2023</u>	<u>2022</u>	<u>2021</u>	<u>2020</u>	<u>2019</u>	<u>2018</u>	<u>2017</u>	<u>2016</u>	<u>2015</u>	<u>2014</u>
	236	236	231	231	232	238	233	232	230	237

<u>Av Attendance Oct</u>	<u>2023</u>	<u>2022</u>	<u>2021</u>	<u>2020</u>	<u>2019</u>	<u>2018</u>	<u>2017</u>	<u>2016</u>	<u>2015</u>	<u>2014</u>
<i>(up to 2022 including Fresh Expressions Messy Church and Breakfast @ 9)</i>										
<u>Sunday</u>										
Sunday Adults 16+	128	114	119	62	142	134	131	127	133	140
Sunday Children and YP	11	<u>7</u>	<u>11</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>13</u>	<u>12</u>	<u>12</u>	<u>12</u>	<u>12</u>	<u>15</u>
Av Sunday Attendance	139	121	130	65	155	146	143	139	145	155

<u>2023</u>	<u>2022</u>	<u>2021</u>	<u>2020</u>	<u>2019</u>	<u>2018</u>	<u>2017</u>	<u>2016</u>	<u>2015</u>	<u>2014</u>
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Weekday

Weekday Adults 16+*	29	29	14	18	29	24	18	17	16	18
Weekday CYP	0	0	0	0	<u>3</u>	<u>4</u>	0	0	0	0
Av Weekday Attend	<u>29</u>	<u>29</u>	<u>14</u>	<u>18</u>	<u>32</u>	<u>28</u>	<u>18</u>	<u>17</u>	<u>16</u>	<u>18</u>
Av Weekly Attendance	168	150	144	83	187	174	161	156	161	173

*includes midweek communions, home communions, nursing home communions, letters, zoom, you tube

<u>Easter/Christmas</u>	<u>2023</u>	<u>2022</u>	<u>2021</u>	<u>2020</u>	<u>2019</u>	<u>2018</u>	<u>2017</u>	<u>2016</u>	<u>2015</u>	<u>2014</u>
C Eve/Day (Attend)	285	227	161	127	273	326	331 ⁴	744	601	679
C Eve/Day (Comm)	226	172	133	53	195	236	225	215	173	267
A (Congregation)	532	330	250	na	740	682	693	574	518	478
A (Community)	619	680	na	na	721	670	721	471	687	874
E Day (Congregation)	167	147	108	na	261	232	234	197	246	262
E Day (Communion)	147	117	65	na	193	185	185	161	217	222

<u>Occasional Offices</u>	<u>2023</u>	<u>2022</u>	<u>2021</u>	<u>2020</u>	<u>2019</u>	<u>2018</u>	<u>2017</u>	<u>2016</u>	<u>2015</u>	<u>2014</u>
Baptisms	10	19	12	1	10	16	15	18	20	15
Thanksgivings	2	0	0	0	1	1	3	4	0	0
Weddings	4	4	11	4	7	17	14	6	14	17
Wedding Blessings	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Funerals Church	18	20	10	16	18	27	24	22	30	27
Funerals Crematorium	3	4	5	17	3	7	2	1	10	4
Burial Only (Ashes/Body)	2	5	8	6	2	-	-	-	-	-

<u>Fresh Exp (Oct Figs)</u>	<u>2023</u>	<u>2022</u>	<u>2021</u>	<u>2020</u>	<u>2019</u>	<u>2018</u>	<u>2017</u>	<u>2016</u>	<u>2015</u>	<u>2014</u>
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Messy Church (3rd Mon) – Sunday Funday from 2023

Adults	na	not Oct	20 (18)	na	14 (7)	11	14	13	8	7
Children	na	not Oct	23 (19)	na	<u>18 (11)</u>	<u>16</u>	<u>21</u>	<u>21</u>	<u>11</u>	<u>13</u>
Total	na	not Oct	42 (37)	na	<u>32 (18)</u>	<u>27</u>	<u>35</u>	<u>34</u>	<u>19</u>	<u>20</u>

St Peters @ Free Street 'Breakfast @ 9' (2nd Sunday)

Adults	na	na	na	na	42 (0)	43	41
Children	na	na	na	na	<u>8 (0)</u>	<u>17</u>	<u>12</u>
Total	na	na	na	na	<u>50 (50)</u>	<u>60</u>	<u>53</u>

Overflow @ 4 (1st Sunday)

Adults	na	na	na	na	26 (6)	na	na
Children	na	na	na	na	<u>14 (7)</u>	<u>na</u>	<u>na</u>
Total	na	na	na	na	<u>40 (13)</u>	<u>na</u>	<u>na</u>
Total	na	na	na	na	<u>122</u>	<u>60</u>	<u>53</u>

Small Groups

	<u>2024</u>	<u>2023</u>	<u>2022</u>
<u>Family, Children and Youth</u>			
<u>Children</u>			
Teeny Tinies	30		
Garden Gang	68 (38C/30A)	42	
Sunday Club	28 (18R 28T)	27	
Sunday Funday	8-27C/16-30A	20	
Butterflies (BM)	40 (21C 19A)	35	
Table Talk	10	na	
<u>Youth</u>			
GWNN	21 (16B 5G)	15	
Youth Choir/Band (start 2023)	26	na	
<u>Men and Women</u>			
<u>Women</u>			
Ladies Group	46	60	61
Mothers Union	65	65	71
W@SPS (re-start 2023)	tbc	tbc	31
Knit and Natter	15	15	17
Flower Arrangers	17	17	16
Flower Arrangers (BM)	21	21	21
<u>Men</u>			
G@SPS	56	tbc	40
Men's Breakfast	60	60	59
<u>Music</u>			
Choir	23	27	27
Extended Choir	27	23	23
Band	18 (14+4)	14	14
Bells	15	15	12
Hand Bells	15	16	14
Choir (BM)	14	14	14
Extended Choir (BM)	8	8	8
Band (BM)	14	10	10
Bells (BM)	9	6	10
<u>Social Active</u>			
MVFB	5 (30 Total)	7	7
MVBB	6	4	4
Parish News	8	8	8
<u>Connect Groups (Home Groups)</u>			
Connect Groups x13	144	100	92
<u>Prayer</u>			
Morning Prayer-Mon	14	8	8
Morning Prayer-Tue	12	15	8
Morning Prayer-Wed	4	4	na
Morning Prayer-Thu	15	15	15
Morning Prayer-Fri	4	4	na
Prayer for RRR	tbc	na	na
<u>Christian Basics</u>			
Parenting	na	7	10
Alpha (Evening/Day)	na	na	20
Christianity Exp	na	na	na
<u>Church</u>			
PCC SP	15	15	15
PCC BM	11	11	11
Leadership Team/SC	15	15	2

CONGREGATIONS/SERVICES/WORSHIP

8.00 Service

The 8am Book of Common Prayer service of Holy Communion is very much appreciated by the congregation, but we were sorry there was no service on 31st December 2023. The size of our congregation varies during the year (it's cold and dark outside during Winter), but we arrive to find warmth and a welcome as soon as we come through the door.

We are already missing Les Page who has left for Australia to join his family in Cairnes, Australia. Because the 9 clockers come in for their service when our worship has ended, it's unfortunate that we don't have time and space for fellowship and chat as we disperse at the end of our service.

Rosemary Easton

9.00 Service

Overall, we have had encouraging year of regular normal worship providing a good 'classical' service led by our wonderful choir with Communion on the 1st, 2nd and 3rd Sundays and Morning Worship on the 4th Sunday.

Within our worship, we focus on encouraging every person to be fully part of our worship in their personal presence and participation. The core elements of our worship include: a warm welcome on the door, as we sit together and afterwards; fellowship and conversation over coffee (with the 10:30am congregation in the 'Crossover Coffee' time); sung worship with a variety of hymns and songs; prayers and intercessions; bible centred sermons with application to everyday life; and the sharing of communion. Over the year it has been lovely to have new people join both the congregation and choir.

We also very much appreciate our Bell ringing team who ring and call people to worship every Sunday and with an extended time after Morning Worship on the 4th Sunday. And we are especially grateful to our choir led by our Music Director Michael Coker, supported by Emma Dean week by week.

Finally, we are very grateful for all who do so much to enable our services to happen week by week: those who lead and preach; those who read; those who lead our prayers; those who serve; and those who welcome and make refreshments. As we look forwards, we have a few things in mind: to keep doing what we do well; to introduce a new communion musical setting and music/hymns; to extend our coffee/fellowship area in addition to the back of church; and finally, to work on a new set up on the carpeted areas e.g., choir seating/lecterns, welcome and family area.

Revd James

10.30 Service 'Sunday Central'

Over the past year we have been continuing to build up our 'modern/contemporary' service. We continue to work on our plan to develop the service. Things we have already done are: a new name 'Sunday Central'; crossover coffee with the 9am congregation; a new band location and equipment; sitting more at the front section (the back pews are roped off); installation of new AV and camera equipment (and training up of the team); and purchase/use of new presentation software called 'Worship Tools'. We have also been working hard on a more 'joined up style' and 'flow' to the service through the coffee time welcome, sung worship, bible reading, talk, response and prayer.

As we look forwards we want to continue developing the above areas and focus on some other improvements: our new carpeted 'Family Area' to the North Aisle for families who come; our coffee/fellowship area at the back of church and including 'taking coffee/pastries to people as they arrive; more personally led sung worship e.g., through a 'sung worship leader' on 2nd and 4th Sundays (to be re-advertised); and blending the bible reading, talk and prayer together. Our aim is to continue to use a blend of licenced and lay leaders and speakers under the oversight of our core team who include: James Hunt, Bev Rutter, Emmie Kerby and other visiting speakers.

Finally, we are grateful for all who do so much to enable our services to happen week by week: those who lead and preach; those who read; those who lead our prayers; those who serve; and those who welcome and make refreshments.

Revd James

Thursday 10am Service

The Thursday 10am is a short service that is taken from the Book of Common Prayer. It is a warm and friendly service with a lovely and welcoming congregation. The service lasts about 40mins. The Thursday 10am service is held weekly apart from the 3rd Thursday in the month when we have coffee with 'Thought for the Day' or Reflection. During this time we have a chat about Christianity or just a wonderful informal chat amongst ourselves.

May the Good Lord look after the Thursday and keep us all in faith and fellowship together.

Celia Morant

St Peter's Church Choir

St Peter's Church Choir continues to flourish in leading congregational worship through music. In 2023, the Choir comprised 20+ loyal and regular attending Christian singers. We are also able to call upon many singing 'reinforcements' to support incidental services and special occasions. The Choir sings weekly at the 9.00am Parish Communion & Morning Worship Services, also partnering with Worship Band members at 'Joint' Services. Additionally, the Choir sing at 'special' Services including 4th Sunday Choral Evensong and other Church Festivals. Following the Choir participation in the St Peters 'Marriage Preparation Day' (February 2023), the Choir were invited to sing at a number of 2023 Weddings, and supported several Funerals, as requested. During 2023, the Choir contributed to several Bishops Waltham Community events including the September Country and December Christmas Fayres: also, leading Carol Singing at the 'Crown Inn'!

The Choir are a versatile group of singers, providing a very wide- ranging repertoire from traditional Soprano, Alto, Tenor, Bass (SATB 4 Part Harmony) to 21st Century songs and including Iona, Taize, Thomas More, Rizza and many Anthems.

The Choir operate in a warm, friendly, worshipful, welcoming team environment – we enjoyed a Choir Christmas 'Party' and other social events during 2023! We will continue to seek new singers of all ages and abilities! Our close musical links with local Churches continued in 2023, particularly enjoying working with our Choir colleagues at Blessed Mary, Upham. We also participated in several wider Events in 2023 including the Deanery Ascension Service at St John the Baptist, Shedfield. We remain affiliated to the Royal School of Church Music (RSCM).

In September 2023, we launched a new Junior Choir at Bishops Waltham Infants School, led jointly by Michael Coker with a School teacher, and supported by a small team from St Peters on a weekly rota basis. Initially 20+ Year 2 children attended, doubling to over 40 children from Christmas 2023 with Year 1 children singing. We plan for the

Junior Choir to participate in Church/ Community Events in 2024; including the Mothering Sunday Service (10 March 2024) and St Peters Country Fayre (21 September 2024).

Michael Coker

Worship Band

St Peter's Worship Band comprises 10- 12 singers and instrumentalists. The Band plays twice monthly at the 10.30am Contemporary Worship Service (Sunday Central). In 2023, generally 8-10 musicians played at 20 Sunday Central Services also collaborating with the Choir at some 'Combined' services. Additionally, the Band supports Church family Baptism Services, Family Advent Carols, Crib Services & Christmas Day. Increasingly we include 'child friendly' music for the growing numbers of children attending Sunday Church activities. During 2023, the Band made a debut appearance at the St Peters Country Fayre.

Michael Coker, Music Director leads the Band, working with various Service Leaders. The Band currently has 6 singers, 3 guitarists (including a Bass), a drummer, a flute, a violin, and keyboard player. During 2023, the Band switched positions with instruments on the North side of the Church (and singers in a more central position). We continuously review Band positioning and seek sound enhancements to assist Service Leaders and to enable congregational worship.

The Band are a warm, sociable, worshipful, team; and we attempt to work closely and deeply with Service Leaders and the congregation. We continue to welcome new singers and instrumentalists of all ages and abilities! We have extended a varied repertoire consisting mainly Top 100 Worship Songs (as classified by CCLI – Christian Copyright Licensing International).

As Sunday Central continues to evolve and attracts a growing congregation, we covered some 4th Sunday Services in 2023 with additional Worship Music Leaders (Emma, Danielle). The aspiration is to gradually enable sung worship at all Contemporary Worship Services, replacing the recorded music currently used when the Band are not scheduled to play. We play an active role in the South Hampshire 631 Worship Network & Training Group for Worship Leaders and Teams.

Michael Coker

Flower Arrangers' Report

In 2022 we welcomed two new members to our team, Jennie Richards and Jill Tooze, and their help is much appreciated.

For Easter we decorated the Church and built the Easter Garden in the Lady Chapel, this is always such a colourful time with Spring flowers and new foliage and was especially appreciated after the long days of lockdown.

Next came the Platinum Jubilee celebrations for our late Queen Elizabeth and again the Church was decorated with red, white and blue floral arrangements, flags and bunting.

Harvest in September was another Festival to celebrate with Autumn flowers and foliage as well as a magnificent display of Vegetables arranged by John and Chee Price and Linda Smith for which we were all so grateful. Fortunately these arrangements lasted well and were admired by the many people who came to the Country Fair in the Churchyard and inside the Church and thanks also go to the PCC who supported us at this time. Remembrance Sunday was then marked with fine displays of Poppies arranged by Betty and Hazel.

It wasn't long after this that the Christmas trees were back in Church; thanks go to David Williamson and his team who put them up and to Rod Passingham for the lights. The flower ladies decorated the trees and also the Church ready for the Christmas services and many visitors who came to see the lovely displays.

Each week there are flower arrangements in Church (except during Lent and Advent) and in the porch as well; since the pandemic there have been fewer weddings and we are most grateful for the financial help we have received so we can purchase flowers when needed.

We now look forward to Easter 2023 followed by the Coronation of King Charles in early May. Everyone is so grateful to Betty Thompson and Hazel Roddis who lead the team and check the flowers regularly; to Edna Dear who liaises with wedding couples and those who ask for a Memorial Vase in memory of a loved one, and of course to all our arrangers who help week by week. They are always pleased to welcome new people who would like to join us.

Susan Tatton-Brown

Discipleship including 'Connect Groups'

Our Home/House Groups were rebranded in 2022/2023 to come under the umbrella name of 'Connect Groups'....which are to help us connect with God, with others and with ourselves. I am very grateful to all our leaders for the care they have given to members of our Church and to each other. We have a good number and range of groups, some which have been around for a long time and some being newer. Some groups are traditional in what they do e.g., friendship/fellowship, bible study and prayer, and some are more 'organic' doing the similar things but in different ways and looking to see how they can serve outwardly. The groups we have are as below and in the last year we have had 4 new groups added:

Alice Watkins – Monday 12:30pm Weekly

Sheila McNerney 'Northbrook' - Monday 2:30pm Fortnightly

Jenny Searle - Monday 7:30pm 1st and 3rd Mon

David and Beryl Williamson 'The Chosen' Tuesday 7:45pm 1st and 3rd

Pat Gover 'New Seekers' - Tuesday 7:45pm 1st and 3rd Tue

John Tooze 'Dolphins' Tuesday 8:00pm 2nd and 4th Tue

David Proud and Annie Thomas 'RAGtime' - Tuesday Evenings Monthly (usually over a meal)

Judy Benham – Wednesday 10am Weekly

Moray Thomas - Wednesdays 2pm Weekly

Sue Palmer 'Pilgrims' - Wednesday 10:30am Fortnightly

Ray Syrett 'Frogmore' - Wednesday 7:30pm 1st and 3rd Wed

Celia Morant – Thursday 10am Weekly

James Hunt - Thursdays 10:45-12:15am

Nigel and Susan Hyde – Thursdays 6:30pm Weekly

Cathie and Mike Salter – Thursday 7:30pm Fortnightly

Michael and Christine Coker Thursday 8.00pm Weekly (courses with rests inbetween)

Kate Smyth - Periodic College/University Coffee Shop or Zoom!

As we look to the future it is likely that small groups will need to play a greater and more central role in the life of our church to reach new people and to help us grow in our discipleship.

Revd James

Prayer

Over the year it has been really encouraging to be part of a growing prayer life at St Peter's and Blessed Mary with daily prayer of various kinds and more people joining in. At meetings we endeavour to start and close in prayer and be prayerful throughout, and we of course pray in our services. An overall theme of prayer is to listen better and be more reflective than just 'talk at God with our lists of things'. Our daily prayer groups are as follows:

Monday – 8:30am Zoom Common Worship Prayer

Tuesday – 8am Zoom Reflective and Open Prayer (especially for the life of our churches)

Wednesday – 8:45am St Peter's Celtic Prayer

Thursday – 8am Zoom Celtic Prayer

Friday – 8:45am St Peter's Celtic Prayer

As we look forward we want to start a prayer for 'reform, renewal and revival' in us and in our community!

Revd James

PASTORAL

Pastoral Report

General

Normal mixing has been more acceptable this year although those with a vulnerable health condition are still wary. Friends continue to kindly offer support and thank you all who offer encouragement, love and friendship in whatever way you can.

Online worship where available to people, is appreciated with some attending one service and watching others on-line. The weekly update, with sermon, is still delivered and appreciated by those without internet access.

Thank you all who have helped.

Welcome and Hospitality

The welcome to people within our church community, whether new or established, is very important. The greeting given by the Sidespersons and others on Sunday mornings, and the opportunity to socialise between Services either with coffee and biscuits/warm pastries or just to chat, are appreciated. Other welcoming activities include Invitations to join groups, whole congregation lunches/picnics, and St. Peter's Café which provides tea, chat and lively discussion on a Wednesday afternoon in church. Coffee and Cake (plus Reflection with one of the Clergy) at 10am on the third Thursday has become increasingly popular. This isn't only for those who attend the Thursday 10am service. All are welcome

Visiting

There are some people who would love to visit you for a chat over a 'cuppa' if you live alone and would like some company

Home Communion

This Ministry has been fully restored this year including to the Care Homes and to individuals who are not able to attend church for whatever reason.

Hospital visits

Many are in hospital for short periods but if you know of somebody who is in hospital or unwell at home for a long period a Clergy visit can be arranged – but please check with the person or a family member.

Practical

Support eg meals can be offered in an emergency

Please contact Di Hunt (dianahunt6@gmail.com Tel: 893372) initially who can make the arrangements for any of these.

NB All visitors have undertaken our Safeguarding requirements

Bereavement Support : Wendy Cooper

Members of our congregation who are bereaved receive comfort and support as much as possible and, jointly with the Community Bereavement Support Group, a Time to Remember Service is arranged twice a year. Many find this time of quiet reflection and the lighting of candles in memory of their loved one helpful and comforting.

Baptisms: Liz Webb

In 2023 there was a total of sixteen baptisms at St Peter's after the main services and two Thanksgiving ceremonies within the Sunday Central 10:30am service

It was decided to continue Baptism preparation sessions on line as this has really enabled parents and Godparents to join in without the stress of finding babysitters etc although still no substitute for face to face chats it does work for those who are joining.

The initial visits are still completed face to face (although there have been a couple of video calls!) and together with the preparation, the parents and Godparents have hopefully been helped to understand the process and the promises they were making. Although families are encouraged to consider having the service within a church service the majority prefer a separate time but it is wonderful to think what seeds are being sown when welcoming and encouraging families many of whom do not come to church on a regular basis. Your prayers are welcomed that those little seeds will grow by God's grace.

Looking forward

- Our welcome for those new to our church is very important so please do help by introducing yourself, and perhaps a couple of other people, and invite them to a social group to which you belong or home for a coffee.
- The space for between-services refreshments is currently somewhat limited but the refurbishment of the flexible side aisle areas should encourage easier circulation!
- If somebody who normally sits near you or you know about is missing from church for a few weeks please either give them a call yourself or tell Di or a Churchwarden as they could be unwell

Healing and Wholeness Prayer Group:

The members meet regularly to pray for people who are sick or bereaved or in any kind of trouble and have asked for prayer, as well as those prayed for in a church service. Those needs are also included in the daily prayers of the members. There is also the opportunity to pray over the phone with one of the team, if you are comfortable with this. If you would like the Group to pray for you or there is someone you would like prayed for or there is a specific situation troubling you, please contact Frances Cole 892533 or Jane Inder 894051

Confidentiality by the Group is guaranteed

RESOURCES

Annual Fabric Report (*-please see note below)

Thank you to all those who have worked so hard to keep our estate (Church, Churchyard, Hall & Stables) in such good order and to those who have given financial support through Planned Giving, donations and collections.

Overall management of the Church estate has continued to be exercised by myself in conjunction with Claire Alcock/Mandy Cawood, Churchwardens responsible for Buildings, Finances & Resources, supported by many other people and in particular those helping at the working parties, which were well attended. The Parochial Church Council has received regular updates on fabric related matters at each PCC meeting, including any Health and Safety issues

The **Church** continues to be maintained to a good standard overall. The problem of cracking in the turret identified by the Church Architect in 2015 continues to be monitored by the use of “tell tales”, encouragingly no further movement had taken place at the last inspection in September 2021. The leaded windows above the gallery at the West end of the Church were repaired and are now watertight. A handrail was fitted to help those with mobility issues gain safer access to the dais. The clock has been taken away for a major repair and is expected back in early 2024. The bells were inspected and necessary maintenance undertaken. The South facing louvre in the tower was storm damaged and has been replaced. Hand dryers have been installed in the toilets. Remedial work was undertaken on the Church roof, including repair of a leaking lead valley

Looking forward, the proposal to create an improved area for children and families, an enlarged area for the choir and an expanded area for serving coffee etc which would see removal of the remaining pews in the North and South aisles and two pews at the rear of the Nave, has been agreed and should be implemented early next year. Consideration continues to be given to the possible installation of solar panels on a part of the Church roof

The **Churchyard** has been well maintained this year but work is always determined by the state of the weather. The wall at the top of St Peter’s Street was repaired. Some work has been undertaken on the “wild area” adjacent to The Old Pound but no final decision has been made as to how best to tackle this area in the longer term. Any initial work and on-going maintenance would potentially be quite expensive so we are liaising with other interested parties (Parish Council, Wildlife Trust, Wilder Bishop’s Waltham) to see whether some form of joint action might be possible. The presence (or otherwise!) of amphibians and reptiles in the Churchyard continues to be monitored monthly through the involvement of the Hampshire and IOW Amphibian and Reptile Group. The “Tommy” figure was installed near the War Memorial on a temporary basis in memory of the fallen

(*Please note: Details of work undertaken in the Church and Churchyard and of the “fabric, goods and ornaments” of the Church can be found in the Church Log Book and Church Property Register which are available for inspection)

The **Church Hall** remains in good condition for its age but and following the taking down of the unsafe lean-to, a metal store was erected in its place which has provided invaluable storage. Hand dryers have been installed in the toilets. Maintenance tasks, repairs and upgrades have been undertaken and thanks are due to all those people who have contributed of their time to help create what continues to be an

attractive and well used Church and community resource. Looking forward, consideration is to be given to upgrading the A/V facilities to make them more user-friendly

The **Stables Parish Centre** remains in good condition generally with no significant structural work undertaken other than a roof repair. Maintenance tasks, repairs and upgrades have been undertaken and thanks are due to all those who have contributed of their time to keep the property in good order. The facility continues to be well used by both the Church and the community. Looking forward, consideration is to be given to upgrading the kitchenette which is looking very tired and in due course work will be required on the large office window

Paul Emmerson-January 2024
(CWP-Annual Fabric Report 2023)

FAMILIES CHILDREN AND YOUTH

Children and Family Support

FAMILY SUPPORT – This work continues- with visiting or meeting for coffee; signposting to further support as well as supporting Kate with family pastoral work.

The concept of ‘Sunday Funday’ was introduced last year but unfortunately it did not produce the numbers and fruit that was originally thought at St Peter’s so was discontinued. The Blessed Mary Sunday Funday however is working very well and St Peter’s families will be very warmly welcomed should they want to go along!

The Teeny Tinies & Garden Gang groups continue to flourish & facilitates outreach to those families who are ‘on the edge’ of our church family. Please do continue to pray for all the contacts & opportunities made that they will be fruitful.

The Group With No Name (GWNN) continues to meet on Sunday late afternoons and now is divided into 2 age groups with the younger group growing in number.

Please see Kate’s reports for more detail about the groups

Practical support continues as requested/needed including referrals to the Meon Valley Food Bank & the Baby Bank (coordinated by Hannah Horner) - this is where being part of a church family is so important and it is fantastic to see our church members out in the community!

Children’s, young people’s & parental mental health continues to be of concern and so it is still important to offer emotional support and a listening ear as situations are noted or come to the fore; again confidentiality is so vital. Thank you all as ever for all your love, prayers, kindness and support. Liz Webb

Children, Family and Youth Worker Report

Garden Gang- Wednesdays 10-11.30am

We have now been running 15 months and a lot of **new folk** come through the doors. We have a core group of about 8 families that are regular; **a lot** of families that come and go when they feel like joining in. (50 families on Garden Gang Whats app)

We have 6 months in the garden and 6 months in St Peters. The children love to explore the church and roam around as well as traditional play but also look to explore the garden and play outside.

Good conversations and regular routine with story time and singalong. We often read a Bible story and we have 4 'prayer buddies' (Mr Thankful, Mr Pleas, Mrs Sorry, and Mrs Others) to encourage and focus prayer time. We plan a walk around the graveyard as a fundraiser for WATSAN in March.

3 families come along to Sunday club that attend Garden Gang which is good.

A couple of interesting spiritual conversation with a couple of Grandparents which is interesting as they are regular attendees.

The new family space is AMAZING and I am looking forward to **settling** in to enhance the Garden Gang mission outreach.

Current Team- Kate, Yuliya, Moira, Moray, Caroline and Wendy. Always room for more!

GWNN Youth Club- Sunday 5pm-6.15pm

Currently we have 18 attend between the ages of 10 and 14 yrs

All but one don't attend St Peters. We have about 5 girls now which is great, **as the group has been 'boy heavy' [since I have been in post.**

A usual session consists of sport or activity then snack and chat followed by a Christian based discussion and prayer. Some of the youth have faith some not quite sure and some don't, but happy to come along and enjoy the session.

We took most of the youth to Westbrook for a youth camp last October. Good weekend and good Bible teaching and games/ activities.

We have split the groups in to two age groups now & they attend on a fortnightly basis.

Recently **we** took the younger ones for a climbing wall and McDonalds treat and older ones we took Bowling and McDonalds.

There is a good link with parents via the Whatsapp group and we are hoping to see if we can run a camp this autumn at CYE on a static boat for the weekend! Waiting to hear from other evangelical churches to see what their interest is.

CURRENT TEAM ON A ROTA- Kate, Sam, Vicky, Matt, Caroline and James (stand by.)

Choir Club- Wednesdays 12.20- 12.50pm

This club runs on Wednesday lunch time and has become rather popular with the children from Bishops Waltham Infant school.

Currently Michael Coker and Mrs Moth run the half hour session singing a mix of songs and Roger is volunteering. I understand Michael's aim is to invite the children and their families to church festivals as a stronger link with St Peters.

Teeny Tinies- Tuesdays 9.30-11.15am

The gentle 'walking alongside' work of this group continues; the team of 5 support parents & provide a traditional play drop in session. It appears popular with families and maintains a link with St Peters with the families being invited to services and events; it is always encouraging to see them when they do come! There are now about 80 on the Whatsapp group with a core of about 15- 20 or so who come along very

regularly. Many of the families who come along to Teeny Tinies also go to Garden Gang and the same 3 families who come to church and Garden Gang also come to Teeny Tinies 😊

Sunday Club- Sundays at St PETERS and Stables

We have seen a steady growth in Sunday club. Most children are under 6 and a few around 7 to 10. We have had up to 14 one week and then one week be as low as 6. I would love to see more commitment from the families and hope this will shift over time.

The children have been learning about Characters in the Bible and an encouraging message to help us follow Jesus today. We have a lot of interactive teaching and games /craft. Some parents stay in with us. Current team- Kate, Yuliya, Jo (PARENT) and Jane. Rebecca Hunt has kindly offered to lead the older children once a month so they feel they are not in a baby group.

We have had the pleasure of helping a young lady to complete part of her Bronze D of E award with us a We will miss her very much!

We could do with more helpers for the older group so we can provide a better service.

Adult Socials:

We had a curry night at Blessed Mary.

We took a good number of folk for an overnight pamper treat and walk which was fun and good time spent with the folk that came.

We ran a felt making evening with Jacket potatoes and fillings

Training and other things

Completed and updated all essential safeguarding

Updating my Care for the family facilitator training

Completed Lay worship leaders course

Joined PEN and attending their prayer and **meetings**

Been asked to lead a session for **the Gateway Club**

Support schools with festivals although often happened on my day?off this last year.

Supporting families in need as **needed and if possible**

Support Rev James with some aspects of Sunday **Central**

Often networking to make things happen

Often on social media platforms to advertise what we do for Families children and youth.

Supporting the WATSAN Uganda trip with seeking funding

If I am not delivering a session, I find a lot of my time preparing for the sessions and keeping on top of the term and what that brings! Sometimes the job seems crazy busy, then it feels more normal busy!

Ideally I would like to see people being trained and equipped to lead and deliver the outreach in my absence so they become strong and sturdy and feel capable. I find this hard and intend to support the few that I feel could and need a gentle push to step up. It would always be nice to invest more time 1:1 with families and see how the Lord uses natural conversation.

Kate Smyth

MISSION/OUTREACH/ EVANGELISM

Mission Team Report

As a church we support particular mission partners and people as follows:

- A. Mission partners: these are Christians that we partner directly with in proclaiming the Gospel in both work and deed, e.g., to encourage a young person choosing a gap year or early retired person to become directly involve with mission as an individual trip with an organisation or project either at home or abroad.
- B. Mission support: these are Christian organisations we support who are proclaiming the Gospel in both work and deed, e.g., Persecuted Church, poverty, health and medical.
- C. Ministry support: who are Christian organisations we support in general Christian ministry and discipleship, e.g., Christian Aid, Operation Christmas Child
- D. Community support: who are community organisations we support in a variety of Social Action e.g., local charities and support groups.

There are two extra forms of giving we have as a church:

- The Breadbasket, which is used for any disaster appeal, usually channelled through established organisations in the field e.g., Tear Fund, Red Cross; DEF
- The Blessings Box, which is used to collect donations when a mission speaker visits to talk about a specific project at a service.

Over the year the PCC give the Mission Team £6000 to allocate which we have as follows:

Category A

Christian Concern - £500

Christian Youth Enterprise - £500

Home Leone - £500

OMF (Chris and Kesia Pain in Japan) - £500

Southampton Street Pastors - £100

The Hazel Project - £500

WATSAN - £500

Category B

Bible Society - £100

Mission Aviation Fellowship (MAF) - £100

Open Doors - £100

Prison Fellowship - £100

St Michael & All Angels (Hackney) - £250

St Simon's Suppers Southsea - £100

St Thomas (Hackney) - £250

Category C

A Rocha (Christian organisation working towards a greener environment) - £250

Church Mission Society - £100

Inter Diocese West Africa Link - £200

Mercy Ships - £100

St George's Foundation - £100

US (formally USPG) - £100

Category D

Meon Valley Baby Bank - £250

Meon Valley Food Bank - £250

Breadbasket & Blessings Box

Samara's Aid Appeal - £195

South Sudan - £500

Special Action for Life Transformation - Uganda - £212

Special Action for Refugees - £300

Revd James

St Peter's Ladies Group

In 2023 the committee again took turns at leading each meeting. This seems to have been acceptable and will continue for 2024.

On January 9th the AGM was chaired by Rev. Moray Thomas followed by a very interesting talk on his Chaplaincy work abroad. In February Gary Potheary spoke about being brought up in Bishops Waltham, then Sue Hebdon's son in law Rev. Andrew Micklefield brought Kate Powell to talk about her work with the Anna Chaplaincy in Alton and the surrounding area.

There was no meeting on Easter Monday 10th April, or on 8th May which was the weekend of the King's Coronation.

A fascinating talk on the Falklands today by Tim Wills with a super collection of photos from his most recent visit was the subject for the June meeting.

Cathy and Rod Passingham's Garden was looking beautiful for the Barbecue in July when 44 members, husbands and friends attended. Tim Gover and Gareth Morgan were the chefs this year and members prepared delicious salads, for which we are very grateful. This was followed by the traditional Strawberries and cream.

A tour of Wyches Vineyard in Upper Swanmore on the evening of 14th August proved to be very interesting and the evening concluded with tasting several different wines and some lovely nibbles!

A 'Bit on the side' was the title of Davina Tibbett's talk and cookery demonstration on Watercress in September with lots of samples to enjoy during the evening.

In October our usual Skittles with a Fish and Chip supper proved very popular with Sue Jones getting the top score.

Carol Watson from Winchester gave us a beautiful slide show of Flowers from Home and Abroad in November.

New Place, Shedfield was the venue chosen for our Christmas meal and a very pleasant evening was enjoyed by all attending.

The committee are:- Linda Houlton (Treasurer) Gaynor Wearn (Secretary)

Janice Romer, Brenda Robinson, Sue Hebdon and Vanessa Emmerson.

Our aim as always for the group is to have fun and fellowship.

Men's Breakfast Report

Men's Breakfast – Speaker report 2023/2024

Once again, it's been a busy year! Men's Breakfast has continued to welcome a wide range of speakers sharing their knowledge and their stories. A recurring theme in three of our speakers has been different views of the wonderful countryside we live in. We heard how the County Council Rights of Way teamwork with a wide range of partnerships to keep our footpaths and byways open for us all to enjoy. We also had sessions with two of our long-standing members who gave us an insight into living and working in our fields, woods, coppices and meadows.

At a more legalistic level we were all intrigued to hear of the work of our local PCSOs and how they strive to keep us safe and that our villages remain a joy to live in. We also had a valuable presentation on lasting Power of Attorney; very relevant and useful for all of us.

Helping us to think about our society we heard some ideas on "An Invisible Power" as well as a thought-provoking talk and discussion on living with ADHD. In this same area we heard about the concept and practicality of being a Christian Soldier.

Finally on the lighter side we much enjoyed hearing from one of our members who cycled the Hebridean Way, remarkably, in glorious sunshine!

So in the coming year, we will continue with a mix of talks that we hope will be of interest. Looking around the 42 men at one of our breakfasts, we are so aware of how much knowledge and experience is with us in the room. What a lot of stories are there, waiting to be told.

We welcome all Men of any Faiths and None as we are an Outreach Group and enjoy our food and fellowship.

Thanks to All the Ringers, who contact our seventy strong membership every Month, to confirm who is coming and what they require for Breakfast!

David Williamson

G@SPs

G@SPs is an informal social gathering that is open to everyone, both in and outside of the church. Our focus is on going for a curry or going to the pub for a drink and a chat. In the coming year we hope to do a bit more and invite new people along. Attendance at curry evenings has been over 20 and 5-10 at the pub! Regardless of numbers, every evening is filled with great conversation and company. We hope that one or two men might take on running and growing G@SPS!

Revd James

Meon Valley Foodbank

At our recent AGM there was one statistic that stood out more than any other:

In January 2021 we helped 16 families. In January 2022 we helped 30 families and in January 2023 it was 48. A threefold increase in three years.

These are troubling figures that reflect the difficulties being experienced by many local families.

We have settled well into our new home at Wickham Community Centre and are enjoying being linked with a socially aware group of people who also have HomeStart Hampshire as tenants and run a very successful “pantry” operation as well.

Food donations continue to come in from a range of sources including churches, individuals and supporting organisations such as the ladies’ section of Corhampton Golf Club who have chosen us as their charity for the year. Financial donations have also continued at record levels which enables us to buy in food when donations do not keep pace with demand.

We have recruited some new volunteers who have brought with them new ideas on how we can improve what we do. It is likely that we will be looking for others as 2023 progresses.

The Future

The Trustees have decided that the time is right to appoint a paid Food Bank Manager. The operation has become increasingly complex as demand continues to grow and we seek to provide our clients with access to organisations such as Citizens Advice. Our service increasingly will become more than just food. An advertisement has been widely circulated and we are hopeful of making an appointment by the end of May.

We would also be interested in hearing from church members who have a passion for the disadvantaged who would like to consider becoming a Trustee of the Charity.

Mike Salter and Jane Perrott

Mothers’ Union

Mothers’ Union Report for 2023

January’s sociable start to the year was the showing of the film Wings of Eagles on a chilly evening warmed by mulled wine and popcorn! Although near Bishop’s Waltham, most members have never been to Park Place so Sister Evelyn’s talk later in the month, about the history of the estate and the Order of Sisters who live and work there was fascinating.

The AGM and Admission of a new member in February was led by The Revd. James Hunt

In early March the MU+ group that meets approximately six times a year, organised a visit to Ropley church which has been fully and sensitively restored after it was gutted by fire. A Hymn quiz organised by a member was enjoyed at the afternoon meeting. In her moving talk - Vulnerability and Joy – the Revd. Liz Quinn shared her journey to Ordination and her experiences in a completely different environment in Ghana, undertaken as part of her training.

In May there was the opportunity to observe more closely the interesting features in our church as a Treasure Trail around the building was prepared. During an afternoon session of Wool Craft, members busily knitted or crocheted small items and learnt new skills helped by those more experienced.

In June several members shared their choice of Poetry and Music and the story that made it memorable in some way - both entertaining and moving.

Unsettled weather in July prevented the Prayer, Petanque and Picnic being held at Priory Park but a sunny spell following the picnic in church, allowed us to play a game along the church path –a first!?

In September The Revd. Andrew Micklefield took us *In the Footsteps of St. Paul* (north to south) along the east coast of Greece visiting – with beautiful illustrations - some of the communities to which St. Paul wrote his letters. At the October meeting Stella Haig told us about her involvement with Refugees in Southampton. Men's toiletries, underwear, knitted hats and cash were generously donated.

A Friday morning 'Prayer' walk around the outskirts of the town was arranged for early November led by Revd. David Proud. It only rained (deluged) a few minutes before reaching the church where HOT coffee and cake awaited! At the Wednesday meeting, Caroline Scull spoke passionately about MU involvement in fighting the scourge of Modern-Day Slavery and further highlighted the MU campaign against gender-based violence. Posters giving contact details and highlighting ways in which everyone can be aware were given for to us to display in public places. The year ended with an enjoyable party

Regular commitments during the year organised by members were the Holy Week Experience for year 6 children at the Junior School and Poises were made for Mothering Sunday. A very successful Spring Fayre was held in the churchyard where quality items on the various stalls, a super raffle, activities for children and delicious refreshments helped us raise £1066 in support of MU work with families. A Summer of Hope Lunch raised further funds for MU projects overseas and the Evening Bring and Share supper supported the local AFIA initiative. As usual several Members helped the families from the local Refuges enjoy their day out. Thank you all who helped with these activities.

Opportunities for Worship were our Wave of prayer, praying especially for our Link dioceses in other parts of the world, the annual Mary Sumner Day Service at Old Alresford Church where by coincidence, the World-Wide President of MU was in attendance, and our Advent Service at Shedfield in December.

Four 90 years plus members of our Branch passed away during the year (the membership of three totalling an amazing 188 years). We have been blessed by their support, participation and interest in all our activities and they are sadly missed.

We welcomed ten new members during the year

Looking forward:

Mothers' Union is an international Mission organisation so all activities are underpinned with prayer and support of families particularly those who struggle is a key aim. We hope you will be encouraged to help perhaps with

- the AFIA days out or
- with our church activities with families or
- perhaps visiting those who are homebound including our Indoor Members or
- Branch and fundraising activities
- Suggesting ideas

MU activities may be informative and include support for and service to others but friendship and kindness are also important so every gathering ends sociably with refreshment and chat!!

Please contact Mary Blow or Di Hunt if you would like to find out more, or pick up a programme in church and just 'come along'. You will be very welcome!

Social Committee Annual Report

On Sunday 26th March a two course hot lunch was served to about 60 parishioners and friends at the Church Hall with extra helpers bringing in ready cooked jacket potatoes

The annual picnic lunch in the Rectory Garden on Sunday 25th June gave people an opportunity to share fellowship while enjoying a delicious lunch in lovely sunshine

A coach visit to the Chichester Festival Theatre on Tuesday 22th August to see a superb production of ‘The Sound of Music’ was as usual extremely popular

Finally, on Sunday 17th December, the traditional mulled wine and mince pies were served following the Lessons and Carol Service

We hope to continue to organise events to appeal to the whole Church family and the wider community. Chairman Vanessa Emmerson tel. 895079

Committee: Sally Arnott, Di Hunt, Stephanie Kelsey, Cathy Passingham, Brenda Robinson, Janice Romer, Bev Rutter and Beryl Williamson

Bishop’s Waltham and Upham Parish News Report

2023 Bishop’s Waltham and Upham Parish News Report

We try to ensure a Christian ethos is reflected in the magazine so articles or testimonies from church members supporting this are welcome. We also include items of topical or local interest and details of these from readers and local organisations are also encouraged. All contributions should be sent to bwuparishnews@gmail.com

Looking back on 2023:

We have had another successful year with 10 magazines produced and distributed. As indicated in last year’s Report, this was done to mitigate the increased costs of going ‘all colour’ by amalgamating the December and January issues when local activity is reduced.

The accounts (see main church accounts) show we made a Trading Profit of £1,224 in 2023. Over the past few years we have had a policy of reducing our reserves by making a Grants to the PCC but this commitment came to an end in 2022. However, we are mindful of the need of the PCC for funds, so we are continuing to review our ability to make a Grant, but on a year by year basis. This being the case, and based on the 2023 accounts, we are pleased to make a further Grant to the PCC for communication purposes of £1,200 early in 2024.

Collection of subscriptions continues to be a major source of income and due to the efforts of our distributors, £8,891 was collected throughout the year, an increase of £215. This is due to the willingness of distributors to pursue new subscribers both when there is a change of occupancy of a property within their delivery area and also in the new estates. They are to be congratulated on their efforts and the Parish News Committee extends their particular thanks to these dedicated individuals – we would be lost without you. Shop sales have also increased by some £300, and thanks are due to our outlets – Spar (on Winchester Road), The Post Office and the Coop, who are now selling 100 copies a month!

Malcolm Wearn joined us in 2022 as Advertising Manager and has done an excellent job. However, he would like to step down following the 2023/4 cycle of advertising activity. His replacement is being actively pursued. We thank Malcolm for his very committed input over the last two years, and hopefully we will find a suitable replacement. Other members of the team have continued in their various roles.

As anticipated in last year's report, we are delighted that we were able to come to an agreement with our current printer (The Print Room, Chandlers Ford) to enable us to move to all colour in 2023. This has been well received and certainly enhanced the appearance of the magazine.

Looking forward to 2024:

To date (Mid-January 2024) Malcolm has received advertising revenue commitments totalling £18,803 for 2024. This is a significant achievement considering the current economic climate. We thank local businesses for their continued support. Most advertising rates were increased by 10% this year, but an 'early bird' discount of 5% has encouraged prompt payment.

The biggest change that readers will see in 2024 is the increase in cover price (and hence subscriptions) to £1.50 and £15.00 respectively. This is the first increase since 2017 and follows the general increase in costs rather than just the move to colour. It is hoped this will allow the magazine to continue to make a modest profit which can be used for the future benefit of the communications element of the general church funds.

We look forward to the continued essential support of our distributors (including the shops) and advertisers as well as our contributors and we thank them wholeheartedly for their commitment to the magazine in their various ways.

Godfrey Hebdon
Treasurer

LEADERSHIP AND VISION

Parochial Church Council

The role of the PCC is to promote in the Parish the whole Mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical through helping people experience the joy of knowing Jesus

The PCC met seven times during the year, a combination of virtually and in person. The PCC continued to be supported by the Leadership Team and the Standing Committee who also met regularly during the year.

The PCC continues to review values and vision, highlighting what was going well and what still needed to be worked upon. There were regular reports from Kate, our Families, Children and Youth Worker, who was very busy in outreach activities in key areas. Numbers continue to grow at Garden Gang, Tiny Tinies and Group With No Name (GWNN).

"Welcome bags" were distributed to residents of the many new houses in the town as part of the continuing outreach to those who had moved to the town and there had been a number of new people joining the congregation and taking the Parish News on a monthly basis. Home/Connect Groups have increased in

number both of groups and of attendees so that the sharing of our faith would not only happen at regular services in church.

The PCC continued to contribute to the ongoing discussions regarding the proposed restructuring of Bishop's Waltham Deanery, including formulating a plan for the Deanery as a whole; this plan has been reviewed by the Deanery Synod and the Deanery Mission and Pastoral Committee. The plans for all Deaneries in the Diocese are now being considered by the Bishop with the aim of creating a structure across the Diocese which will enable the Church as a whole to grow in depth, impact and number whilst at the same restoring (and then sustaining) financial viability. The plans are seen as working documents which will evolve over time but some initial decisions on the way forward have been produced.

Safeguarding of children and adults continued to be a very important issue and remains a standing item at all meetings to ensure that the PCC complied with Diocesan/Church of England policies in this area, including the Church of England Code of Safe Working Practices. Training for PCC members & other volunteers continues in this area both on-line and face to face to ensure that we comply with expected processes and guidelines. There is still work to be done the compliance front but many thanks go to Laurie Rickwood who has now handed the Safeguarding Lead baton on to Luke Hawkins who will be carrying out a review of policy & statements as well as further training requirements. Please see his report.

There were regular reports from the Churchwardens, Liz Webb and Mandy Cawood, who share between them responsibility for Worship, Ministry and Mission, Property, Finance and Resources. Please see reports in this document from the various groups & committees. Our thanks go to all those who have worked so hard in these areas.

Streaming of the Services continues to be available and has become very popular and appreciated. Many thanks to the AV team for enabling this to happen.

There were regular reports on all financial matters including the agreement of the annual Budget, monitoring this by way of monthly Management Accounts and Cash Flow and on various property-related issues. All internal financial controls were reviewed by the PCC to ensure that they complied with current Charity Commission guidelines. Thanks go to Paul Emmerson, Nigel Barnfield, and teams for all their hard work on these matters. We are still looking for a replacement for Nigel who has served faithfully for over 20 years!

Health & Safety continued to be a standing item at all PCC meetings with action taken as appropriate.

Copies of the Minutes of the PCC meetings which provide much more information regarding the above are available on request from Sam Sessions in the Stables Parish Office.

Prepared by Liz Webb and Mandy Cawood. (Churchwardens) February 2024

Preaching and Leadership Team

Over the past year it has been good to have a normal routine of services. This past year had been about 'consolidation and consistency' is all that we do as well as developing some key areas. I am very grateful to the whole team for giving and serving in their leading and preaching across our wide number and variety of services. I am also very grateful also for the wider ways in which each member of the P and L Team contribute and support with baptisms, weddings and funerals; pastoral care; in prayer and in many other ways. Finally, I am very grateful to the wider lay team who help with our family, all age and more informal

worship. It has been encouraging to have 4 people commissioned this year as Lay Worship Leaders in the deanery: Celia Morant, Kate Smyth, Nick Capon and Bev Rutter. Please do continue to hold our much loved and valued P and L team in your prayers as they prepare week by week to lead us.

Revd James

Leadership Team/Standing Committee

Over the last year we have had regular meetings in between our PCC meetings. Our 'Leadership Team/Standing Committee' includes our Standing Committee (Rector, Wardens and PCC Reps) and the leaders of key paid/lay areas in our church life: pastoral care, prayer, Family/Children/Youth, fabric and finance. This past year has very much been about 'consolidation and consistency'. As we look forwards we want to now begin to focus on a number of aspects: how to respond to major changes going on in the C of E around marriage; growing all that we do with those who are more senior (Anna Chaplaincy) growing our Family/Children and Youth Work; reflective prayer; personal discipleship and witness (walk, talk and eat like Jesus!); and working on some key projects e.g., re-imagining and re-ordering St Peter's with carpeted areas and new chairs. Looking forwards we are working on a new website and administration systems. I am very grateful to all who have served over the past year.

Revd James

Worship Committee

Over Covid our Worship Committee met frequently as we sought to best respond to what was happening. Our worship team consists of representatives from our music team, leadership team and across our various congregations. Over 2023/24 we have only met once to review how things are going. As we look forwards, we want to start meeting again more regularly to look at how we can keep doing our services and do them better. Most of our services are working well, but with the need for some smaller/incremental changes. The main area to work on continues to be to 'attract and engage' more families around the St Peter's Sunday Central at 10:30am. We also want to focus on building up 'Sunday Funday' (at Blessed Mary and St Peter's) to engage with more families. At some point in the year, we want to re-introduce periodic 'reflective/prayerful' services in both a more classical and contemporary styles.

Revd James

Church Office

The weekly **Update** continues to furnish all recipients with St Peter's news. It is sent to 354 people on the database and is generally opened by around 70% of recipients. There has been an increase in the interaction from people viewing it via Facebook and Instagram.

The new Website which will launch this year will be the greatest change in how we communicate with our community who are not regular members of the Church. Hopefully, it will be easy to update and has various other features which will make promoting services, events and Christian messages much easier. I am looking forward to taking on the running of the website as soon as the new design is finished.

Weddings

In 2023 we had 4 weddings at St Peter's including our own Keith Wickert!

Funerals

We have lost many members of our Church family already this year and this is reflected in the numbers of funerals at St Peter's.

I handle all the bookings for the Church itself and with the growth in number of youth and community activities, it's lovely to see St Peter's being used for much more than just services, weddings, and funerals.

The Church office continues to be the 'hub' of St Peter's and the range of enquiries, visits and general day to day queries always makes it interesting, to say the least!

I ensure all callers and visitors are treated with care, thoughtfulness, and respect and hopefully this leads them to experience God's love through the contact they have whilst visiting.

Sam Sessions

Safeguarding

Annual Safeguarding Report 2023/24

At the end of last year Laurie reported he would be standing down from the Safeguarding role. He has passed that role over to me and following a successful handover, I am now your new Safeguarding Officer for both churches. I want to start with thanking Laurie for his hard work and diligence over the last 8 years. Safeguarding was left to me in an excellent state, as the diocese adapts and changes to a more digital setting so must we. Following on from last year I have set out 2 levels of objectives which have been approved by James and the PCC.

Safeguarding concerns

Since the last APCM report, safeguarding matters that have arisen have been dealt with appropriately & efficiently. Whilst any concerns should ideally be raised with myself or James, as the Incumbent, in an emergency where a child or vulnerable adult is in immediate danger or requires medical attention there should be no delay and the police should be called immediately on 999. We are also fully compliant with safer recruitment guidelines.

Parish activities risk assessment update

Upon taking on the role and reviewing some of our documentation and to ensure we were in line with diocese requirements we have updated our activity risk assessments. This year I have begun asking that all risk assessments now include a list of all employees, volunteers and helpers prior to the activity taking place and further for me to be informed if this list changes. This will ensure that any changes are recorded and further, it will provide us with a record of contact with potentially vulnerable individuals should we ever need to run an audit. Those organising and leading parish activities & events understand the importance of completing risk assessments and in ensuring that supervisory ratios are in accordance with the Parish Safeguarding Handbook.

Parish Safeguarding Dashboard

At the last APCM Laurie referred to “Parish Safeguarding Dashboard” [PSB], an online tool that was being rolled out across the Diocese and which would make safeguarding administration and governance in parishes simpler. This has now been populated and is kept up to date on a monthly basis. Our action plan has been uploaded and we continue to make progress against their requirements.

Medium term objectives:

Policy and Governance

I have produced the following documents, these help us to demonstrate to the diocese that we conform to their regularly updated guidelines and that we understand and know how to implement them:

- Safeguarding policy action plan
- Safeguarding policy for recruiting Ex-Offenders
- Safeguarding statement to be displayed on our website.

All documents have been reviewed by the leadership team and have been published to our website or stored.

Safeguarding Training and DBS requirements

Last year Laurie reported... Whilst the PCC is charged with the responsibility for “Promoting a “Safer Church” and “Safeguarding” continues to be a standing item on the PCC agenda, Safeguarding remains the responsibility of each one of us, volunteers and employees alike.

The Diocesan policies and processes promote the welfare of children, young people and adults by:

- Preventing abuse from occurring,
- By mitigating the risks of abuse, and
- In responding well to those who have been abused or seek assistance.

In support of the Safer Recruitment policy, the Parish has developed core job descriptions that can be adapted to a range of roles and the Diocese has provided guidance about what level of vetting [DBS] is required.

However, “Safeguarding” doesn’t end with a “Criminal Conviction check” - training is provided to support all within the Church to effectively recognise and respond to possible abuse and implement best safeguarding practice.

The Diocesan training packages that need to be completed are tailored to the role being undertaken and, in the main, are conveniently accessible online. Most can be completed within an hour or so but others, notably linked to leadership roles, will require more in-depth training which reflects those additional responsibilities. I have received positive feedback about the quality of all of these courses. Subject to local demand, “face to face” training can also be delivered by the Diocesan Safeguarding team. Generally, DBS vetting and training will need to be renewed every 3 years.

This year... Developing a succinct STP training matrix (again based upon the diocese direction) is still required. This will be a pragmatic matrix (where possible) and we will ensure that the right people will be trained and DBS checked. The diocese has created guidelines for all areas of the church from employees to volunteers and helpers. We have always abided by these guidelines and will continue to do so, however we

want to make our church community as inclusive as reasonably possible and ensure our leadership can call upon volunteers and helpers when required.

The Diocesan training packages that need to be completed are tailored to the role being undertaken and, in the main, are conveniently accessible online. Most can be completed within an hour or so but others, notably linked to leadership roles, will require more in-depth training which reflects those additional responsibilities.

There has been an increase in demand for face to face training by our older generation which we are not able to immediately accommodate. Subject to local demand, "face to face" training can also be delivered by the Diocesan Safeguarding team, meaning it can only be scheduled irregularly. Generally, DBS vetting and training will need to be renewed every 3 years.

Long term objectives:

Record keeping

STP needs to update its current record keeping practice to ensure we have a full audit trail should it ever be required. The Diocese expects us to keep records for 20 years and at present we sit between analogue and digital records. This will all be moved (where possible) to digital records. In addition, as the church upgrades its overarching records safeguarding will fall in line and utilize the new systems being brought in. This will take time hence a long term objective.

DBS checks - Update service

Simply put, throughout the coming months as renewals are required I want to ensure that those wishing to be long term volunteers or active participants in church activity are signed up to the DBS update service, which allows for DBS checks to be renewed with ease.

If you have any safeguarding concerns that you wish to discuss, do not hesitate to get in touch at the earliest opportunity.

Luke Hawkins - Parish Safeguarding Officer

Stpbm.safeguarding@gmail.com

The PCC has complied with the duty under section 5 of the Safeguarding and Clergy Discipline Measure 2016 (duty to have regard to House of Bishop's guidance on safeguarding children and vulnerable adults)

Bishop's Waltham Deanery Synod

The full Deanery Synod met twice and the Deanery Synod Standing Committee also met twice its main purpose remains: "To discover what God is calling us to do to be more effective in Mission across the Bishop's Waltham Deanery"

Transforming the Deanery-Mission:

The proposal to restructure the Deanery/Diocese started in 2021 and continued apace in 2023 with the aim to grow the Church in depth, impact and number whilst at the same time restoring (and then sustaining) financial viability. The original Deanery Plan was reviewed/revised by the Bishop and has been re-framed into implementation format, with specific focus on the Meon Valley Parishes. After much debate, the proposal to create a revised framework for Ministry and Mission development was affirmed by the Parishes involved, with particular emphasis placed on the need for an enhanced level of Self-Supporting or House for Duty appointments. Revd Andy Davis was appointed to lead the Meon Valley

Parishes and will be installed on 19 February 2024. It is expected that further appointments will be made in early 2024 to complete the initial phase of creating this collaborative Ministry framework

One element of the Deanery Plan was the completion of a Deanery-wide Parish Audit/Evaluation and the findings were presented to Deanery Synod and issues/actions arising from these will now be considered in more detail

Reports were received on meetings of the Diocesan and General Synods

The link with Wiawso (Ghana) has become more active now that tighter financial controls have been implemented and support has been given for the development of work at St Nicholas' Seminary

The Hackney Link was brought to a close with a celebration on 10 June 2023 at Wickham

Resourcing the Deanery:

A financial report was given at each meeting and the Deanery is well resourced at present. Despite on-going financial pressures caused in part by the residual impact of the pandemic, all Parishes in the Deanery excluding one managed to pay their Parish Share in full in 2023, a very commendable achievement.

However, a number of Parishes had deficits of income against expenditure and had to call on previously accumulated funds, a situation which cannot continue indefinitely

The Diocesan Budget was reviewed and unless income increases quite considerably, 2024 will be a financially challenging year for the Diocese. It has been confirmed that the methodology for calculating the Parish Share is under review with a view to implementing any new system in 2025

New Officers were appointed at the start of the new Triennium, including a new Lay Chair Paul Quinn

Prepared by Paul Emmerson-January 2024

(CWP-Deanery Synod Annual Report 2023)