



St. Andrew's Church in Milborne St. Andrew with All Saints Church in Dewlish, Dorset.

Annual Report and Accounts of the Parochial Church Council for the year ending 31st December 2023

Administrative Information

St Andrew's Church is situated in Church Hill, Milborne St Andrew. It is part of the benefice of St Mary's Church in Puddletown, St John's Church in Tolpuddle, St Andrew's Church in Milborne with All Saints' Church in Dewlish. The benefice is within the Diocese of Salisbury within the Church of England. The correspondence address is The Vicarage, The Square, Puddletown, Dorset, DT2 8SL

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

PCC members who served from 1st January 2023 until the date this report was approved are:

Incumbent: The Revd Sarah Hillman
Wardens: Pam Shults and Tony Fox
Representative of the Deanery Synod: Pam Shults
Elected members: Rose Johnson and Angela Johnson

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.

Objective and Activities

St Andrew's with All Saints PCC has the responsibility of co-operating with the incumbent, the Rev Sarah Hillman in promoting the ecclesiastical parish the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical. It also supports the activities of the benefice.

Achievements and Performance

Church attendance

The average Sunday attendance number is 13 (as advised by Sarah Hillman).

Electoral Roll for 2023 – 2024

The numbers on the electoral roll are; Milborne 23, Dewlish 15.

Linda Wright - Electoral Role Officer

Review of the year

All PCC meetings were held at St. Mary's Middle School, Puddletown. Held in January, April, July and October, all started with a benefice PCC meeting followed by individual church committee meetings. At the January meeting, Archdeacon Penny Sayer spoke about linking the Watercombe benefice with ours and Crossways, Moreton and Tinkleton. In April we were told that Bishop Stephen would be launching his vision and strategy for the diocese in June. The July meeting discussed new policies adopted by the benefice, covering domestic abuse and safer recruitment. At the October meeting, Sarah reported that in December, 'Bubble Church' would be launched in Puddletown.

All meetings were well attended.

Angela Johnson
Secretary to the PCC

Churchwarden's report for the 2023 – 2024 APCM

Pam writes:

At the end of 2023, I will have been Churchwarden of this parish for 10 years, for 5 of which I have been the only Churchwarden. It has been a delight to work with Tony, my Churchwarden partner.

In June, the Rural Dean came to our church to complete a Visitation Inspection. Although we did not have 100% compliance we fared well with most areas. Some work is still needed to update our records.

We finally managed to contract a builder to do the essential repairs identified by the 2021 Quinquennial. Funding for which was obtained through grants; much of the less urgent work has not been done due to our financial challenges.

Regrettably, the regular churchyard working party was unable to continue. However, we are fortunate to have the support of the parish council, who have agreed to fund the essential maintenance of the grass areas. We are also grateful to the neighbours in the Old Rectory for their concern about the churchyard area abutting the shared party wall. Despite not being successful in securing a grant for further maintenance, we remain committed to keeping our churchyard in good condition.

The Celebrate team could not continue delivering family-friendly services, so Tony leads Milborne Praise on the first Sunday of each month. Pam leads the Worship in Stillness services, which are ongoing; a brief consultation supported their continuation.

Thanks to all who have supported the services, those who clean, provide, and display flower arrangements, take on duties during services and continue supporting our church financially and practically.

Tony writes:

2023 was marked by highs and lows. Maggie Crosbie was Ordained to the Priesthood in July and celebrated the Eucharist for the first time in Milborne. A joyous Service, followed by a splendid Lunch. Sadly, due to family commitments, Maggie moved from the Benefice in September. We place on record her contribution to the Benefice, and this Parish in particular, during the short time that she was with us. We acknowledge the extra burden this has placed on Sarah and thank her for all she does week in and week out.

A special Service was held to Celebrate the Coronation of King Charles III and Queen Camilla. Compline was reintroduced during Lent and the Liturgy on Good Friday; both were well supported and appreciated by those attending.

Finances continue to be a headache, but we are very grateful for those who do contribute.

I have valued working alongside Pam and appreciate her friendship and commitment, especially in what was, at times, a difficult year for me.

Tony Fox & Pam Shults
Churchwardens

Events Committee Report for 2023 - 2024 APCM

During 2023 the Events Committee organised and ran 5 events including 2 fairs and selling items at auctions. The total money that was raised by these was £1425.

Unfortunately, all of the committee members decided that they would no longer be responsible for organising and running events at the end of this year. No other volunteers were forthcoming; therefore, the Events Committee was abolished after 10 years of dedication.

Pam Shults
Retired Chair

Church flowers 2023-24

The ladies who do the flowers in church have been busy as usual this year. There are five of us and we each do the flowers for a month at a time. There are times, during Lent and Advent when flowers are not used, and of course we all gather together for the big festivals of Christmas, Harvest and Easter. As usual there were generous contributions to buy the Easter flowers from those who wished to commemorate friends and relatives. As Easter was early this year it was pleasing to see the daffodils in the churchyard bought in the Covid years instead of cut flowers and actually blooming at Easter. We are always pleased to welcome more to our group - none of us are trained florists! Lin Chatfield has now taken over the organisation from Sally.

Sally Dyer

Miborne St Andrew Bells 2023 - 2024

Report not received

DORCHESTER DEANERY SYNOD MEETING SUMMARY 2023

Meeting Held 2 May 23 at St Aldhelm's Church, Crossways

The Rural Dean welcomed the Revd Stephen Waine to the Deanery, having been licenced before Holy Week to the Piddle Valley. The Revd Gemma Donnell was thanked for providing refreshments.

Matters Arising:

Arrangements for Deanery Service: This was to be held at St Aldhelm's Church, Crossways on 21 May 23 at 1500.

Bishop's Visit 19 Jul 23: The Rural Dean outlined the details of the visit by Bishop Stephen and asked that groups should write down all the 'Good things about the Deanery / Parish / Community' that you would wish the Bishop to know, then identify 'Challenges we have to meet in our Deanery' and 'Questions we would like to ask the Bishop.' It was explained that the Bishop had expressed a wish to

get out and meet people, going to Dorchester Market and ideas for lunch were gathered, with a visit to a school, farm, Dorchester Foodbank, Poundbury Quiet Space or meeting locals.

Financial Statement: The Treasurer reported that we do not spend much money but this year the deanery paid for refreshments at the July Meeting in Kingston Maurward and for book tokens for the young people who had been invited to speak. Regarding our share to 31st March the Deanery has paid 23% of which five parishes out of our 35 have paid 100%.

Diocesan/General Synod reports: The Dean said the two items on the Diocesan agenda were 'Living in Love and Faith' (morning) and 'The Bishop's Strategy' (afternoon). The General Synod had not recorded any meetings since our last one.

Vote of Thanks: The Rural Dean thanked everyone for their work on the deanery, especially the House of Laity and Standing Committee. She thanked the officers (Roger, Jane, Michael and Nigel) and the Clergy.

Meeting Held 23 Jul 23 at Kingston Maurward

The Rural Dean welcomed the Venerable Penny Sayer to the meeting.

Election of Lay Officers:

Lay Chair	Rachel Bywater
Secretary:	Ian Bishop [appointed after meeting; endorsed 9 Oct 23 by Standing Committee]
Treasurer	Michael Clarke
Information Officer	Rev'd Keith Magee

Election For Standing Committee:

Rev'd Leila Mather, Jill Minchin, Hazel Morgan

Meeting Business:

Presentation by The Venerable Penny Sayer, Archdeacon of Sherborne: The Archdeacon spoke about the new diocesan vision which began with the vision 'Thy Kingdom Come Here and Now' and now has the strap line 'Making Jesus Known'. She explained there are five strands to the vision Courageous Christian Leadership, Working for Justice, Creative Partnerships in Local Mission, Climate Justice and a Stable Financial Future.

Reporting back on Bishop Stephen's visit on 19th July 2023: The visit was agreed to be a success with the Bishop visiting both the rural and more urban parts of the Deanery.

Financial Statement from Michael Clarke: With regard to Share the Treasurer advised that as at June 2023, 43.6% of the £581,341 has been received by Salisbury. 8 of 35 parishes have made little or no contribution to Share whilst remaining parishes are making regular monthly payments and a few have cleared their account. The Treasurer also requested that parishes who have not sent a copy of their Annual Accounts should ask Treasurers to do so.

Meeting Held 9 Nov 23 via Zoom

The Rural Dean welcomed Janet Eardley from Through the Roof as guest speaker.

Matters Arising:

Presentation by Janet Eardley, Through the Roof: Janet spoke about the work of Through The Roof and how churches can be helped to be more aware of the needs of people with disabilities and to become a more welcoming community. Meeting attendees were invited to share their perceptions and experiences within their parish and encouraged to be aware of ways in which different types of disability can be recognised. Janet also encouraged parishes to think about next steps and provided links to a toolkit for inclusion to assist in the audit of documents for message and culture.

Financial Statement from Treasurer: Due to the absence of the Treasurer, no financial report was available.

Report From Diocesan Synod: Topics discussed include:

- Making Jesus Known vision and strategic priorities - discussed progress on the 5 strategic priorities.
- Diocesan Net Zero Carbon Action Plan - Action points
- Diocesan Financial Report and agreement of Budget - debate on financing the future sustainably
- Arrangements for 2024 Diocesan Synod Elections - reducing representation of laity to approximately equal numbers of clergy and laity.



Ian Bishop

Secretary, Dorchester Deanery Synod

11 Mar 24

Financial Report on 2023 PCC Accounts for 2024 APCM

After my time as Milborne treasurer was terminated in April 2023 I continued as 'Keeper of the Milborne Church Accounts' until a new treasurer was appointed and I was able to hand over the accounts at the end of November 2023. This report does not cover any PCC decisions after April. In April 2023 the churchwardens decided that they needed to maintain three bank account signatories to cover their holidays, so asked me to remain a bank signatory.

The year 2023 started with £6,000 in the General Fund and £5,100 in the Fabric Fund. During 2023 the PCC was unable to pay all of its monthly Share of £1,400 to the diocese so paid £400 and withheld £1,000 each month leaving a debt to the diocese of £12,000 at the end of the year.

Payments of £1117 for electricity were paid in 2023 for electricity used in 2022, and a payment of £518 was paid towards electricity used in January and February 2023. Problems with a new electricity Smart meter meant that bills were highly inaccurate and in April 2023 it was agreed with the supplier that no more would be paid until the problem was resolved. As I had started discussions with the electricity

supplier the churchwardens agreed that I should continue discussions until our complaint was resolved and the due payments made. This has taken longer than expected (another Smart meter was eventually fitted) but at the beginning of May an acceptable bill had still not been sent. The bill should be for about £2,200 and is not included in the 2023 accounts.

During 2023 the average income received by the PCC from regular giving was £850 per month (including Gift Aid reclaim) whereas the regular bills (including the whole of the requested diocesan Share and electricity) would have amounted to £1900 per month. Maintenance and repairs were an additional expense, partly paid for by fundraising and service fees.

At the end of 2023 the General Fund had fallen to £4,150 and the Fabric Fund risen to £5,650. There was a total of £10,000 in the bank and a debt of £12,000 to Salisbury diocese for unpaid Share.

John Wright