

The 2021 Lent Project – 'Can You Stand Not Sitting' - was an appeal to raise £6,000 to provide desks and benches for the Church Primary School in our linked Diocese of Cueibet, South Sudan. Covid 19 restrictions meant that it was not possible to hold the usual fundraising activities so the appeal relied on the distribution of leaflets to churches and households and on-line communication. Despite these limitations, a remarkable £10,000 was raised.

Clergy reports were presented to PCCs during the year. A full Clergy Report for 2021 can be found on the Bishopstone Village Website using the link: <https://www.bishopstone-salisbury.co.uk/bishopstone-church.html>

Deanery Synod Report

The Deanery Synod was unable to meet in 2021.

The Parish of Bishopstone with Stratford Tony

Annual Report and Accounts of the Parochial Church Council for the year ended 31st December 2021

Objectives and Activities

The general functions of the Parochial Church Council (PCC) are set out in the Parochial Church Councils (Powers) Measure 1956 and include the responsibility of co-operating with the incumbent in promoting in the ecclesiastical parish the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical. It also has responsibilities for the maintenance of the church building.

Achievements and Performance

All the activities covered in this report rely upon the support of a large number of volunteers from our non-stipendiary Team Vicar, retired Clergy, Churchwardens and PCC members to all those who give of their time, energy and financial support to ensure that services take place in a well preserved building and the Church is able to serve the wider community.

In 2021, the Coronavirus pandemic continued to affect all aspects of national life. However, a gradual relaxation of restrictions enabled a gentle uplift in the number and format of services which was welcomed by those who felt able to make the gradual return to 'normal' life. Pastoral support continued on an individual basis in spite of restrictions.

Policies The PCC undertakes annual reviews of its policies on **Health & Safety**, **Safeguarding** and **Financial Management** issues in line with Church of England policy.

Worship Following appropriate risk assessments, a regular pattern of two Sunday services of Parish Communion a month was established for all of 2021. Initially this was without singing, although we were most fortunate in having organ music for which we are very grateful to Dr Richard Seal who continued to play at all services. However, by the Autumn, singing returned, albeit 'masked'. Church attendance increased slowly as individual members of the congregation made their own decisions about personal safety. It was particularly encouraging to see the return of young families and children at Christmas. Sensitive guidance and a willingness of all concerned to observe the safeguarding measures in place, ensured that no incidence of cases of Covid 19 in the community were reported as resulting from attendance at church services. The Church was able to continue an historic tradition of being a place of refuge.

From the Parish Registers, 4 Funerals were conducted in the Church and 1 Memorial Service. Sadly, attendance at these services was restricted due to the Coronavirus restrictions.

Although Bishopstone Church held services and was open daily for prayer and visitors, this was not the case for all churches in the Benefice so clergy and members of the laity contributed to the regular Sunday and other special on-line 'e-Services' provided in the Chalke Valley Team.

Mission and Outreach Pastoral support to individuals in our community continued but on a very restricted basis. 2021 Mission Giving was: £500 to the Deanery Chalke-Cueibet Link, £200 to the Salisbury Women's Refuge, £200 to Morning Star, £50 to Wiltshire Historic Churches Trust and £50 to St Luke's (Hospital for the Clergy).

Our magazine, STaB continues to play a valuable role in the life of our community. The PCC is grateful for the work of the Editorial Team in maintaining such a high quality magazine, for the contributors and for the team of volunteers who deliver it.

Fabric The PCC is very grateful to the Friends of Bishopstone Church for their support in ensuring that the building is well maintained and secure. Fortunately, there have been no major calls on their resources.

The day to day care and welcoming appearance of the building and churchyard, cleaning, flower arranging and refreshments after services are undertaken at no cost to the PCC. These and other regular items of maintenance could not happen without the generosity of finance and time of a small number of faithful volunteers.

Financial Review

In 2021, the PCC's General Fund finances have experienced a slight uplift with an increase in income as congregations have begun to return, thus increasing collections, while expenditure has reduced. Total receipts, excluding 'Friends' funds were £30,881 (2020 - £30,198) against Expenditure of £27,119 (2020 - £29,663), giving a surplus of £3,762 (2020 – surplus £535). The PCC is grateful to the Parish Council for its financial contribution to STaB and the cost of churchyard maintenance.

Reserves Policy

It is the policy of the PCC to maintain, where possible, a balance on our unrestricted funds which equates to one year's running costs to cover any emergencies that may arise, particularly bearing in mind the significant costs that can be incurred when work is required to the church building.

Electoral Roll 47 members.

Structure, Governance and Management

PCC Members are either ex-officio, elected by the Annual Parochial Church Meeting, or co-opted in accordance with Church Representation Rules 2020.

During 2021, as restrictions were relaxed, the PCC was able to resume physical meetings and met twice during the year. The Annual Parochial Church Meeting was held on 25 April.

Administrative Information

The Parish of Bishopstone and Stratford Tony is part of the Chalke Valley Team Ministry in the Chalke Deanery, Diocese of Salisbury. The Team address is: Church Office, Byworth, Meadow Close, Dinton, Salisbury SP3 5HY.

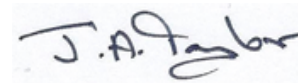
The PCC is a charity excepted from registration with the Charity Commission. PCC members (trustees) who have served during the period of this report are:

Ex Officio:

Team Rector:	The Revd Catherine Blundell
Team Vicar:	The Revd Canon Jenny Taylor (Chairman)
Churchwardens:	Mr George Brutton (also Treasurer) Mrs Sarah Seal
Deanery Synod:	Mr Geoffrey Taylor (also Secretary & Team Council)
Elected:	Major James Thompson Mrs Margaret Barter Mrs Jill Ford Mrs Sally Leaver Mrs Alix Ricketts (from 25 April 2021)

Electoral Roll Officer: Mrs Anne Stutchbury

Approved by the PCC and signed on their behalf by the Chairman



The Revd Canon Jenny Taylor

Team Council Report

The Team Council met twice in 2021. The main business of both meetings was the process of the recruitment of the new Team Vicar following the departure of the Revd Anna-Claar Thomasson-Rosingh. The Team Council also selected the Salisbury Women's Refuge for the 2022 Lent Appeal.