

# The Parish of Bishopstone with Stratford Tony

## Annual Report and Accounts of the Parochial Church Council for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> December 2022

### 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 Bishopstone church building.

### Achievements and Performance

In addition to the ministry of the two stipendiary clergy in the Chalke Valley Team, all the activities covered in this report rely upon the support of volunteers: our non-stipendiary Team Vicar (The Revd Canon Jenny Taylor) who is responsible for the pastoral care of the Parish, retired Clergy, Churchwardens, Lay Worship Leader, Lay Pastoral Assistants, PCC members and all who give of their time, energy and financial support to ensure that services take place in a well preserved building, the Churchyard is maintained and the Church is able to serve the wider community.

In 2022, the Nation emerged from the last restrictions of the Covid Pandemic and throughout our community, there was a return to 'normality', albeit at a slightly reduced level of activity.

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

**Worship** The regular pattern of two Sunday services of Parish Communion a month continued without any restrictions and the occasional 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday Morning Service was resumed. On 29 May 2022 an appropriately themed service celebrated the Platinum Jubilee of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II. A Book of Condolence was placed in the Church to mark the occasion of her death.

This report would not normally be complete without an acknowledgement of the contribution of Dr Richard Seal to the musical life of the Church. However, in July, the PCC and a much wider community were greatly saddened to learn of his death. The numbers attending his funeral in our church and at the subsequent Memorial Service in Salisbury Cathedral were testament to his national reputation within Church Music. A fund was established in his memory for the much needed restoration of our church organ planned to take place in 2023. We were immensely grateful that Mr John Powell, Mr Arthur Willoughby, Mrs Shelagh Lamb and Mrs Margaret Barter were able to step in to continue to support our services.

**From the Registers** 2 Weddings and 4 Funerals were conducted in the Church.

**Mission and Outreach** Pastoral support to individuals in our community continued to be provided by the Team Vicar and Lay Pastoral Assistants. 2022 Mission Giving was: £500 to the Deanery Chalke-Cueibet Link, £200 to Morning Star, £250 to Salisbury Foodbank and £50 to Wiltshire Historic Churches Trust. The Augustus Montgomery Coal Trust funds administered by the PCC have provided financial assistance to individuals in need in the Parish. Our Lent Appeal Coffee Mornings for the Salisbury Women's Refuge raised £1,331.50.

Our magazine, STaB, a leader among the Chalke Valley magazines, 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 items of maintenance could not happen without the generosity of finance and time of a small number of volunteers.

### Financial Review

In 2022, activities in the PCC's General (unrestricted) Fund were, Total receipts: £31,363.96 (2021- £30,881.89) against Expenditure of £31,059.04 (2021- £27,119.67), giving a slight surplus of £304.92 (2021- surplus £3,762). Unsurprisingly, expenditure increased and the PCC will need to consider how to encourage financial support to meet this. 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** 49 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 2022, the PCC held five meetings. The Annual Parochial Church Meeting was held on 20 March.

## 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.

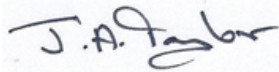
The PCC is a charity excepted from registration with the Charity Commission. PCC members (trustees) who have served during the period of this report are:

### 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:** Mrs Margaret Barter  
Mrs Jill Ford  
Mrs Sally Leaver  
Mrs Alix Ricketts  
Major James Thompson

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

Team Council consists of clergy and lay representatives from each of the parishes in the Benefice. It met twice in 2022. On 22 March business included the adoption of the Accounts, an update on Safeguarding requirements and details of Lent events for the 2022 project supporting Salisbury Women's Refuge. The main item involved Archdeacon Alan Jeans explaining the process for appointing a new Team Vicar to the clergy team. On 22 October, The Revd Dr Ruth Howlett-Shipleigh was introduced as the new Team Vicar following her licensing on 28 September. The Revd Catherine Blundell's resignation as Team Rector was announced with her final service being on 8 January 2023 in Broad Chalke. The Team Treasurer's Finance update confirmed that parish contributions to the Team Account would remain unchanged for the year. The Mission Fund had a credit balance of £6k and a working party would be formed in the Spring to consider projects/uses for the monies. CRESS was chosen as the 2023 Lent Project charity.

To ensure that clergy cover could be provided during the Team Rector vacancy, the Bishop of Salisbury granted a two-year extension beyond the normal retirement date to the licence of the Revd Canon Jenny Taylor as non-stipendiary Team Vicar in our Benefice.

## Deanery Synod Report

Chalke Deanery Synod is formed of clergy and lay representatives from the Benefices of the Chalke Valley, the Nadder Valley, St Bartholomew, Western Downland and Wilton. The Synod met in October 2022.

The meeting held in Dinton CofE primary school elected Mrs Jill Hockham as Lay Chair. The Revd Mark Hayter, Rural Dean led worship and a workshop session followed considering the joys and challenges experienced by parishes during and following the lockdown periods. An update was given on the Deanery Chalke-Cueibet Partnership and the Revd Canon Jenny Taylor shared a recorded message from Bishop Elijah who had visited the Chalke Deanery in the week after the Lambeth Conference.

**Clergy Report for APCMs** Thank you to everyone who contributed so much in many different ways to the life of our churches in our Benefice – you are all truly appreciated. 2022 was a year of change in the life of our churches. After three years, our Curate Revd Roger Leake left in June to become an Associate Priest in the Middle

Wylde Valley – we have so appreciated all he has done during his Curacy. Details of other clergy occurrences are listed in the Team Council Report. Although officially in next year's report, it would be remiss not to record our immense gratitude to both our Team Rector, Catherine Blundell and our Licensed Lay Minister, David Blundell for their ministry among us, and send warm wishes for their new life in Devon. Our Vision states we are to be "salt and light" in our communities, and this was obvious as we celebrated the Platinum Jubilee of Queen Elizabeth II. Then in September we came together again, but in sadness as we mourned her death. We were able to sign the condolence books in our churches and many reflected how comforting it was to say prayers and mourn quietly in our places of worship.

In February, Russia invaded Ukraine and our prayers for that country have been constant. Several of our churches have special prayer spaces dedicated to Ukraine and we have welcomed Ukrainian families as they have stayed with host families in our villages. Our 2022 Lent Project was Salisbury Women's Refuge and our Benefice raised the magnificent sum of £7,159.70 to help them start rebuilding "The Annexe".