

The Parish of Bishopstone with Stratford Tony

Annual Report and Accounts of the Parochial Church Council for the year ended 31st December 2020

Objectives and Activities

The Parochial Church Council (PCC) has 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, 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 2020, the Coronavirus pandemic has affected all aspects of national life. In the context of our church, national restrictions introduced to minimise the effects of the pandemic, have had a serious impact on our ability to worship, to provide pastoral support for the community and to maintain financial stability.

Policies The PCC undertakes regular reviews of its policies on **Health & Safety**, **Safeguarding** and **Financial Management** issues. These are developed from a 'template' approved by the Team Council to reduce the administrative burden on individual PCCs. In November 2020 a revised policy on Safeguarding, including On-Line Safety, was approved in line with Church of England guidance.

Worship During the first 'lockdown', all churches were required to close on 23 March 2020 followed by a slight relaxation on 15 June when reopening was permitted for private prayer. On 12 July, national restrictions were eased and the Church of England gave permission for clergy and PCCs to decide on the appropriate level for the resumption of regular services within strict Health and Safety guidelines. The Team Vicar and Churchwardens undertook the necessary risk assessments and a limited pattern of services was introduced for the remainder of the year with restrictions on numbers attending. It was not possible to hold the annual Stratford Tony Choral Evensong.

From the Parish, 4 Funerals were conducted in the Church and 2 at the Salisbury Crematorium. Sadly, attendance at these services was restricted due to the Coronavirus restrictions.

From the onset of the restrictions, 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. 2020 Mission Giving was: £500 to the Deanery Chalke-Cueibet Link, £400 to the Team Lent Project, £50 to Wiltshire Historic Churches Trust and £50 to St Luke's (Hospital for the Clergy).

The PCC is grateful that the STaB Editorial Team has continued to produce a high quality magazine and that Sue Porter and volunteers have maintained its delivery despite the restrictions. This has been particularly valued by our community suffering under the burden of Coronavirus restrictions. The hard work and enthusiasm of the Team has turned round the fortunes of STaB from a net loss of £855 in 2018 to a net profit of £1,609 in 2020.

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

After an improvement in the PCC's General Fund finances in 2019, church closures, restrictions on numbers when services were resumed and the loss of some regular donors have resulted in a downturn in 2020. Total receipts, excluding 'Friends' funds were £30,198 (2019 - £35,222) against Expenditure of £29,663 (2019 - £31,117), giving a deficit of £535 (2019 – surplus £4,105). This financial situation is a concern to be addressed by the PCC in 2021.

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 50 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.

Due to Coronavirus restrictions on arrangements for physical meetings, the PCC was only able to meet formally twice during the year. The first took place on 20 February before the national 'lockdown', the second being a brief meeting to appoint PCC officers following the postponed Annual Parochial Church Meeting on 27 September. All other business was conducted on-line.

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 c/o The Chalke Valley Team Office, The Hub, Broad Chalke SP5 5EH.

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

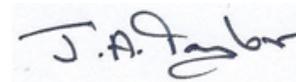
Deanery Synod: Mr Geoffrey Taylor (also Secretary & Team Council)
Major James Thompson

Elected:

Mrs Margaret Barter
Mrs Margaret Furnston (until 29 April 2020)
Mrs Sally Leaver
Mrs Sheila Nell (also Team Council) (until 6 April 2020)
Mrs Jill Ford (from 27 September 2020)

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 did not meet in 2020 but accounts were audited and Health and Safety and Safeguarding decisions were executed by email.

The 2020 Lent Project was in support of our three Primary Schools with the theme of developing children's' spirituality through art, creativity and through organisations such as the Bridge. Sadly, the 'lockdown' curtailed most of the usual fundraising activities but sufficient money was raised to give each school £1,500.

Clergy reports were presented to PCCs during the year. A full report by the Clergy for 2020 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 met once in March prior to the introduction of Coronavirus restrictions. The main theme was 'Pilgrimage' leading to discussion of the possibility for a future pilgrimage within Chalke Deanery.