

# Abbotts Ann Parochial Church Council Annual Trustees Report 2021

## AIM AND PURPOSES

The church of St Mary the Virgin, Abbotts Ann, is part of the Anna Benefice with All Saints' Upper Clatford and St Peter's Goodworth Clatford in the Deanery of Andover and the Diocese of Winchester. Abbotts Ann Parochial Church Council (PCC) has the responsibility of cooperating with the Priest in Charge, the Reverend Katrina Dykes, in promoting, in the ecclesiastical parish, the mission of the Church: pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical.

Our vision is to be a joyous, welcoming, caring church family in the heart of our village community, open to all and working together to bring the good news of Jesus to everyone.

## OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

### *Activities*

We pursue our vision through activities, some provided in conjunction with other parishes in the benefice, which are open to the whole village. 2020 has focused on fulfilling these objectives in line with COVID-19 restrictions:

**Discipleship.** Exploring the Bible and deepening faith, answering questions, through weekly or monthly Bible study groups and faith exploration courses.

**Public worship.** With services weekly in church and monthly in the War Memorial Hall, occasional services out of doors and in people's homes, we provide worship that is open to all.

**Baptisms, weddings and funerals.** We support families during life's rites of passage. St Mary's church is an attractive and popular venue, but funerals are often held at crematoria.

**Pastoral care.** A Benefice team attends the lonely, sick and bereaved both at home and in hospital, offering companionship and, if asked for, Holy Communion, for as long as they need us.

**Abbotts Ann Magazine.** The not-for-profit monthly magazine is a popular source of village information in over 300 homes.

**Mission activities.** PCC members and others in the congregation undertake initiatives of community benefit such as welcoming newcomers to the village and donating to suitable village causes.

**The Common Mission Fund (CMF).** The PCC raises money to fund the work of the diocese' mission work by paying into the CMF. It includes our contribution to the cost of our Priest in Charge and legal, training and other support which we can call on to help our work here.

**Abbotts Ann CE Primary School.** We provide a foundation governor to help manage our village school and lead religious education there.

**The Fun Club.** An after-school club for Yr 5/6 children run by Aly Godman and Goi Brown on behalf of the PCC.

**St Mary's church and churchyard.** A beautiful spot. St Mary's, a Grade I listed building, is the spiritual heart of the village. It is maintained in very good condition and opened daily. St Mary's Fabric Trust support the cost of church repairs. The Parish Council now maintains the whole graveyard, including St. Mary's churchyard which is closed, but burials and interments continue in the Parish Council burial ground. With the vicar's permission, interment of ashes is permitted in family plots in the churchyard

**Bell ringers.** We maintain 6 bells and keep alive this ancient tradition which is open to all.

**Hand bells.** We lend our hand bells to the village hand bell ringers for church and other activities.

**Church clock.** The PCC arranges for the clock, which is a well-known and useful village amenity, to be maintained.

**Choir and music.** Our choir (open to any who can sing) and organists support public worship, weddings and funerals.

**Book of Remembrance.** At a family's request we display the name of people who have died on the anniversary of their death.

**Heritage.** We celebrate the history of St Mary's and the people buried in the churchyard through information leaflets, a burial ground survey and on-line information and hosting visits.

### *2020 Benefice Objectives*

Managing activities in the Parish, taking account of COVID-19 restrictions, to:

1. Create opportunities and encourage people to grow in their discipleship
2. Continue to provide and develop pastoral care to in our communities.
3. Engage with children, youth and families

## ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE IN 2020

**Discipleship.** The Bible Society's Bible Course was completed online. (Objective 1).

**Public Worship.** Innovative weekly online services during the lockdown were very popular as did patronal festivals Remembrance, Advent and Christmas events. We sustained Open the Book and Messy Church for children and provided Holy Communion when possible.

**Baptisms, weddings and funerals.** Graveside and crematorium funerals continued. We supported the bereaved but having to plan services on the phone was very unsatisfactory.

**Pastoral care.** Sadly, Covid-19 restrictions limited our support to little more than telephone support..

**Mission activities.** Men's Café has become a popular weekly online event. At Christmas we established a benefice Family Support Fund to help needy families provided computers for online lessons and Christmas hampers. Resources are still available for use by Headteachers in our 2 schools. The Toddler Group stopped during the pandemic but happily Parentalk and Raising Faith courses for parents continued online.

**The CMF.** Generous donations enabled to pay our full share in 2020.

**Abbotts Ann CE Primary School.** Our School has had a very different year thanks to Covid-19 but it is flourishing. The OFSTED inspection on 3<sup>rd</sup> March reported "The school's values of love, respect, courage, responsibility and honesty are lived every day, reflecting the school's strong Christian ethos". Collective worship continued with Rev Katrina, Mrs Vignaux (New Headteacher) and the classes holding regular virtual collective worship. Open the Book has been ongoing - with recordings and virtual sessions. The children, always encouraged to think of their school as part of an even larger community have contributed to a Rotary Shoe Box Appeal, Save the Children - Christmas Jumpers Community Christmas Tree project, a virtual nativity, Food Bank - Harvest, sent Harvest thank you letters to farmers, Dress to Express - Mental Health and Wellbeing, Church Community Kindness pictures and poems.

**Fun Club.** No meetings during the lockdown but, thanks to Aly Godman, children helped to run the benefice online Christingle service.

**Choir and Music.** Online rehearsals kept the choir in trim and provided a huge morale boost for singers. We only supported in-person festivals so that as many regular Sunday congregants could attend as possible. We recorded carols for the online carol service and led doorstep carols round the villages on Christmas Eve. The director of music and daughters have supported our online services every week.

**Bell ringers** In this Covid year we have only rung the bells on 2 Sundays: 2, 4, and 6 then next time the 3 1607 bells.

**St Mary's church and churchyard.** We obtained faculties to replace the boundary fence and resurface churchyard footpaths. The Parish Council will complete the work in 2021.

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**Hand bells.** The year started hopefully with 10 ringers and 2 potential recruits. We were able to teach Fun Club children one afternoon until the lockdown ended our activities.

**Abbotts Ann Magazine.** During the pandemic the magazine has been published monthly online only. The loss of income has been partly offset by saving on printing costs.

**Heritage.** We gave online talks on the church and churchyard and the history of the virgin crowns and digitised the 1996 NADFAS survey.

## FINANCIAL REVIEW

**Financial Review.** Total receipts into the General Fund in 2020 amounted to £34,108.49 an increase of £2,097.40 on 2019, this was due to some generous donations made in response to an appeal towards the end of the year. General fund expenditure was £32,614.79, £1,493.70 more than the previous year leaving a balance in the general fund of £10,962.38.

The full amount requested for the Common Mission Fund of £23,550.31 was paid in full for the year

Our contribution to the Benefice account was £6,200 in 2019 but was reduced to £5,200 in 2020 to match Benefice expenses. This account covers the cost of services (music, pew sheets, etc) bibles for school leavers, ministry team expenses, music director, organ tuning and the parish administrator. A summary of those expenses has been included with the financial report. It should be noted that this may have to be increased in 2021 in line with physical activity, which was reduced in 2020 due to the national lockdown restrictions.

Total assets at 31 December 2020 were £31,079.40 of which £20,117.02 is restricted. General Fund reserves at £10,962.38 are close to the agreed minimum of £10,000.

Money raised through restricted donations and events have gone towards the building of the WC, and there is £17,996.57 in hand for that project.

**Stewardship** In 2016 the parish enrolled with the Parish Giving Scheme which enables us to collect regular planned giving by Direct Debit and to receive Gift Aid automatically each month. By the end of 2020, 16 parishioners were enrolled in the scheme.

We are very grateful for all donations large and small but looking ahead we still need to increase **regular** income to be able to meet our commitments. We introduced contactless payments in Church for those people who do not carry cash but would like to contribute to collections, and also joined the Easy Fundraising scheme whereby donations are made for online shopping by many retailers and have recently received £77 from that scheme. We now have a QR code which can be printed on paper or on screen and enables people to make a donation by scanning the code with their mobile phone.

## RESERVES POLICY

The PCC has in the past made donations to a small range of local, national and overseas charities. We do not have sufficient reserves currently to be able to do this.

## FUTURE PLANS

The pace of our plans for 2021 will be dictated by the easing of the lockdown. We aim to conclude our churchyard repairs and restore in-person services while retaining online worship where the need persists.

## OPTIONAL INFORMATION

The PCC is extremely grateful to the many people, both in and outside the church, who, year-round, keep St Mary's church open and ready for services. Even during the pandemic we could not have functioned without the sidesmen, readers, sacristans, choir, organists, bell-ringers, flower arrangers and holy dusters. We are grateful to Sylvia Burson who is stepping down after 25 years organising the flower rota. We are indebted to Abbotts Ann Parish Council and St Mary's Fabric Trust for their support.

## PCC STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

The PCC is a corporate body established by the Church of England. It operates under the Parochial Church Powers Measure and is an

'excepted' charity with the Charity Commission. Members are either *ex officio*, co-opted or elected by the Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM) as required by Church Representation Rules.

The PCC members are responsible for making decisions on all matters of general concern and importance to the parish including deciding on how the funds of the PCC are to be spent. New members receive initial training into the workings of the PCC.

The PCC met six times during the year and attendance averaged 85% (discounting Ministry Team members who have other duties). The PCC's two committees (see below) met as required between full PCC meetings. Their activities were reported to the PCC and discussed as necessary:

The PCC has complied with the duty under section 5 of the Safeguarding and Clergy Discipline Measure 2016 (duty to have due regard to House of Bishops' guidance on safeguarding children and vulnerable adults). Eleanor Jakeman is now the benefice safeguarding officer whilst Tessa Cross as Safeguarding Administrator manages DBS applications and safeguarding training.

All church attendees are encouraged to take part in our life, register on the Electoral Roll and stand for election to the PCC. The roll, completely renewed in 2019, now contains **69** names (including **10** non-residents).

**The Standing Committee:** As required by law. The committee comprises the minister, treasurer and three other PCC members.

**The Fabric Committee:** Runs the PCC's programme of works and manages the projects and maintenance tasks required. Repairs and modifications to the church and churchyard are controlled through the diocese's faculty process. We use a diocesan recommended architect and work is undertaken in the most cost-effective way possible.

## ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

### Contact Details

Postal address: Sarah Derbyshire Telephone: 07393 - 944245

Email: officeannabenefice@gmail.com.

### Abbotts Ann PCC Membership

**Priest in Charge:** Revd Katrina Dykes.

#### *Churchwardens:*

Until APCM 2021 Ms Kate Bennett

Until APCM 2021 Mr Graham Platford

#### *Deanery Synod members on PCC ex officio:*

Until APCM 2023 Mrs Diana Wilson

Until APCM 2023 Mr Tim Tayler

#### *Elected PCC members:*

Until APCM 2021 Mrs Vivien Asbee

Until APCM 2021 Mr Gordon Howard

Until APCM 2022 vacant

Until APCM 2022 vacant

Until APCM 2023 vacant

Until APCM 2023 Mrs Judith Gammon (secretary)

#### *Co-opted PCC members:*

Until APCM 2021 Mrs Jenny Gorski (treasurer)

#### *Benefice ministry team, ex officio:*

Assistant Priest Revd Nicky Judd

Licensed Lay Minister Mr Peter Eastwood

Licensed Lay Minister Mr Tim Tayler (secretary)

Approved by the PCC on **19 Apr 2021** and signed on their behalf by Graham Platford (Deputy Chairman of the PCC)