

# 2022 REPORT AND ACCOUNTS FOR THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF ST MARY'S ABBOTTS ANN

## Introduction

Welcome to the Abbotts Ann Parochial Church Council's Report. After the challenges posed by COVID- 19 during 2020, we had all hoped for a 'return to normal'. Sadly this was not to be the case, and 2021 was similarly affected. Despite this, however, what the year did show was how well the Anna Benefice, St Mary's Church and the Abbotts Ann community had adapted to operating in a pandemic.

It was a year in which we sadly said goodbye to our fantastic vicar, Katrina Dykes, as she moved on to pastures new, and contemplated a new Benefice organisation as part of Winchester Diocese's overall plan. In this time of uncertainty, the ministry team worked tirelessly to maintain our worship programme, while the Churchwardens made the difficult decisions about COVID – 19 measures in church to keep the congregation safe. By the end of the year, we were delighted to be able to announce that in April 2022, Teresa Townsend would be joining us as our new vicar.

This report is just one opportunity to record how, even with hand-washing, mask wearing and social distancing, the Church and the community have been able to continue to celebrate God's word in the Parish.



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Judith Gammon  
Abbotts Ann PCC Sec  
Email: aapccsec@gmail.com  
Tel: 01264 712020

## Church and Churchyard

Graham Platford

2021 saw the removal of the old fence along Church Path and its replacement with hurdle fencing that matches the fencing around the burial ground. Repair of the church pathways is still in hand and we hope to make progress with this in 2022.

The Fabric Committee worked with the Parish Council on the fence and gates and footpaths projects and minor maintenance in the church and churchyard. Our architect (Duncan Wilson) has inspected the church property and the quinquennial review is

due in 2022. It is not expected to reveal any major problems and the church fabric is in generally good condition.

Finally, no repairs were made to Church Path and, as this is the responsibility of Hampshire CC as Highways Authority, unfortunately, there is no immediate prospect of repair.



## St. Mary's Heritage

Tim Tayler



There are a couple of highlights from a year when the church was closed part of the time and most movable items have been in storage.

I have provided a number of people with information on the virgin crowns and in September conducted Long Sutton and Warnborough WI on a tour of the village and St Mary's.

## Church Warden Report

This year has been eventful, battling with COVID and its impact whilst managing to continue with weekly services as well as the major church festivals. Palm Sunday saw the last service at St Mary's for Katrina (and Phil) Dykes before she took up her new appointment in East Anglia. This was a lovely occasion and many members of the church and the Abbotts Ann community took the opportunity to wish them well in their new location. At this point, the Ministry Team took over to manage the vacancy and, COVID-19 allowing, we were able to hold in-person services each Sunday for the majority of the year, latterly with music and singing.



Sidesmen and Sacristan duties were relatively light during the year. Nicky Judd took on the complete role of preparing for Holy Communion to avoid contamination, and churchwardens and PCC members volunteered for the sidesmen roles. Hopefully we shall have more volunteers involved in the near future

The flower rota and 'Holy Dusters' continued their excellent work throughout the year and it was lovely to be able to decorate the Church fully for both Harvest and Christ-

mas celebrations. We were also delighted that the Church was again used for the floral displays for the village fete in September and would like to record our thanks to Gillian and Keith Lambert for their work. (We were very fortunate to be able to use a grant from the Fete proceeds to purchase both battery candles, which worked well to decorate the Church at Christmas, and 20 new display boards which live in the Bier shed to be useful at future events.)



The Act of Remembrance in November was held outdoors in the churchyard for the second year. This was well attended



and there is something very poignant about standing in front of the village war memorial whilst the Roll of Honour is read.

The last few months of the year were particularly eventful, interviewing prospective new vicars, and preparing the church for Christmas. We were prepared and ready to have a wonderful start to the festive season with the Carol Service - with a number of new readers stepping up - but sadly COVID struck the village and we had to make the very difficult decision to cancel the service and keep everybody safe. An impromptu Zoom service did go ahead which was enjoyed by 20.

The Christmas Eve Crib Service was also cancelled but the Carol Singing outside

the village shop was well supported despite the pouring rain and raised £123 for church funds. Midnight Communion did go ahead and, as our second COVID Christmas, numbers were slightly up. We also made the decision to keep the church open daily for private prayer



from early morning until dusk.

Finally, despite COVID-19 forcing tedious decision-making and some negative stuff, we were able to end the year with some very good news and the new 'Priest in Charge' Teresa Townsend will be licensed at St. Mary's in April. We are greatly looking forward to her arrival.

Kate Bennett



## HANDBELLS – Dee Howarth

As with all other community activities, the handbells had a meagre year of ringing in 2021. After the long lockdown we recommenced practising in June, playing outdoors and in fine weather only. In 2021 we played outside the Village Shop for the Annual Village Fete and also for the Shop's Christmas bazaar. Sadly all other bookings were cancelled. The fete committee kindly funded a pop up gazebo to protect the bells (and ringers) from the British weather.

Sadly, as The Fun Club has not been taking place we missed teaching the children to ring but Polly Whyte and I have both renewed our Safe Guarding Certification and will encourage Margaret Veale to do likewise in preparation should the Fun Club recommence. Our current members are: Chris Adams, Biz Shaw, Anna Baumer, Barbara Shepherd, Penny Ealand, Jerry Veale, Dee Howarth, Margaret Veale, Anne Jones, Gil Warner, Anna Robinson and Polly Whyte.

Whatever joy we give to others ... which may be questionable, the joy handbell ringing gives to ourselves as a group is mighty and the friendship gained, immeasurable. (Sounds like an M&S ad!!)

## **ABBOTTS ANN BELLRINGERS**

During this lengthy period, like most active hobbies, the Pandemic has taken its toll on our Bellringing.

During this time and as a result of one of the shutters in the ringing chamber being damaged at some time in the past allowed a pair of our feathered friends to access and build a nest on the chamber floor.

It was decided to delay any bellringing until the young ones and parents had flown the nest

at which point it was removed in tandem with tidying the bell chamber floor and the annual bell inspection.

As the restrictions were lifted it was decided to resume ringing but a dearth of ringer availability for a variety of reasons delayed sessions further.

During the last quarter of last year, however, the team were fortunate to welcome three new potential Ringers keen to learn the skill.

All three are now progressing and are very enthusiastic about their chosen hobby.



This progress has been made possible by holding a pre-evening training session organised by Gil Warner before the normal practice session commences.



## Men's Café

Men's Café has been a highlight for some during the pandemic. It is one of the benefice activities that has kept going throughout the toughest restrictions. We used to gather each month in Abbotts Ann Village Shop. When Covid came we went onto Zoom and started meeting weekly. This was much appreciated by the dozen or so members. For those with only limited immunity, for whom self-isolating has become a way of life, Men's Café has been a huge plus. Now that we can move more freely we still meet weekly but have returned to the village shop once a fortnight to enjoy Julia's excellent

scones. Our meetings are a source of advice on many subjects: from thatching to phone boosters and each week we solve the world's problems at a speed which politicians could only dream about.

## **ELECTORAL ROLL**

Elizabeth Howard has again done great work on the electoral roll.

There are currently 69 people on the electoral roll. 59 are resident and 10 non-resident.

## Abbotts Ann Church of England Primary School – Susie Thornely

There are clear links between the school's Christian values and ethos to its success in supporting its staff, pupils their families and the wider community. I know that I said that "last year had been difficult. In many ways 2021 was worse BUT we are beginning to see the light at the end of the tunnel. The greatest achievement this year has been keeping people safe. This was only achieved with a huge amount of effort from all the staff, children and supported brilliantly by the parents. The children will soon think it is strange not to be testing twice a week but there are no complaints and they all show such concern for others.



Collective worship was ongoing with Revd Katrina and, subsequently, Revd Nicky Judd who captured the children's hearts and interest in her place. Mrs Vignaux (Headteacher) and the class teachers held daily collective worships. The ones that I was

lucky enough to attend have been children led and always inclusive and thought provoking.

Members of the wider community continued to support the school's worship through Open the Book which was filmed and shared until it was safe to come into school in the Autumn Term. Coming together as a school and sharing the school values was very important for the children's sense of belonging in such a challenging time. Our themes for worship in the autumn term focussed on British Values and our school learning gems are closely linked to our school values of Love, Respect, Responsibility, Honesty and Courage. These values underpin our behaviour policy and the children were often reminded to be Ready, Respectful, Safe.

## Abbotts Ann PCC Financial Review

Jenny Gorski (PCC Treasurer)

Total receipts into the General Fund in 2021 amounted to £27,094.56 a decrease £7,000 from 2020. However it should be remembered that £3,500 of income was deferred from 2020 to 2021 at the request of the donor which means the income in the 2 years levels out. General fund expenditure was £31,164.68 a little less than the £32,600 of 2020. The Common Mission Fund request of £21,312.69 was paid in full despite a difficult year.

Our contribution to the Benefice account was reduced to £3,600 (£5,000 in 2020) as real life services etc continued to be curtailed thus reducing expenses. We expect to pay £5,250 in 2022 as full services have now resumed. The Benefice account covers all 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.

Total assets at 31 December 2021 were £30,082.82 of which £20,633.14 is restricted. General Fund reserves at £9,449.68 are close to the agreed minimum.

Money raised through restricted donations and events have gone towards the building of the WC, and there is £18,043.33 in hand for that project.



**Stewardship** We have 16 regular givers paying by direct debit through the Parish Giving Scheme, and 6 people with regular standing orders. We are very grateful to those people as it has provided a regular income on which we can rely when there has been little opportunity for collections at services during the last 2 years.

## AA PCC Safeguarding report

Eleanor Jakeman and Tessa Cross have continued with their excellent work as Safeguarding Officer and Administrator. Changes for 2022 include the need for DBS checks to be renewed every three years rather than five and anyone who undertakes any work within the churches has to have completed at least the basic awareness pathway course (the old C0 course) which is run online. Many will also have to complete the Foundations pathway course (the old C1 course). All PCC members have completed both.

## 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 90% (discounting Ministry Team members who have other duties). The PCC’s two committees (\*Standing and \*Fabric) met as required between full PCC meetings. Their activities were reported to the PCC and discussed as necessary.

(The PCC also met with the PCCs of Goodworth Clatford and Upper Clatford and the

Bishop of Basingstoke and the Archdeacon to discuss the potential reorganization of Anna Benefice.) 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).

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: (Vacant from Apr 22) The Rectory, Upper Clatford, Andover, Hampshire, SP11 7QP.  
Telephone: 07922 153765. Email: officeannabenefice@gmail.com

### Abbotts Ann PCC 2021

Priest in Charge	Jan—Apr Katrina Dykes May—December Vacancy
Churchwardens	
Until APCM 2023	Ms Kate Bennett
Until APCM 2023	Mr Graham Platford
Deanery Synod members on PCC ex officio:	
Until APCM 2023	Mr Tim Tayler
Until APCM 2023	Mrs Diana Wilson
Elected PCC members:	
Until APCM 2024	Mrs Vivien Asbee
Until APCM 2024	Mrs Rosemary Griffiths
Until APCM 2022	vacant
Until APCM 2022	vacant
Until APCM 2023	Mrs Judith Gammon (secretary)
Until APCM 2023	vacant
Co-opted PCC members:	
Until APCM 2023	Mrs Jenny Gorski (treasurer)
Benefice ministry team, ex officio:	
Self-Supporting Minister	Revd Nicky Judd
Licensed Lay Minister	Mr Peter Eastwood
Licensed Lay Minister	Mr Tim Tayler

Anna Valley Benefice Account 2021

PCC of Abbotts Ann

Financial Statements for the year ended 31 December 2021

2020	General Fund - Receipts	2021
	£	£
<b>Voluntary receipts</b>		
7,705.58	Planned Giving	9,605.45
5,961.40	Income tax recovery	4,440.83
1,939.93	Collections	2,785.45
<u>15,555.00</u>	Donations	<u>4,220.50</u>
<b><u>31,161.91</u></b>		<b><u>21,052.23</u></b>
<b>Receipts from activities for generating funds</b>		
35.00	Magazine sales	2,314.10
1,945.00	Magazine advertising	1,664.00
25.00	Carol Singing	48.50
<u>2,005.00</u>	Fete Grant (Designated)	<u>650.00</u>
		<u>4,676.60</u>
<b>Receipts from church activities</b>		
819.90	Gross Fees Received	1,276.00
<u>819.90</u>		<u>1,276.00</u>
<b>Receipts from investments</b>		
121.68	Interest from WDBF account	89.73
<b><u>34,108.49</u></b>	<b>Total receipts</b>	<b><u>27,094.56</u></b>

## PCC of Abbotts Ann

## Financial Statements for the year ended 31 December 2021

2020	General Fund - Payments	2021
£		£
<b>Grants</b>		
<b>Activities directly related to the work of the Church</b>		
23,550.31	Diocesan quota	21,312.69
5,000.00	Benefice Account	3,600.00
<b>Church Running Expenses</b>		
294.56	Repairs & Maintenance	43.00
2,052.34	Insurance - church	2,051.50
91.97	Miscellaneous	128.42
713.81	Utilities	568.07
<b><u>31,702.99</u></b>		<b><u>27,703.68</u></b>
<b>Costs of generating funds</b>		
911.80	Magazine costs	3,461.00
<b><u>32,614.79</u></b>	<b>Total Payments</b>	<b><u>31,164.68</u></b>

Financial Report 2021

**PCC of Abbotts Ann**

**Financial Statements for the year ended 31 December 2021**

**Restricted Funds**

	Fabric	WC	Flowers	Agency	Total
<b>Balance at 31 December 2020</b>	2,999.75	17,996.57	63.28	(942.58)	20,117.02
<b>Income</b>			*	942.58	
Donations & Grants		75.00			
Fundraising		186.46			
	<b>0.00</b>	<b>261.46</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>942.58</b>	<b>1,204.04</b>
<b>Expenditure</b>					
Exps	472.92	215.00			687.92
<b>Balance at 31 December 2021</b>	<b>2,526.83</b>	<b>18,043.03</b>	<b>63.28</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>20,633.14</b>

\* This is an adjustment / correction

## PCC of Abbotts Ann

## Statement of Assets and Liabilities at 31 December 2021

	2020	2021
23,033.58	Lloyds bank account	19,129.39
11,591.46	WDBF account	11,611.52
-45.64	Unreconciled Transactions	(229.09)
	Agency Collections	(429.00)
(3,500.00)	Deferred income	
<u><b>31,079.40</b></u>	<b>Total assets at 31 December 2021</b>	<u><b>30,082.82</b></u>

## Represented by:

	<b>General Fund</b>	
9,468.68	Balance at 1 January 2021	10,962.38
	<b>Income accrued</b>	3,500.00
34,108.49	Receipts	27,094.56
(32,614.79)	Payments	31,164.68
1,493.70	(Deficit)/Surplus for year	(4,070.12)
	y/e adj *	(942.58)
<u><b>10,962.38</b></u>	<b>Balance at 31 December 2021</b>	<u><b>9,449.68</b></u>

	<b>Restricted Funds</b>	
18,116.81	Balance at 1 January 2021	20,117.02
2,683.33	Receipts	1,204.04
(683.12)	Payments	(687.92)
<u><b>20,117.02</b></u>	<b>Balance at 31 December 2021</b>	<u><b>20,633.14</b></u>
<b>31,079.40</b>	<b>Total Funds at 31 December 2021</b>	<b>30,082.82</b>

\* This is an adjustment in respect of Agency Funds

Approved by the PCC on

21/03 2022 and signed on their behalf by:

Kate Bennett (Churchwarden)

Kate Bennett

Mrs Jenny Gorski (PCC Treasurer)

Jenny Gorski

**PCC of Abbotts Ann****Notes to the Financial Statements for the year ended 31 December 2021****1 Accounting Policy**

The financial statements of the PCC of Abbotts Ann have been prepared in accordance with the Church Accounting Regulations 2006 using the Receipts and Payments basis, as laid down in section 133 of the Charities Act 2011.

**2 Analysis of fund raising activities**

	2020 Net	2021 Income	Expenses	Net
<b>1,068.20 Magazine</b>		<b>3,978.10</b>	<b>3,461.00</b>	<b>517.10</b>
<b>Other Fundraising</b>				
Carol Singing		207.00		
Fete Committee designated fund		650.00		
<b>215.00 Parish Council grant for clock maintenance</b>	<b>1</b>			<b>0.00</b>
<b>215.00</b>	<b>857.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>		<b>857.00</b>
<b>Restricted Fundraising</b>				
73.50 Ride & Stride			102.96	
159.43 Easy Fundraising			102.96	
<b>1,029.40 Curry Lunch</b>	<b>1</b>			<b>102.96</b>
<b>1,262.33</b>	<b>102.96</b>	<b>0.00</b>		<b>102.96</b>
<b>2,545.53 Total Funds raised</b>		<b>4,938.06</b>	<b>3,461.00</b>	<b>1,477.06</b>

**PCC of Abbotts Ann**

**Financial Statements for the year ended 31 December 2021**

I report on the financial statements of the PCC of Abbotts Ann for the year ended 31 December 2021 which are set out on pages 1 to 5.

**Respective responsibilities of the Trustees and the Independent Examiner**

As trustees of the PCC you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. You consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act) and that an independent examination is needed. It is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under section 145 of the 2011 Act;
- follow the procedures laid down in the General Directions given by the Charity Commissioners section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act; and
- state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

**Basis of Independent Examiner's Statement**

My examination was carried out in accordance with the General Directions given by the Charity Commission. .

An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the PCC of Abbotts Ann and a comparison of the accounts with those records. It also includes a consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts and seeking explanations from you as trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently I do not express an audit opinion on the accounts

**Independent Examiner's Statement**

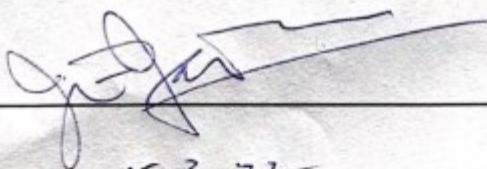
In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

(1) which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements:

- to keep accounting records in accordance with s130 of the 2011 Act ; or
- to prepare accounts which accord with these accounting records have not been met; or

(2) to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Signed:



Date:

15-3-22

John Jarvis  
Applegate  
Church Lane  
Goodworth Clatford

## ANNA BENEFICE



### Worship Report

(in another year of pandemic) - Nicky Judd

At the beginning of the year we had two weeks with one in-person service of Communion, but were then restricted to online services again – Preach and Pray at midday and Zoom Praise in the evening. The evening service particularly lent itself to involving many different people as they reflected on particular themes.

On Mothering Sunday, 14<sup>th</sup> March, we were able to be back in church for one Communion service again. On Easter Day we had a Communion service at each church, including the outdoor Sunrise Service at All Saints, where the benefice Paschal Candles were lit from the Easter fire. A barbecue breakfast followed. The following week we said goodbye to Katrina as she left for her new group of parishes in Suffolk. In the evening of Ascension Day a joint service was held inside and outside St Mary's, Ampthill, for Anna and Portway & Danebury Benefices, at which Bishop David preached.



At the beginning of June we began a three-Sunday rota, giving each church an in-person service every Sunday. The timings were tweaked at the beginning of September

to allow the choir and organist more time between services. A monthly 4pm Evensong at All Saints was added and has been increasingly supported by choir and congregation. That pattern continued for the rest of the year, with occasional variations for festivals.



We had two Sundays of Harvest, with All Saints and St Mary's celebrating on 26<sup>th</sup> September and St Peter's, with Archdeacon Richard, the following week. Each church community gathered for Harvest lunches in the ways they felt safe to do so.

Each church celebrated its Patronal Festival. Each church hosted an All Souls' Service of Light and Remembrance on 6<sup>th</sup> November and we offered one online for those who preferred not to come to an in-person service. All were well-attended and are one of our significant opportunities for outreach and pastoral care.

A Carol Service at St Peter's was really appreciated. St Mary's in-person service was cancelled due to worries about Covid and it went online instead. On Christmas Eve, All Saints Crib Service happened outdoors and included a live Nativity tableau in the church porch, and travelling music thanks to the Timms family.



St Peter's had their service in the church. St Mary's had carol singing outside the Village Shop, which proved hugely popular, despite the rain.

There were two Midnight Communions, one using Reserved Sacrament, with permission from the Bishop. The Christmas Day Benefice service combined Family Worship and Communion, which worked well and attracted a number of young families. On Boxing Day people were still wanting to be in church so we were glad we decided to have a Benefice communion that day, too.

Throughout the year 6.00pm Night Prayer online was a constant.

## Pastoral Care:

Early in the year it was still recommended that we should not visit people in their homes, so contact was made by telephone. Gradually home visits from the Pastoral Care team recommenced, as did Home Communions. Residential Home visits were rare, due to the limits on visiting imposed by the Homes themselves.

## Occasional Offices:

Across the Benefice there were 9 Baptisms, 7 weddings, 26 funerals and 18 burials of ashes.



## Messy Church

Messy Church continued to be popular in 2021 and celebrations were held to mark all the major festivals. Messy Church is run as a Benefice activity.

## ANDOVER DEANERY SYNOD REPORT 2021 for APCMs—Peter Eastwood

Last year I wrote that 2020 was a unique year in the history of Andover Deanery because of the restrictions caused by the coronavirus pandemic, and 2021 was also a unique and momentous year. We did manage to hold three Synod meetings, in January and May on Zoom, and in September in person for the first time in two years.

The February meeting saw the Co-option and Election of Officers for the new triennium delayed from the previous September by the covid pandemic. Area Dean Rev Trevor Lewis reported the major news that because of the coronavirus pandemic, the diocese were losing significant money and to counteract this the diocesan staff of 144 stipendiary clergy needed to be cut by 22, to be achieved by natural wastage, clergy moving on, and some redundancies across the diocese. Archdeacon Peter Roche had also left and would not be replaced and his duties would be taken over by Archdeacon Richard Brand. This news caused considerable discussion and concern by synod members.

The May meeting featured a Ride and Stride presentation by Clive Bagwell, who had run the local Hampshire Churches Trust Ride and Stride for the last ten years. Last year twelve churches raised £4,000 and the whole of Hampshire raised £80,000 which was boosted by an additional grant of £25,000 by Hampshire County Council. The money raised is used to provide grants to update old church buildings.

In his Deanery reorganization report Trevor reported that Pastrow intended to move forward towards one single parish, and dialogue with Appleshaw concerning amalgamation was also moving forward. The Appleshaw group of five parishes were joining Pastrow but would be joining as five separate parishes. In the Town Centre Chris Bradish was working with Knights Enham and West Andover. Downs was staying as it was as benefice with Jax Machin as incumbent although she remains in a situation of handling five parishes with no assistance, and this cannot continue. The proposed merger of Anna and Portway & Danebury was at a very early stage in the discussion stage and many questions have been raised and there was some resistance in both benefices. In response to a question Andrew Kent confirmed that the proposed DMPC plan was now on hold as the diocese would now decide the way forward.

At the September meeting Synod split into four groups for a fifteen-minute breakout for discussion about Deanery Synod by considering the four questions: What do we like? What would we like to change? What do we want to stop? What is missing?

Like - Members liked the sharing of good practices and ideas across the deanery, and meetings were an important mechanism to enable people to get together.

Change - Meetings needed more structure. More canvassing of parishioners was needed to discover what issues concerned them. Sharing a meal with wine would be a good move. There was frustration that members felt they were just recipients of information rather than giving back. Too much was coming down and not enough going up!

Stop - There is a need to be more proactive and reduce non-engagement.

Missing – Communication both Synod to PCC and vice-versa. A more formalised structure is needed with a mechanism to achieve aims. Communications with clarity of role, and new ideas to bring Synod together.

The announcement in July that Bishop Tim Dakin would be retiring as Bishop of Winchester from February 2022 was noted and the implications discussed. Bishop Debbie and the Clergy and Lay chairs explained what had led to the retirement of Bishop Tim and gave an assurance there would be a thorough examination of governance in the diocese. It was felt that Deanery Synod needed an external unbiased review of the financial situation, to find how it happened and to make sure it was not repeated. It was agreed by Synod that we should be able to hold our leaders to account. It was not healthy to have the people in charge doing the review and asked if Andrew Kent could draft a positive letter to the diocese for circulation and approval by deanery synod. It was agreed this would be done.

Michael Coleman reported that as expected 2021 was going to be a difficult year financially and the end of August figures, which is two thirds of the way through the year, showed a deficit of £54,000 which mean a shortfall of £466,000 across the diocese. This was likely to be £75,000 by year end. Pamela Woolgrove reported that following the request for African projects at a previous deanery synod meeting, two charities have been helped with £645 each so the Overseas account now stands at £824. The Current account had a working balance of £1,120.

As usual all Synod meetings featured Good News from the Parishes which showed the wide breadth of activities going on across our deanery.

This has been another very strange year for Andover Deanery Synod under the leadership of Area Dean, Rev Trevor Lewis and Assistant Area Dean Rev Katrina Dykes who moved on at Easter after her very successful ministry.

## Benefice Music

Paul Timms

*Psallam spiritu et mente  
I will sing with the Spirit and also  
the understanding*  
*1 Corinthians 14:15*

This year's Benefice Choir and Music Report is a continuation of 2019-2020 and could be called Part 2 'to sing, or not to sing, in strange times' By now there was a certain amount of resignation, frustration and acceptance for what was now

becoming a new way of life, in an unsettled and unpredictable landscape of Public Health and a seemingly lack of end-date to the pandemic. The musicians could only lead the worship to the best of their ability in a very flexible manner in the churches across the benefice.

During the spring lockdown choir practices returned to online. However following Easter and the May restrictions choirs were allowed to sing again in person but only with a maximum of six indoors. As a consequence practices resumed in person but outdoors in the churchyard at All Saints and socially distanced!. In September rehearsals resumed indoors and eventually returned to St Peters in October. In the run up to Christmas and as Omicron made its present felt, the government activated Plan B, and the annual highly anticipated Carol Services were reduced to just the one, at St Peter's, as infections rose and choral singing was yet again put on hold over the period. It was to be another Christmas for the Benefice without choral music at the centre of our worship. Instrumental versions of many carols was provided by Alice, Grace, Olivia and Victoria Timms on Christmas eve and Christmas day and it was a moving experience for many congregants as they hummed under their face-coverings .

As each church decided to adopt its own approach to the inclusion of singing during Plan B it was decided that St Peter's would continue to sing hymns and canticles with face-coverings whilst St Mary's and All Saints decided not to have any singing at all. This continued until the first week in February when all three churches returned to a pre-pandemic feeling of normality.

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Since then all churches have included sung music in their services with All Saints hosting a full sung Parish communion and Evensong and St Peter's a sung Matins, with hymn singing re-introduced at St Mary's. Sunday evenings at 6.00pm have continued online with the weekly Zoom Praise Evening Prayer with music being led by the Director and his daughter Grace Timms, from their home in Andover. He is very grateful for her support and thank her for her leading the singing of all the hymns. Choir membership remains stable and has become a more balanced ensemble due to the availability of 3 basses and 2 tenors. This has resulted in working on more 4 part anthems with the hope to perform more regularly, and unaccompanied, in the future. Choir practices are now back in St Peter's room. For Covid reasons the choir has not been required to sing at many weddings but have been asked to sing at funerals and thanksgiving services.

The Organist and Director of Music is grateful for the support and help from Tim Pay, Ray Lucas and Margaret Hinds for their contribution to playing the organ at services that need covering when required and thank them for all their efforts across another disrupted year. He is also grateful to the support from all the choir, the Ministry team and the churchwardens for their continued support and faith in the music of the benefice.

The organs have borne up quite well to the irregularity of tuning over the past twelve months and will no doubt look forward to their twice yearly tune once full normality returns during 2022. The 2' Fifteenth at St Peter's is constantly out of tune, due to its placement in the organ, St Mary's could do with at least a clean, and along with All Saints occasionally ciphers! However they do a stirring job in supporting the choir and congregations in our worship. With a new Priest-in-charge arriving in April the music in the benefice will no doubt continue to thrive and grow musically for another year.

Voice Church	Soprano	Alto	Tenor	Bass	Total
All Saints Upper Clatford	2	3	1	3	9 (11)
St Mary's Abbotts Ann	2	0	0	0	2 (3)
St Peter's Goodworth Clatford	3	1	1	0	5
(Extras)	(2)	(0)	(1)	(1)	(4)
Total	7(2)	4	2(1)	3(1)	16 (20)