

# St Peter's Church, Goodworth Clatford

## 2021 Annual Report

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### OVERALL AIM OF THE PCC

We are an Anglican Christian community under the patronage of St Peter in the Diocese of Winchester. As part of the Anna Benefice with All Saints', Upper Clatford, and St Mary's, Abbotts Ann, our parish strives to serve unselfishly all who seek the Lord and to provide a safe and nurturing home for prayer, worship, education and spiritual growth. Led by the Holy Spirit and strengthened by the Eucharist we administer our life on behalf of the Bishop through the PCC and Priest-in-Charge.

### Administrative Information

The Church of St Peter, Goodworth Clatford, is part of the united Anna benefice with All Saints' Upper Clatford and St Mary's Abbott's Ann in the Andover Deanery of the Diocese of Winchester. The Priest-in-Charge role has been vacant since April 2021 although a new incumbent has been appointed. The Reverend Teresa Townsend is due to be licensed on 26 April 2022. She will live at The Rectory, Upper Clatford, Andover, Hampshire, SP11 7QP (Tel: 07922 153 765) and will lead the Ministry Team of the Reverend Nicky Judd and Lay Ministers Tim Tayler and Peter Eastwood. PCC members are either ex officio or elected by the Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM) in accordance with the Church Representation Rules and, in 2019, comprised:

**Incumbent:** Vacant

**Team Members:** Revd Nicky Judd, Lay Ministers Tim Tayler and Peter Eastwood

**Churchwardens (ex-officio):** Jane Eastwood (until APM 2022), John Milne (until APM 2022)

**Deanery Synod members:** Peter Eastwood (until APCM 2023), one vacancy

**Elected PCC members:** Mark Haszlakiewicz (until APCM 2022), Belinda Jones (until APCM 2023), Louise Wodehouse (until APCM 2024), Becky Stevens (until APCM 2024), John Jarvis (until APCM 2024), Martin Jourdan (until APCM 2024), Liz Collinson (until APCM 2024), and Sandra Hopwood (until APCM 2024).

**Co-opted PCC member:** Jane Drew (Hon Secretary).

Benefice Administrator: Sarah Derbyshire (to May 2021); then Danielle Lloyd

Benefice Pastoral Coordinator: Cherry Milne

Independent Financial Examiner: Richard Langrishe

### STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE & MANAGEMENT

The PCC is a corporate body established by the Church of England (CofE). It operates under the Parochial Church Council Powers Measure and is exempted by Order from registering with the Charity Commission. The PCC maintains a Standing committee which meets between full meetings of the PCC as required to transact PCC business subject to any directions given by the Council.

### ANNA BENEFICE MISSION ACTION PLAN

**Pastoral Care:** Early in 2021 it was recommended that home visits should not be made, so contact was made by telephone. Gradually, as the year progressed, home visits from the Pastoral Care team recommenced, as did Home Communion. Residential Home visits were rare, due to the limits on visiting imposed by the Homes themselves.

### CHURCH SERVICES

2021 continued to be dominated by the COVID pandemic. The year saw a range of restrictions for our services as COVID regulations ebbed and flowed. However, all services took place as planned with a three-weekly cycle proving effective. Revd Katrina Dykes left us for a new post in Suffolk, and the search for a new priest in charge ended with the successful appointment of Revd Teresa Townsend who will take up her post in April 2022.

At the beginning of the year there were two weeks with one in-person service of Communion, before being 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, we were able to be back in church for one Communion service again. On Easter Day there was a Communion service at each Benefice 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 Katrina Dykes 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, Ampport, with Anna and Portway & Danebury Benefices, at which Bishop David preached.

At the beginning of June a three-Sunday rota began, giving each Benefice 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 and, on 6 November, each church hosted an All Souls' Service of Light and Remembrance, with one online service 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.

The 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 Communion services, 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.

**Safeguarding:** The PCC has complied with the duty under section 5 of the Safeguarding and Clergy Discipline Measure 2016 (duty to have regard to House of Bishops' guidance on safeguarding children and vulnerable adults).

**Fabric Management:** Repairs and modifications to the church and churchyard are controlled through the CofE faculty process which operates in parallel with Local Authority planning arrangements. Work is done by volunteers where possible or by paid experts.



**Policy on Donations and Grants:** St Peter's has chosen to make grants and donations to specific projects (like the school) when it can and to particular charities (like Christian Aid, the Children's Society and the Royal British Legion) through one-off collections.

**Church Attendance:** Between the crib service on 24 December 2021 and morning service with communion on Christmas Day, the services were attended by 174 people. In addition, during 2021, St Peter's had 4 funerals, 5 burial of ashes, 2 baptisms and 2 weddings.

**Electoral Roll:** Currently there are 64 on the Electoral Roll of Goodworth Clatford, 11 of whom are not resident within the Parish. Should anyone wish to be included on the Electoral Roll, they should contact Elaine Price for an application form on 01264 361882. St Peter's is extremely grateful to the work of Elaine Price, Electoral Roll Officer, in this respect.

**Health & Safety Risk Management.** There were no matters of note in relation to health and safety throughout the year. A full review of the risk register will take place in 2022.

**Way Inn.** Way Inn was able to recommence in September 2021 using a different format – alternating lunch at the Royal Oak one month with either Morning Coffee or Afternoon Tea in St Peter's Room the following month. This arrangement works well and is much appreciated by those who attend. Sadly, in November 2021, Way Inn founder Pam Morgan died but she will always be remembered for starting Way Inn nearly 25 years ago. The Bank Balance at the 31st December 2021 was £907.46.

**Bellringers.** During the year, the Bellringers resumed their regular pre-Covid practising on Wednesday evenings with a full and enthusiastic band of ringers including two experienced new members. They reported how good it was to get back to ringing for Sunday Services, weddings, funerals, Armistice Day and Remembrance Sunday. At the August Village Fete they again ran a second-hand bookstall to raise money for their bell fund. George Dowling who rang the bells at both Clatford Churches for over 70 years sadly died in early 2022 and, in his memory, eight of the bellringers rang a quarter peal at St Peter's on Ash Wednesday.

**The Benefice Choir.** During the spring lockdown choir practices returned to online. However, from Easter 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 Peter's in October. In the run up to Christmas, 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 were provided by the Timms family 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 the Government's Covid 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. 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 Benefice Director of Music, Paul Timms, and his daughter from their home in Andover. He is very grateful for her support and thanks her for 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 sung 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 thanks 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.

**Clatford (CE) Primary School.** 2021 was a year at Clatford that saw many transitions and challenges alongside being a year of hope, community and new beginnings. The lockdown in the earlier parts of the year was very different to the previous ones in that the school were all much more ready for the challenges, and better equipped to face them. Learning went online, but many children still attended school with some classes having up to 50% of children in the classroom. Teachers adapted and became hybrid practitioners, many teaching live-classrooms in the morning while providing online feedback, and then recording videos in the afternoons to support children at home. All the while, the school also faced the continued difficulty of staff and children isolating throughout, with some teachers keeping learning going remotely whilst working from home.

As the year progressed, and the lockdown abated, the school began opening up a little more, having all the children back in classrooms and bringing the disparate community back together. The children were separated into class 'bubbles' during the summer term, where they did not mix with other classes, in order to further reduce the spread of the virus. However, the school did have another transition to prepare for as this was going on. Angela Rice, headteacher at the school for over 15 years, announced her retirement from education. She was given a proper Clatford send-off as expected and tributes poured in from many of the lives she had touched including staff, children and governors, both past and present. They gathered as a school outside at the end of the summer term to sing together which, after so much time in individual class bubbles, was emotive and uplifting.

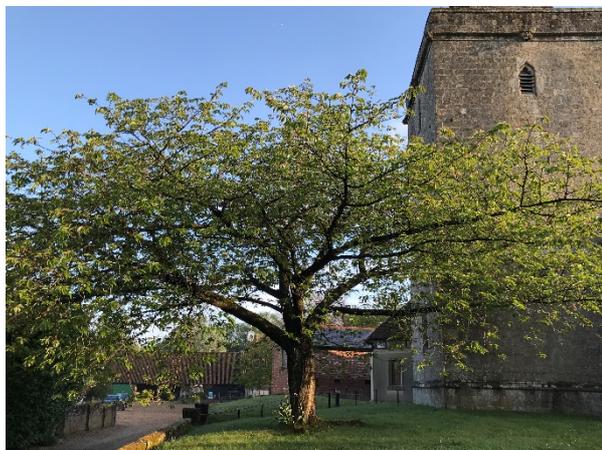
In September 2021 Mr Matthew Kirk took over as headteacher, having been with the school since 2005. As a school, this was an exciting time for all as they were able to begin moving on from COVID to focus on other things. Over the term they reinstated many things that had not been possible to take place for a while including school-trips, inter-school sports, music-lessons and nativity plays. They started mixing classes again and joining together for worships, lunches and playtimes, making them appreciate all of those moments more than they ever had in the past.

**Clatfords Magazine:** The Magazine remained available only as a monthly online edition on the Upper Clatford and Goodworth Clatford village websites from January to April 2021. However, in May it returned to hard copy produced by Bulpitt Print Ltd. Where possible, subscribers registered

through an online form on both the village websites and opted to have their copy of the Magazine hand delivered or posted with the additional option to have a PDF version emailed each month. The annual costs remained at £6 for hard copy hand delivered, £16 for a postal copy and £5 for a PDF version. Payment could either be a BACS transfer or a cheque sent to Nicki Crosthwaite-Eyre. 265 copies were printed and distributed each month and 49 PDF versions emailed each month. The number of subscribers was down on the previous year.

Income for the year was £6,727 with subscriptions being £1,898 and advertising £4,829. Expenses, including printing, were £3,349. £3,000 was distributed equally between All Saints' and St Peter's. The accounts have been reviewed and confirmed by Tom Wilson FCA.

Our thanks go to Editor, Cherry Milne, and Administrators, Nicki Crosthwaite-Eyre (subscriptions) and Sue Stephens (advertising), for the hard work and enthusiasm they have brought to keeping the magazine fresh and relevant for our readers.



## DEANERY SYNOD REPORT

2021 was a unique and momentous year, with three Synod meetings held - 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 Revd Trevor Lewis 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 Revd Chris Bradish was working with Knights Enham and West Andover. Downs was staying as it was as a benefice with Revd 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.

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.

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.

## CHURCHWARDENS' REPORT

**Overview:** This has been another difficult year with COVID restrictions still in place, but as the situation has stabilised, restrictions in church have been eased. While hand sanitising is still required, people now have the option whether to wear a mask or not and are seated accordingly. The priest's door, the main door and the doors to St Peter's room and outside are all kept open during services to ensure good ventilation.

Singing was reintroduced much to the enjoyment of the congregation and the choir. Numbers at services had fallen slightly during the pandemic, but are now starting to rise again following the re-introduction of singing.

The church is now open on a daily basis.

Messy Church is now back in person alternating between the memorial hall in Abbots Ann and St Peter's Church. We will be pleased to welcome Revd Matt Coles who will take a couple of services to give Revd Nicky Judd a break, and who is also going to help us with Messy Church. Nicky has been helping us since Katrina left and St Peter's are hugely grateful for her input. We are hoping that the Messy Church services might be held in our two church schools shortly which would be a great help.

Open the Book was all set to go back into the schools in January, when the level of COVID in the schools began to rise alarmingly, so stories have been recorded online.

The St Peter's Newsletter, which was started in 2020 to keep people in touch at the beginning of the pandemic, was continued daily for 18 months until it changed to weekly in the latter part of 2021, with a circulation of 94. It has become a good way to connect with the whole village, especially those who are on their own or elderly.

Online services: We have continued with night prayer on Monday-Saturday which is watched at the time by a handful of people, but over the evening is watched by about 30-40 people.

The 6pm Sunday zoom service has also continued and provides a vital point of contact for those who live alone or can't get out for any reason. This service allows interaction and a chance to chat afterwards. Although the numbers attending are not huge, usually anything from 10-15 people, this service answers a real need.

**Fabric:** On the fabric front there was nothing major except that on 26 December 2021 lead was stolen from the roof. Temporary repairs took place that day and a faculty was received in February 2022 to allow a long-term repair to be effected. The large beech tree in the churchyard suffered terminal damage in a fierce storm and most of the trunk was cut down and removing, leaving only the bottom couple of metres or so. had to be taken down with just the trunk remaining. The south-easter gate likewise was severely damaged and will need to be replaced.

**Social & Fundraising:** Events were still curtailed in 2021, particularly indoor events, but we were delighted that the annual Fete could go ahead, with huge thanks to Jane Drew for her amazing organisation. It was an enormous success, raising monies not just for St Peter's, but also for local clubs, charities and organisations giving them a platform to raise funds for their own causes as well. In total £4,457 was raised for St Peter's, with more on top for those other organisations.



**Thanks:** Notwithstanding the changes in services and activity, St Peter's PCC would like to give their wholehearted thanks to all those who help in any way at all with the running and administration of St Peter's; it is deeply appreciated. Everyone's contribution is vital and the PCC are so grateful to have such an amazing team of volunteers including those involved in: organising rotas, cleaning, flowers, bellringing, sidesmen, Worship leaders, Choir, Church opening and closing, reading the lesson, Intercessions plus a myriad of odd jobs that get done. This includes those on the working party to tidy up the Rectory garden when Katrina and Phil left and were hugely grateful to all who turned up to help.

The churchwardens are most grateful to the worship team of Nicky, Tim and Peter for all they do for St Peter's and its community, not only leading worship but also contributing to the life of the church in many other ways. We appreciate the whole team's hard work.

## FINANCIAL REPORT

**Overview:** St Peter's has again managed to pay its requested Parish Share in full, and increased its reserves. This has resulted from an improved level of voluntary giving, the resumption of the village fete, a reduction in the assessment for Common Mission Fund, and good investment returns.

**Regular Finances:** Regular income rose by £4,700 to £46,700. Voluntary income rose by some £2,000 – mainly through the planned giving schemes. However, it should be noted that this increase was more from the increased generosity of our existing (and ageing) supporters rather than from an expansion in the giving base.

After a COVID break in 2021, the village fete reappeared and produced a record surplus of over £4,000. However, there has yet to be a return of custom to St Peter's Room and, with the return of printing, the surplus from the parish magazine was slightly reduced – as was the level of fees received for marriages and funerals.

Regular expenses, other than the parish share, fell marginally – largely as a result of the vacancy and the relatively low level of church maintenance required. However, the main reduction in spend was the requested parish share which fell from £34,200 to £30,900.

All of the above combined to leave a surplus on regular items of £6,000 which has been added to reserves.

**Funds:** The above surplus for the year, together with an increase in the value of the church's free investments of £12,000, leaves the general fund at some £86,000. Additionally, the church has a fabric fund of £10,000 and a number of other restricted funds with a value of £19,000, for a grand total of £115,000.

**Reserves Policy:** The PCC had intended to consider the issue of the appropriate level of reserves to be held and any action necessary to deal with any surplus during 2021. However, there exists considerable uncertainties caused by the coronavirus pandemic, the departure of our priest-in-charge and with the ongoing structural review of the Deanery, as well as the possibility of the need or advisability for a number of major maintenance and structural projects. The PCC has therefore decided that it would be prudent to re-examine the position once some greater degree of normality has been restored.

**This Annual Report was Approved by the PCC on 14 March 2022 and signed on their behalf by Mr John Milne, Churchwarden.**

