

The Annual Report

for

The Ancient Parish of Godshill

anciently of the Diocese of Winchester, since 1927 of the Diocese of Portsmouth.

Under the Episcopal oversight of the Bishop of Richborough.

prepared for the Annual Parochial Church Meeting of the 28th April 2019

The Parish of Godshill, formed out of the Parish of Arreton during the reign of William the Conqueror, presently comprises the Ancient Parish Church dedicated to All Saints and built on the site of Pagan worship on top of 'the hill of the gods'; and the Chapel-of-Ease of St Alban-the-Martyr, Upper Ventnor; the former chapelries of St Lawrence and of Whitwell having gained parochial status.

Sunday worship is traditional, using our own booklets taken from Common Worship Order One (Traditional Language). During the week the Book of Common Prayer (1549) is also used.

The main entrance to the Parish Church is at the intersection of Church Hill and Church Hollow, past 'The Old Bell', once the village Pub, now a private house.

The Parish no longer has a strip of coastline due to a pastoral re-arrangement during the 20th century, this strip was 'swapped' for that part of Upper Ventnor (Lowtherville) which had hitherto been part of St Catherine's Parish, which had in turn been carved out of the ancient Parish of Newchurch.

St Alban's is sited on the steep hillside at the confluence of St Alban's Road and St Alban's steps, and was built by the people of the area both to prevent the necessity of the long walk to Godshill, and to provide a Church in the Catholic Tradition for the people of Ventnor. To this end they had the foresight of buying the Advowson of the Parish and giving the said Advowson to The Guild of All Souls.

The two parts of the Parish are connected by Stenbury Down; to go by car between the two parts of the Parish one has to go through either the Parish of Whitwell or the Parish of Wroxall. The two parts of the Parish met at least annually at the Easter Vigil, but prior to 1996 the Parochial Church Council was elected exclusively by, and was concerned almost exclusively with matters relating to the Parish Church; St Alban's had their own separate council, and never the twain did meet. Since 1996 the Parochial Church Council has been elected by the entire parish, each church effectively choosing members proportionate to its portion of the electoral roll: at present the Parish Church choosing two Churchwardens and four councillors, the Chapel-of-Ease choosing two Chapel-wardens and three councillors. The Parochial Church Council (PCC) is a charity excepted from registration with the Charity Commission.

This body meets at least four times a year, fulfilling its statutory duties, discussing and deciding on things that affect the whole parish, sharing mutual concerns and helping

each other wherever possible. At the Annual Meeting a Local Church Council is also elected for each church, consisting of the members of that church on the Parochial Church Council, and as many others as they decide.

The two Local Church Councils meet as often as is necessary to discuss and decide on things pertaining to their area of responsibility, together co-operating with the clergy in promoting in the parish the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelistic, social, and where appropriate, ecumenical. All things requiring a legally binding decision are referred to the PCC for ratification.

In addition to the meetings of the full councils, the Standing Committee, consisting of the Vicar, Churchwardens and Parish Treasurer meet as needed.

The Postal Address is: The Vicarage, Church Hill, Godshill, VENTNOR. PO38 3HY

Membership of the outgoing Councils (* - also on Deanery Synod.)

Parochial Church Council

The Revd Fr John Ryder SSC [Vicar]

The Revd Dn Corinne Smith

Jenny Hopkins-Holder [Unelected: Licensed Reader]

All Saints

Dennis Owen [Churchwarden & Treasurer]

Edward Holden [Deputy Churchwarden]

Wendy Begley

Sandra Cromie (resigned due to ill health)

St Alban's

Alan Philpott* [Churchwarden]

Jacque Burden [Deputy Churchwarden] (resigned due to ill health)

David Baldwin

Thomas Burden

Christopher Philpott*

Peter Pye

Local Church Councils

All Saints

Margaret Harrhy

Joseph Lashmar

Jean Peters

St Alban's

Andrew Pellow (resigned due to ill health)

Joyce Snooke

Jane White

The LCCs have the power to form subcommittees, and to co-opt.

Structure, governance and management

The method of appointment of PCC members is set out in the Church Representation Rules. All Church attendees are encouraged to register on the Electoral Roll and stand for election to the PCC.

Church Attendance

The number on the Electoral Roll is 63, a drop of 9. There were 10 new entries. The Average Attendance Figure was 31 adults and 3 children (3 adults lower); the

attendance in warmer weather is higher, at major festivals and 'community services' [Remembrance, etc.,] much higher.

Through the year there were 4 Baptisms and no Confirmations; 3 Marriages and 1 wedding blessing; 5 funerals in the church, and 1 at the crematorium taken by me.

PCC Business for the Year ending 31st December 2018

At the meetings held this year, on 10th January, 21st February, 25th March, 24th May, 18th July, 30th August, 31st October and 6th December, as usual a wide range of issues were discussed. Mission planning, arrangements for special services, financial matters, issues relating to the maintenance of the two churches, Health & Safety related matters and Safeguarding remained at the core of meetings. Matters upon which there was a particular focus this year included: the review of aspects of Worship in the Parish, the restoration of the All Saints tower clock, the Communal Communion Services and other potential outreach activities at St. Margaret's Hall in Upper Ventnor, with the submission to the Diocese of a successful joint Mission Opportunities Fund bid, and ensuring compliance with the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR), which came into force on 25th May 2018. At the beginning of November a formal letter of thanks was sent to Mr & Mrs K. Burden, following their resignation from all of their Parish and St. Alban's roles due to ill health.

Paul L. Tolley

Safeguarding

Our previous Safeguarding Officer Keith William Burden unfortunately had to retire due to the ill health of his wife; his place has been taken by: Brian Haynes of French Mill Cottage, Sandford, PO38 3AJ. His contact details are: Tel 01983 840903 E-mail: bhaynesx@hotmail.com

Current safeguarding information is displayed on the notice boards at All Saint's and St Alban's.

Walsingham Cell

The Walsingham Cell meets on the third Wednesday at All Saints at 5:00 p.m., with either a Rosary or a Mass for our Lady being offered along with the prayer requests. Judging from the many prayer requests we receive on the Walsingham altar this is a much needed ministry in this day and age, for locals and visitors alike. Some of us try to visit Walsingham each year and a Votive Lamp continues to burn for our cell in the Shrine.

Christian Aid Report

PLEASE volunteer to collect, and someone please volunteer to co-ordinate!

Godshill Trust Report to PCC for year ended 31.3.19

There are 6 representatives forming the Trust:

The Vicar of Godshill

Two being appointed by Godshill Parish Council - to cover both Rookley and Godshill

One appointed by the Earl of Yarborough

One as IW Council representative, although not appointed by that body

One co-optative Trustee

Meetings are held in October, February and May and grants are made to students in higher and further education, who are resident in the Ancient Parish of Godshill (now modified to accommodate the whole of Rookley).

An alteration was made to the Terms of Reference as a result of changes in school age leaving. As compulsory, and therefore free, education now continues to the age of 18, the Trust only provides grants to those pursuing post-A Level (or equivalent) qualifications.

The number of applications received is still in decline with only three applications during the year - two for first degrees and one for a Masters.

At present, £400 is paid to university students (first degree) and £350 for Masters, but if student numbers continue to fall, there is a possibility these could be increased in the future.

Applications should be made to Judie Diment, Secretary to Godshill Grammar School Endowment Foundation, The Old Bell, Church Hill, Godshill, PO38 3HY or jadob@icloud.com until the end of March

There will then be a change of secretary to Penny Dyer, The Old Vicarage, Godshill.

Judith Diment

Deanery Synod Report

The combined East and West Wight Deanery's are now working quite well as one Deanery. Apart from the usual business of finances, numerous issues have been discussed including adult social care and how churches can respond, homelessness on the island and the winter night shelter. Recently there has been a lot of discussion about reorganisation of the four Newport Parishes and concerns that there appeared to be a lack of local consultation are currently being addressed by the Diocese.

Alan Philpott

All Saints

LCC

Predominantly basic housekeeping, arranging socials and special events and continuing to look at mission. Battled rather with minimum numbers attending. Did revitalise the offertory.

Sunday School at All Saints.

The children in our small Sunday School are a delight and very engaged. They help read the lessons and say the prayers, and show insight in the way they ask and answer questions. They make thoughtful and creative artwork based on the lesson.

Brenda Ryder

Godshill County Primary School

Fortnightly assemblies going well; the school and the federation still looking for a substantive Head.

Fr John

Music

It was a great tragedy that Sandra Cromie decided to leave the Island due to ill health and inadequate medical facilities on the Island, so a return to CDs at present. While we are grateful for Brenda Ryder and Edward Holden for operating these on a Sunday, more helpers are needed!

Fr John

Bell Tower

The bell ringers have continued to ring for the Sunday Services during the last year and all the ringers have made steady progress in their ringing abilities during that time.

In July we rung the bells to help celebrate the 70th Anniversary of the founding of the NHS, all of the Island bell towers participated in the event at various times during the day and some of us also helped at St George's Arreton.

In November we rung the bells for an all-Island event to mark the end of the First World War. A quarter peal was also rung at Godshill to commemorate the five Island bellringers who were lost in that conflict, one of whom was a Godshill ringer.

Our Friday night practices are well attended and we continue to receive much encouragement and help from other Towers and especially from the Downer family.

We have been joined by a number of the newer ringers from All Saints Ryde at our recent Friday evening practices and we have been able to offer them the opportunity to gain valuable additional ringing experience.

Some of the Godshill ringers have helped regularly throughout the year at Arreton for their Monday evening practices.

As always, we will be extremely pleased to welcome anyone who would like join us and learn the intricacies of this ancient art. We are a friendly and welcoming group and if anyone would like to visit the tower and see what it is all about then please speak to any of the bell ringers or come along on a Friday evening at 7.30. Godshill's bells are very easy to ring and can be managed by children over the age of 8 or 9. We are always pleased to welcome families.

I can be contacted on 07811712211

Mike Marlow

Fabric, Goods and Ornaments

Brighstone landscaping kept the graveyard in good order throughout the year.

Wight Fire Co Ltd serviced the 3 fire extinguishers.

Church Organ serviced during the year by Andrew Cooper & Co Ltd.

Smiths of Derby Clockmakers' cleaning of the clock and fitting new auto winding mechanism was completed by 21st June 2018.

A New North floodlight was fitted and a repair to the South floodlight was carried out during the year.

New carpet fitted to the floor around the organ on 15th November last.

With regard to the continuing rainwater leak from the outside wall of the tower coming in on the right-hand-side wall at the back of the church. JG Banks (IW) Ltd after much reminding submitted a quotation on the 19th December last for £952.60 + VAT lead replacement and leak investigations but cannot guarantee that it will be cured by these works!

We are still awaiting the DAC's recommendation on the boundary wall but a sight visit has now been organised for the 14th February 2019.

J.W.Dennis Owen

Social

Sincere thanks to all who have continued to provide refreshments after the Sunday Services for both our own congregation and any visitors. It is also always a joy to share this time with the youngsters after Sunday School twice a month. This time together is much more than just sharing a cup of tea or coffee and a chat. It gives us the opportunity to keep in touch with what is happening, not only within our Church Family, but also within the wider community and to be aware of where our thoughts and prayers are needed by others.

In addition to the usual 'teas' bring-and-share refreshments to mark special events in our Church Calendar and occasions in our Church Family have been much appreciated.

Treasurer's Report for Year Ending 31st December 2018

In submitting the year-end accounts, I have shown the 2017 figures for comparison purposes .

The total assets of £12 643 are accounted for as follows:

| | |
|------------------|----------------|
| Deposit Account: | 3 830 |
| Current Account | <u>8 813</u> |
| Total | <u>£12 643</u> |

As shown in the financial statement the gross interest received from The CBF C of E Deposit Fund amounted to £15.14. The year-end rate was 0.672% p.a.

As can be seen from our receipts we have again been grateful to our many visitors who have contributed £11 182 to our accounts from their donations and sale of church literature; a decrease of £179 on last year's figures.

Income from Tax Efficient Planned Giving, other tax-efficient giving together with Income Tax Refund gave an income of £6 873, but with an income tax refund of £962 still unpaid this would only result in a decrease of £39 instead of of £1001 on last year's figures.

The Diocesan Parish Share for 2018 of £10 075 was paid in full by November, largely met by the visitors' income.

FOR YOUR INFORMATION our Diocesan Parish Share for 2019 is £10 899, and increase of £824 on last year's figure.

The CBF Church of England Deposit Fund at the year end stood at £3 830.13.

During the financial year we received a donation of £1 000 gift aided from Sandra and Graham Cromie on their leaving to be spent on carpet and curtains.

The Tower Clock works were completed in June and after fundraising and Listed Places of Worship grant the balance of £5 488 was paid in full by our balances.

We still have a separate Restoration Fund to which our fundraising raised £986 for the year.

I hope the information given above together with the year-end accounts is of interest and helpful to you.

If you would like any additional information or have any suggestions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

*Dennis Owen,
Hon. Treasurer*

Reserves policy

It is PCC policy to keep as much as we possibly can in Reserve Funds

It is our policy to invest our funds balances with the CBF Church of England Deposit Fund

St Alban's

St Alban's Church, LCC Report for Year ending 31st December 2018

During the year a wide range of issues were discussed at the LCC meetings held on 24th January, 7th March, 16th May, 13th June, 25th July, 5th September and 14th November. As in previous years, property and maintenance issues, finances and how to meet Parish Share commitments, mission and outreach, arrangements for special church services and events, Health & Safety matters, church music and concerts at the church formed the core of what was discussed at meetings. Particular matters discussed during the year included the Parish review of aspects of Worship, the status of the strip of land in front of the church boundary wall onto St. Alban's Road, the Communal Communion Services and other potential outreach activities at St. Margaret's Hall in Upper Ventnor and the ongoing organ restoration project.

Paul L. Tolley

Fabric, Goods and Ornaments

Fabric: New access steps from the road up to the entrance level have been completed as well as a gate to the eastern steps. These are a very much appreciated donation from Jacquie and Keith Burden. Some minor repairs were needed to the plumbing system not only due to wear and tear, but also due to the increased pressure from the water main. A small alteration is still needed to provide a new overflow for the hot water tank. Some works identified in the last quinquennial have yet to be dealt with, particularly exterior painting. Keith has work in hand to complete the new lower gates from Audrey Chiverton's bequest.

Goods & Ornaments. The damaged curtain in the Lady Chapel is in the process of being replaced. We had a visit from the area Dean and a member of the DAC to inspect the Church and its contents as well as the Terrier & Inventory and everything was satisfactory.

Alan Philpott

Social

Social functions during the year were mainly the concerts and Betjeman's Birthday, organised by Andrew. These were all quite successful and raised much needed funds. Now Andrew has retired we must consider what we should do as an alternative. We also took part in the Heritage Open Days and Ride & Stride, but numbers visiting were rather low so we must consider what we can do about these in future to make them more successful. On Christmas Eve, we kept the Church open between the Crib service and Midnight Mass so any lonely people could come in for free refreshments. Overall the evening was a great success and although not many dropped in for the open evening, record numbers came to both of the services.

Alan Philpott

Organist and Choir

It was with great sadness that Andrew Pellow decided his health, combined with transport difficulties, would no longer allow him to continue as our organist and choirmaster. We are both advertising and consulting with music departments at the area's high schools. In the mean time Andy Chilton, ably assisted by Jane White and Sue Todd are doing a marvellous job leading us *a cappella*.

St. Francis' Roman Catholic & Church of England Primary School, Ventnor, IOW

The clergy and RI teachers meet termly. Alan Philpott gave an interesting talk at the first visit of the school to St Alban's Church, the next is planned for Candlemass. We are delighted with the new substantive Head.

Messy Church in St Francis School, an ecumenical Christian outreach, continues with reasonable success.

Fr John

St. Alban's Church, Treasurer's Report for Year ending 31st December 2018

By the beginning of January 2019, £5,216.00 of the St. Alban's portion of the 2018 Parish Share, which totalled £6,716.00, had been paid. The outstanding sum of £1,500.00 was subsequently paid from the St. Alban's investment accounts. There was an overall reduction of £6,274.00 in the value of the St. Alban's CBF Church of England investment accounts in 2018, but £5,000.00 was withdrawn from the investments during the year towards payment of the 2017 and 2018 Parish Share. The St. Alban's portion of the 2019 Parish Share is £7,266.00, which is an increase of £550.00 on 2018. A generous legacy of £300.00 was received from the late Audrey Chiverton's estate.

Paul L. Tolley

Acknowledgements

To Jackie and Keith Burden, for the huge amount they have done, and for the advice and help they are still able to offer;

To Andrew Pellow for the music and pizzazz which he contributed, until health and transport problems intervened; and to Andy, Jane and Sue for continuing to lead the music so well;

To Sandra Cromie, for both her music and her and Graham's generous cheerfulness until again health intervened; and Ted and Brenda again being willing to operate the CDs;

To Deacon Corinne, for the work she does and the wider perspective she brings

To Dr Paul Tolley, doing what seems to be an ever increasing amount of work;

To Simon Harrison for externally examining our accounts;

To our dedicated Church Wardens;

To our Treasurers, sacristy helpers and music-makers;

and to everyone who contributes to the life of the parish in the way in which God has called them: whether their contribution is known by everyone, or only by a few, or by God alone.

Incumbent's Comments

The world-wide Anglican Communion's attitude on matters relating to LBGT concerns continues to be tragically divided between those who look to God and those who look to the secular world to set their standards, some within the Church of England preferring to be the tasteless food rather than the salt seasoning it. (cf Matt 5:13)

While nationally the (now not so new) arrangements for co-operation between those who do and those who do not agree with the ordination of women to the priesthood and episcopate continue to work reasonably well, and on the Island have worked well, though nationally some who claim to be liberal unfortunately seem already to have forgotten that an arrangement was made.

On a parochial level we have reason to be cheerful and quietly optimistic, the new blood and the enthusiasm of much of the old is very cheering, despite illness having taken a heavy toll this past year.

My gratitude continues towards an excellent and hard-working PCC, and although not large, a delightful congregation.

Worship is the main purpose of our existence and for a small parish in an often hostile world I think we continue to do it remarkably well, although of necessity somewhat simpler than in days of old.

We hope we can continue to build on our new initiatives begun last year, thinking especially of the service for the bereaved in the Cemetery chapel, and the thing's taking place in St Margaret's community hall.

May the joy of Easter fill us with the courage and hope to proclaim the Gospel, confident of our future in the Kingdom of God.

Fr John Ryder, SSC.

Passed by the PCC on the and signed on their behalf by their chairman

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Fr John Ryder SSC

Friday 29th March 2019

Annual Vestry of the Parish of Godshill

to be held at approx. 11h10 on Sunday the 28th April 2019

1. Apologies.
2. Minutes of last meeting.
3. Matters arising, if any.
4. Election of Churchwardens.
5. Any other business.

Agenda

Annual Parochial Church Meeting of the Parish of Godshill

to be held at approx. 11h20 on Sunday the 28th April 2019

1. Apologies.
2. Minutes of last meeting.
3. Matters arising, if any.
4. The Annual Report, which will include:
 - a report on changes in the roll since the last meeting;
 - a report on the proceedings of the PCC & LCCs;
 - a report on fabric, goods and ornaments;
 - a report on Deanery Synod.safeguarding
5. Financial report.
6. Appointment of Auditor.
7. Appointment of Sidespersons for each church separately.
8. Election of PCC members.
9. Election of LCC members for each church separately.
10. Any other business.
11. Closing prayer.

**Nominations and 'Any other business'
need to be notified to the Chair 48 hours in advance.**