

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 25th October 2020

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] (until 9/3/20)

The Revd. Dn Corinne Smith

All Saints

Dennis Owen [Churchwarden & Treasurer]

Edward Holden [Deputy Churchwarden]

Wendy Begley

St Alban's

Alan Philpott* [Churchwarden]

Peter Pye [Deputy Churchwarden]

David Baldwin (resigned due to ill health)

Christopher Philpott*

Valerie Pye (deceased)

Joyce Snooke

Local Church Councils (Additional to PCC Members)

All Saints

Margaret Harray

Joseph Lashmar

Jean Peters

St Alban's

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 61, 2 less than last year. A few deaths, a few new entries. The Average Attendance Figure was 35 adults and 4 children (4 adults, 1

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

Through the year there was 1 Baptism and no Confirmations; 1 Marriages and no wedding blessing; 2 funerals in the church, and 2 at the crematorium taken by me.

PCC Business for the Year ending 31st December 2019

At the meetings held this year, on 23rd January, 16th May, 27th June, 1st August, 3rd October and 21st November, as usual a wide range of issues were discussed. Mission planning, arrangements for special services, financial matters, property and maintenance issues and music at 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 proposed area for interment of ashes at St. Alban's, the 'D-Day 75 off Ventnor' event on 5th June, the Parish Vision Statement, the Jigsaw Festival at All Saints on 14th & 15th December and coffee mornings and potential associated outreach activities at St. Margaret's Hall in Upper Ventnor.

Paul L. Tolley

Safeguarding

Very quiet this year. Only one DBS renewal. Liaison undertaken with the PCC and Bell Ringing Section. No areas of concern arose.

Brian Haynes

Walsingham Cell

The Walsingham cell has continued to meet monthly throughout the year. Unfortunately, it has been poorly attended, in terms of congregation; but it is clearly providing much needed prayer-support to many people. Every month, the prayer requests which people have left on the altar during the previous month are prayed through as part of the Devotions.

Deacon Corinne

Christian Aid Report

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

Godshill Trust Report

Godshill Grammar School Endowment Foundation. Registered Charity No. 307386
Annual Report to the Parochial Parish Council, Year end 31st March 2020

Godshill Grammar School Endowment Foundation (GGSEF) provides financial grants to local students in Further Education. There are 6 representatives forming the trust. They are as follows: The Vicar of Godshill; Two appointed by Godshill Parish Council (to cover Rookley also); One appointed by the Earl of Yarborough; One IW Council representative although not appointed by that body; One co-optative Trustee

Meetings are held in February, May and October where the trustees review and allocate grants as appropriate. The criteria to apply for a grant are as follows: 18 years +; In full time education; Home address in Godshill or Rookley.

Applications should be made to Penny Dyer, Secretary to GGSEF – contact details shown below.

The Trust awarded 3 grants in 2019. One for a third year Psychology student, one for second year BSc. (Hons.) in Veterinary Nursing and one for final year BSc. Policing and Criminal Justice Studies.

The number of applications has remained low. This is despite contacting all local 6th Form providers asking their pupils from Godshill and Rookley be made aware of GGSEF, if they are moving onto Further Education. Ensuring the young people of the area are aware of the Trust remains a priority.

The grant amount is currently £600. This will be reviewed if the Trust receives an influx of applications.

*Mrs P Dyer, Secretary, The Old Vicarage, High Street, Godshill, Isle of Wight PO38 3HH. penny.dyer19@icloud.com
Tel: 01983 840270*

Deanery Synod Report

There were significant changes during the year when the Archdeacon, Peter Sutton returned to the mainland and was replaced by Archdeacon Peter Leonard. Also leaving was the Area Dean, Allie Kerr. The Deanery Synod met five times during the year with a lot of time being taken up with proposals for the re-organisation of the parishes in Newport. Newport Minster, St John's Newport, Carisbrooke and Barton would form one new team ministry, with a team rector, a team vicar and a church-planting team vicar – these three clergy would also be responsible for the parish of Gatcombe. Barton has now been dropped from the scheme, but the overall plan is still proceeding. In February, Allie Kerr introduced Revd. Corrine Smith and Fr. David Lawrence-March from Good Shepherd & Lake, where they are building a Healing and Bereavement Garden for the elderly and those with dementia, who find time out of doors can be helpful. In June the meeting was in Godshill, very convenient, but unfortunately I was unable to attend. In November, our new Archdeacon presented his Vision for the Island, "Islelead." The key points of the vision, linking with the Diocesan priorities: We are to Live clearly as disciples of Jesus Christ, Pray for the world and for each other, Serve all people and seek truth and justice and live out our values and beliefs confidently and competently.

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 reinstate some heating and bought new music system.

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. Hopefully a new Sunday School Teacher will be found and a child-centred Mass will be held on the first Sunday of every month.

Brenda Ryder

Godshill County Primary School

Held their Christmas Service in Church with the whole school and many parents attending

Fr John

Music

A new machine that plays all the hymns in both The English Hymnal and the Celebration Hymnal is being acquired.

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. We are all sorry that Brenda will no longer be joining us in the Tower, she has always enjoyed her ringing and she will be missed by all. Fr John and Brenda have been good friends to the Bellringers and they have always been very supportive. We all wish them the very best for the future.

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

Some of the Godshill ringers continue to help at Arreton for their Monday evening practices.

As always, we will be extremely pleased to welcome anyone who would like to 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 tuned and serviced during the year by Andrew Cooper & Co. Organ Builders.

The mausoleum in the churchyard has been kept fairly clear of growth with spraying by Brighstone Landscaping.

With regard to the rainwater leak from the tower, the work was finally completed by G.J. Banks (IW) Ltd. in July last; since then it seems to have worked.

New curtains for the vestry and the back pews were fitted last April by I.W. Textiles and donated by Sandra & Graham Cromie.

Last January, approved churchyard tree works were carried out by Brighstone Landscaping's tree surgeon in response to our adjoining neighbour's worries.

The Church's Quinquennial inspection was carried out by Robert Biggs, Architect in August and the Archdeacon will be attending here on 14th January 2020 to go through the report.

The Quinquennial electrical inspection was carried out by Robert Hyde, electrical contractor in September. The installation was found to be in order except for the lightning conductor, which had to be bonded to the mains distribution board.

6 thermostatic tubular heaters have been installed under the seats in the south pews. Following the DAC visit on 14th February 2019 the committee recommended that a proper geotechnical study be carried out of the mound to better inform the appropriate extent and construction of further repairs to the boundary walls.

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, with the addition of Joe's Jigsaw Festival.

Treasurer's Report for Year Ending 31st December 2019

In submitting the year-end accounts, I have shown the 2018 figures for comparison purposes.

From the Church Accounts at 31 December 2019 the total assets of £10,954 are accounted for as follows:

| | |
|-----------------|---------|
| Deposit Account | £3,859 |
| Current Account | £7,095 |
| Total | £10,954 |

Please note that out of the above balances G.J. Banks (IW) Ltd. are still owed at least £2,000 for estimated works to rectify the roof leak plus all previous attempts to find the leak.

As shown in the financial statement the gross interest received from the CBF C. of E. Deposit Fund amounted to £28.80. The year-end rate was 0.750% p.a.

As can be seen from our receipts we have again been grateful to our many visitors who have contributed £11,699 to our accounts from their donations and sale of church literature, an increase of £517 on last year's figures.

Income from Tax Efficient Planned Giving, other tax-efficient giving together with Income Tax Refund gave an income of £7,846, an increase of £11 on last year's figures.

The Diocesan Parish Share for 2019 of £10,899 was paid in full by December, largely met by the visitors' income.

FOR YOUR INFORMATION our Diocesan Parish share for 2020 is £11,372, an increase of £473 on last year's figure.

The CBF Church of England Deposit Fund at the year end stood at £3,859.

During the financial year we received donations amounting to £1,220 from our own parishioners for the installation of 6 thermostatic tubular heaters in the south pews.

We still have a separate Restoration Fund to which our fundraising raised £845 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 2019

During the year a wide range of issues were discussed at the LCC meetings held on 12th February, 15th May, 12th June, 10th July, 7th August, 18th September and 16th October. As in previous years, property and maintenance issues, finances and how to meet Parish Share commitments, fundraising, mission and outreach, arrangements for special church services, Health & Safety matters and church music formed the core of what was discussed at meetings. Particular matters focused upon during the year included: the special 'D-Day 75 off Ventnor' event on 5th June, the proposed Garden of Remembrance, coffee mornings and potential associated outreach activities at St. Margaret's Hall, Upper Ventnor and the documenting of the church archives.

Paul L. Tolley

Fabric, Goods and Ornaments

No major works have been carried out to the building in the past year. A mystery roof leak has been investigated, but without stripping off a large area of roof that appears to be in good order, to investigate further, the builder could find nothing wrong. It is possible that adverse wind conditions were driving rain up past the level of the lead flashing. A section of iron guttering has come off and will need replacing, but it will be quite an expensive job. The goods and ornaments were inspected in October 2018 and were all present as listed in the terrier and in good order

Alan Philpott

Social

Our after service refreshments continue to be popular and thanks must go to the helpers who keep them going. However, apart from the Heritage Open Days, we have not done very well with social activities since Andrew Pellow left us and this is a situation that really must be addressed. A first move towards this has been to include an item for fundraising on LCC agendas so any ideas can be aired.

Alan Philpott

Organist and Choir

Andy Chilton, ably assisted by Jane White and Sue Goff continue to do 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 with visits to the churches.

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

St. Alban's Church, Treasurer's Report for Year ending 31st December 2019

There was a very welcome overall increase of £18,572 in the value of the St. Alban's CBF Church of England investment accounts in 2019. By the beginning of January 2020, £3,266.00 of the St. Alban's portion of the 2019 Parish Share, which totalled £7,266.00, had been paid. The outstanding Parish Share liability of £4,000.00, as shown in the Parish Accounts, should also have been paid from the St. Alban's investment accounts by the end of 2019, following a formal PCC request to the Diocese for this sum to be withdrawn in October 2019, but unfortunately the withdrawal was not effected prior to the year end deadline. The St. Alban's portion of the 2020 Parish Share is £7,581.00, which is an increase of £315.00 on 2019.

Paul L. Tolley

Acknowledgements

To our dedicated Church Wardens;

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 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

We are very sad to be leaving. It has been a great privilege working with you for the last 25 years. We will pray for you as individuals and as a community, that in Christ you will have a bright future.

Fr John Ryder, SSC.

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

.....
Alan Philpott

Annual Vestry of the Parish of Godshill

to be held at approx. 12:10 on Sunday 25th October 2020

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. 12:20 on Sunday 25th October 2020

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.**