

**SEALE, PUTTENHAM & WANBOROUGH
PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL
ANNUAL REPORT &
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
For the year ended 31 DECEMBER 2014**



Summary:

- **Young People** – Launch of **BIG FISH** at Puttenham (see rainbow above)
- **The Parish** – Electoral Roll numbers steady
- **The Congregations** – Numbers dropping – deaths of several leading lights (including Alison Ball above)
- **Services** – addition of Healing, Taize and Village Services
- **Puttenham School** – numbers on roll increasing
- **Finance:** Pass-it-On campaign brings in £3,500 increase in covenanted giving
- **Diocese** – Bishop Ian's care as we wait for Bishop Andrew (of Guildford)

**You are invited to
the Annual Meeting of Parishioners (for the election of Wardens)
and the Annual Parochial Church Meeting
(for the election of Deanery Synod and PCC members
and to review the work of the PCC)
at The Sands Room, The Green, The Sands, GU10 1LL
on Wednesday 22nd April, 2015 at 7.30 pm**

St. Laurence Church, Seale, GU10 1HZ
The Good Shepherd Church, The Sands, GU10 1LJ
St. John the Baptist Church, Puttenham, GU3 1AR
St. Bartholomew Church, Wanborough GU3 2JR

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PARISH OF SEALE, PUTTENHAM & WANBOROUGH ANNUAL REPORT 2014

INTRODUCTION

In compliance with the Church Accounting Regulations 2006, the Parochial Church Council (PCC) of Seale, Puttenham & Wanborough have prepared this report and the attached financial statements.

The report summarises the activities and plans of the PCC, who now submit it for review by parishioners at the Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM) to be held in The Sands Room, The Green, The Sands at 7.30 pm on Wednesday, April 22nd 2015.

ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

Parochial Church Council

The Parochial Church Council is a body corporate established by the Church of England. The PCC operates under the Parochial Church Council Powers Measure (1956). The PCC is now a registered Charity (Charity No: 1129466). During 2013, the following were members:

Priest-in-charge: The Ven Adrian Harbidge - Chairman
Associate Minister: The Revd Delia Orme

Churchwardens

- Seale: Ann Payne
(*Vacancy*)
- Puttenham: Andrew Baxter - Vice Chairman
Clive Webster
- Wanborough: Anne Concanen - also Deanery Synod Representative
(*Vacancy*)

Elected Members: Marcus Bateman – also LLM (*elected 2011*)
Dee Bramley (*elected 2014*)
Cilla Batters (*elected 2013*)
Susie Felix – also Deanery Synod Representative (*elected 2011*)
Jutta Johnson – also LLM (*elected 2013*)
George Kingston (*elected 2014*)
Mike Randell – Treasurer (*elected 2011*)

Co-opted Members: Bridget Turner
Vicki Lyon Taylor

PCC Secretary: Dee Bramley

The appointment of members of the PCC is governed by and set out in the Church Representation Rules.

Meetings

There were 5 regular meetings of the PCC during the year 2014; the planned AwayDay in November was moved on to the following February (2015).

The three church sub-committees, the Finance Committee and the Fundraising Committee met regularly during the year, concentrating on Mission and Outreach (noting the success of the Shepherd's Rest Café at the Church of the Good Shepherd, The Sands, and building on the growing numbers attending Toddlers and Teddies in The Sands).

After much discussion, the decision was made to upgrade the sound and hearing aid loop systems in St Laurence and St John the Baptist, and install systems in St Bartholomew and The Good Shepherd Laurence; this was not only for the benefit of the congregations, but also to make it easier for the Ministry Team members leading the services, as they can pray and speak more meaningfully.

Ministry Team

As well as co-ordinating the staffing of our regular services, the Ministry Team (the Ven Adrian Harbidge, the Revd Delia Orme and the Rev. Norman Evans, with Chris Tuckwell, Marion Thorpe, Jutta Johnson and Marcus Bateman (Licensed Lay Ministers), Susie Felix (Pastoral Assistant) and Geoff Graham (Seale and Sands Organist), have:

- Provided a Lent course on the concept of a Just War (linking with the centenary of the outbreak of World War I
- Introduced the termly "Big Fish" Children's Service in the Marwick Hall in partnership with Puttenham Infant School [**Believers In God – Faithful In Serving Him**]
- Introduced Healing Services, and evening worship using Taize Chants.



At the end of the year, after more than five years as a LLM(Reader), Marion Thorpe retired from the Ministry Team – her thoughtful and sensitive ministry will be greatly missed.

"Summing Up":

Occasional Offices:

- **Baptisms:** 13 took place over the year (4 in Puttenham, 7 in Seale and 2 in Wanbough)
- **Weddings:** 6 were celebrated over the year (4 in Seale, 2 in Puttenham).
- **Funerals:** 10 funerals took place at Seale and 1 Funeral at Puttenham; there were also 2 services of Thanksgiving at Seale and 1 at Puttenham; there was 1 Funeral service at Wanborough. The Ministry Team conducted 4 funerals at Aldershot and Guildford Crematoria.

Attendance in 2014

- The annual attendance in the parish in 2014 was 6785, 5% lower than in the previous year. It was the third successive year with a fall in attendance. There were however fewer services in the parish, 8% fewer in 2014 than in 2013.
- Children accounted for 12% of the total, almost all at the Children's Services in Puttenham and Sands, the fortnightly Toddler Service, and at the two Crib Services at Christmas. There were 7% fewer than in 2013.
- 20% of services were once again 'special services', and they accounted for 39% of the annual attendance. (Special services are those on festival days and those held to celebrate a particular occasion.)
- Seale's share of the total attendance at 37% has changed little over the last six years. The decline in Puttenham's share was arrested and now stands at 29%, but the Wanborough share continued to fall, down to 12% of the total. The Sands share again rose and was 22% in 2014, in large part because of the popularity of the Toddler Service.

The annual attendance at normal services in the parish (special services excluded) fell 8% relative to 2013, but then there were also 8% fewer services. At Seale it fell by 13% for broadly the same number of services. The attendance fell by 10% at Puttenham, but there was a reduction of 21% in the number of services (no longer an 8am Holy Communion). The Wanborough attendance declined again, this time by 8%, but at The Sands attendance was up by 12% (same number of services).

- There were 20 fewer services in the parish than in 2013 (see Table 1). With the discontinuation of the early Holy Communion service, there were markedly fewer services at Puttenham; at the other churches there was a small reduction in the number of services.

The Electoral Roll had 190 members at the beginning of 2014, but this has reduced slightly to 184 (our thanks to Jane Randell for keeping the figures up to date).

Seale and The Sands 104 (up from 103), including 42 who do not live in the parish;
Puttenham 49 (down from 55), including 8 who do not live in the parish
Wanborough 31 (down from 32) with 12 not living in the parish.

Rector's Report

It is always a great privilege to take the funeral of any member of the parish: when they have lived many years and have been active leaders in different areas of the church's life, it can be both exciting and humbling – exciting to see how much they achieved and, often, what a vibrant faith was concealed by a gentle devotion to duty; and humbling to wonder how we are going to replace them.

2014 saw the deaths of several of the leading lights of our congregation – people I had known, and some who had moved away from the parish before I arrived. "Oh, if only you had known us when we were younger" bemoaned one of our congregation, realising how old we all are (and I count myself in that group). I have put Alison Ball on the front cover to illustrate this, but there could have been a dozen others.

But I have also put on the Rainbow painted with hand-prints by the children of our parish at The Big Fish Service in The Marwick Hall. They and their parents are anxious to express faith, but in a much less formal way than most of us grew up with. We ignore their wishes not just at our own peril, but also at the peril of all those who will find there is no church left here in as little as ten years' time.

2014 will definitely be the year we remember for the loss of dear friends, but luckily we have already begun to welcome and foster new members – new friends.

Fabric Maintenance 2014

Church Architect

Our Inspecting Architect during 2014 was Adam Hieke, R.I.B.A. of Godalming, formally appointed in March.

Seale and The Sands

St Laurence:

The only major works at Seale in the past year were the external stonework repairs (primarily to the West end of the church) with some internal repairs following the removal of the old radiator pipes.

Church of the Good Shepherd:

No major works were carried out in the past year.

The Shepherd's Rest cafe came into operation in May 2014, which has proved to be increasingly successful.

Glebe Cottage:

No major repairs carried out this year.

Glebe Field:

The Glebe Field "Garden Plots~" are beginning to be taken up by a wide variety of villagers – the ground produces very tasty potatoes!

Puttenham

Early in the year we hung the new Charles Bone original painting and a print in the church, and installed new lights for the picture, the entrance doorway, and the altar. The lights are all very low wattage LED fittings, and are generally switched on to enhance the church interior whilst it is open to visitors. This provides a very pleasing effect within the church, especially on dull days.

In the Spring the entrance gate suffered a fractured hinge. This was generously and readily repaired by the original supplier, despite his having retired and being in very poor health.

Some further repairs to the entrance steps were required during the year, and also a cavity which opened up under the choir pews was repaired.

Wanborough

Church exterior - During the Spring of 2014 a small amount of repointing work was done to repair brick buttresses and a new stone was fitted into the Church doorway.

Church interior - Repairs were made to the plaster work at the East end of the Church. Old flaking plaster was taken off and replaced by an authentic plaster mixture. A lime wash will be applied when this is fully dried.

The Archdeacon made his Visitation in July 2014 and was happy with the general state of the Church building and with the overall condition of the interior fabric of the church.

The next Quinquennial Report is due to be made in 2015.

Puttenham School House *John Hewitson*

The management committee established in 1987 by the church to look after School House and supervise its letting when not required for the use of the Head Teacher of Puttenham Church of England school reported a cash balance of £27,092 in its sinking fund at the end of 2014

Music and Choirs *Geoff Graham*

Having failed to find a replacement for Stephen Wright at Puttenham, the decision was made to extend my remit to cover the whole parish.

We are fortunate in that we are still able to maintain two choirs in our relatively small parish. However, numbers are dwindling, not least due to the sad loss of Walter Chattaway and Alan Hobbs during 2014 (and of course, Ron Ford this year). I would urge anyone in the Parish with any musical abilities to consider whether they might be willing to help, be it regularly or occasionally, singing or playing (all instruments considered) to contact me.

Thanks are due, as ever, to all choir members. I would particularly like to thank Evelyn for taking Puttenham choir under her wing during the period between Stephen's retirement and my appointment as Music Director.

Bell Towers Report:

Puttenham *Andrew Baxter*

We have rung for one wedding and one memorial service this year at Puttenham, with the help of visitors, and welcomed several visiting bands to our tower.

Unfortunately, Puttenham tower band has now sunk below viable numbers and we are unable to ring for normal services.

Seale *Jacci Corney*

It was another busy year for the members of the bell tower at St Laurence, Seale.

We managed to ring for the majority of Sunday services, weddings and funerals and were particularly busy over the Christmas period with Carol services, Crib service and Midnight mass.

The band had three tower outings (visiting 9 towers in total) and had ringing practices at Ash, Farnham and Pirbright, all designed to improve our ringing skills. Social events were also held: a summer BBQ and Christmas party.

SPW Annual Report 2014

Two successful quarter peals were achieved and as a result of a visit from Surrey Radio, our ringing was recorded and played on one of the station's programmes.

There has been a change of Tower Captain – Kevin Green has replaced Tim Wellen who has become Vice Captain but continues in his role as instructor. The practice night has also changed from Wednesday to Monday.

We have made a concerted effort to attract new members by placing advertisements at various locations locally but have so far been unsuccessful. We find ourselves two members down, which has left us vulnerable to holidays and illness - so it is essential that we find new members.

The secretary received many requests from visiting bands to ring at the tower, including the Royal Air Force Guild of Bell Ringers and the Church kindly accommodated all these requests.



**Puttenham
Church of England School**

Sarah Rowlands

**News from the school since your last
annual meeting
Achievements**

I am pleased to report that we have continued to maintain high standards in

pupils' achievements as our key Stage 1 SATs and Early Years assessment results 2014 were high in comparison to national and Surrey schools.

In May 2014 we achieved outstanding in all areas in the statutory inspection of Anglican and Methodist schools.

We are currently working towards renewing our Healthy School Award.

Admissions and transition

From September our pupil admission number increased to 40. We currently have 111 on roll. Last year we held 2 well-attended open days as well as many tours of the school. There were 108 applicants for last year.

The majority of our year 2 children went to Waverley Abbey Junior School.

Links with Community

We are grateful for the regular financial support of the church towards our governors' fund.

In September we established a well-attended termly all age worship service, 'Big Fish' with St John the Baptist Church.

We have been working with Puttenham Parish Council on parking and road safety initiatives.

We have been further increasing our work with other local schools, in particular focusing on developing assessment to be in-line with the new National Curriculum, as well as sporting fixtures, music festival and curriculum enrichment programmes for the more able.

Events in school

Annual and seasonal events have taken place such as sports day, school fairs, Harvest and Christmas. We have also held friendship fortnight, feeling good week, maths and books weeks to enrich the children's learning. In the last year classes have had trip to the theatre, local farms, science and transport museums, the seaside and woodlands.

Building Programmes and Raise the Roof Appeal

An outdoor canopy has recently been erected to enable maximum outdoor learning.

We will be holding an event to launch our Raise the Roof Appeal on Sunday 19th April 11.30am in the Marwick Hall. As a voluntary aided church school we have to find 10% of the funding of building programmes and we aim to raise £10, 000 to replace parts of our old roof. All our welcome to this event.

Village News *Jane Randell*

The Village news continues to be issued on a monthly basis. There are three regular Editors – Simon Prichard, Christine Hollingworth and James Parrott who take it in turns to produce the magazine. Dee Bramley deals with the advertisers and produces the advert pages as well as the finances. Jane Randell co-ordinates the whole process and stands in as editor when required. In September James Parrott will be going to University and as a result will have to give up, however his brother Andrew has agreed to take over under Jane's supervision. The year-end accounts are produced at the end of June, when all the income has been collected. At the end of June 2014 there was £5,607 in the account. Up to the end of December 2014 the expected costs are £3,500 and as a result the editors agreed to donate £1,000 to SPW PCC and £500 to Phyllis Tuckwell. It is expected that there would be about £600 in the account by the end of December.

Godalming Deanery Synod 2014 *Anne Concanen*

There were three meetings of Synod in 2014.

At the April meeting there were discussions on the future of the Deanery Mission Fund, the consultation process for the appointment of the new Diocesan Bishop and the reports of General Synod and Diocesan Synod. There was interest in the report on "Growing Younger" and the idea of "church plants". It was suggested that any church planting should be based on a geographical analysis of areas not covered by a local church and this should be done at a deanery level.

The July meeting was the first meeting of the new Deanery Synod. The Rural Dean welcomed members who were joining Deanery Synod for the first time and reminded everyone that "we are the Body of Christ". Reflecting on the nature of Synod the conclusion was that members met as elected representatives, sharing various gifts. Two of the main tasks were to promote a growth in mission activities and also to be accountable to other parishes.

In November Rev. Alan Hulme, Director and Team Leader of the Diocesan Parish Development and Evangelism Team gave a presentation to Synod entitled "Growing Churches Younger". Key questions were posed as follows -: What is the Church for? What is Our Context? What are the Growth Research Findings? What difference can Deaneries make? Synod discussed the challenges all the churches face in terms of the demographic time bomb of dwindling aging congregations and what tools we have available to deal with the issues identified and to promote growth. Key issues that Synod wanted to discuss further were "Growing Leaders" and engaging with children and sharing good practice.

Fund Raising Events during 2014 *Bill Biddell*

Fundraising for the United Parish has continued throughout the year and a number of popular events have taken place, all very well supported. The Wanborough Barn Dance, The Ride in the Park, a Steam Train Day, The Parish Tennis Tournament, The Christmas Fair and a lecture on The Mighty Mekong all provided opportunities to raise funds and were highly enjoyable.

Donations from the two thriving parish cafes at The Sands and in Puttenham and also from The Village News were all extremely welcome. The Pass it On Campaign spearheaded by Adrian was very successful and has increased planned donations to the church from electoral roll members. Phase two is about to start.

I am so grateful to all members of the fundraising committee for their enthusiasm, advice and commitment, and of course to all those who turn upon the day and support.

REVIEW OF FINANCE *George Kingston*

Once again, a challenging year, as we struggle to keep income in step with expenditure. The Pass-It-On campaign, which saw personal letters inviting additional financial support going to all on the Electoral Roll, was successful in adding a further £3500 to our covenanted giving. This was enormously gratifying and we are extremely grateful for the positive response. Nonetheless, unless giving rises in line with costs, we will continue to eat into our reserves.

Expenditure is monitored carefully but of course there are very significant items, such as the Parish Share, over which we have no control. We believe we have secured competitive prices for other inescapable elements of spending, such as insurance and utility charges, and we will continue to seek out best value.

We are extremely grateful to all those who work to raise funds, who donate, and who assist in managing our funds, particularly those who count collections, and those who bank them! We are also very grateful to Jeremy McIlroy, our independent examiner.

RESERVES POLICY

In accordance with Charity Commission rules we are required to state our policy for the management of our reserves:

- **Investment policy:** the PCC have appointed Investec Wealth Management, to manage our investment assets.
- **General Reserves Policy:** the PCC aims to hold general unrestricted funds, ideally, sufficient to meet six months running costs. It looks to fundraising and donations to meet the majority of normal running costs; however, due to increases in running costs, our general income is insufficient for the day to day expense, so we have had to sell some of our shares in our reserves during the early months of 2014. While the share prices have risen, the rise does not fully make up for the amount sold; this has resulted in the reserve falling below target.
- **Restricted Reserves Policy:** the various restricted-purpose funds are held in part in cash and part in secure investments. The aim is to hold sufficient cash to meet likely expenditure in the foreseeable future, with the balance of the assets – some 60% - being held in secure investments providing an element of capital growth. Members of the PCC Finance Committee met our stockbrokers on a regular basis to discuss investment strategy.

The Annual Accounts for 2014 are published separately.