

**SEALE, PUTTENHAM & WANBOROUGH PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL
ANNUAL REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
For the year ended 31 DECEMBER 2017**



Easter Bunnies



Bubble Fun - Ascension to Pentecost

"The Church of Tomorrow"? No, "The Church of Today"

Summary:

- **Young People** – Continuing to develop "Big Fish" and interactive "hands on" worship
- **The Parish** – Friends and connections - Parish cafés and other social activities form strong bonds with our communities and those who do not normally enter church
- **The Congregations** – Numbers lower – death of a number of dear friends
- **Services** – Higher attendance at popular 'special' services shows potential catchment in the Parish
- **Puttenham School** – Increased links with the Community and Church - Parishioners launch and lead Open the Book assemblies; refurbishment of Y2 class toilets
- **Finance** – A difficult financial year – income must increase by both fundraising events and planned giving with gift aid.
- **Diocese** – Parish planning to highlight goals in "Transforming Church Transforming Lives"

**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 Wanborough Village Hall, Wanborough, GU3 2JR on
Wednesday 18th April 2018 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.
St. Bartholomew's Church, Wanborough GU3 2JR

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PARISH OF SEALE, PUTTENHAM & WANBOROUGH ANNUAL REPORT 2017

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 at Wanborough Village Hall, Wanborough, at 7.30 pm on Wednesday 18th April 2018.

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 2017, the following were members:

Rector:	The Parish was in Vacancy for the period of this report
Associate Minister:	The Revd. Delia Orme
Churchwardens	
- Seale:	Ann Payne Sue Weir
- Puttenham:	Sarah Webster Andrew Baxter
Wanborough:	Anne Concanen - Vice Chair / Deanery Synod Representative (elected 2017) <i>Vacancy</i>
Elected Members:	Marcus Bateman – also LLM (<i>elected 2016</i>) Dee Bramley (<i>elected 2017</i>) Susie Felix – also Deanery Synod Representative (<i>elected 2017</i>) Evelyn Gaff (elected for 3 years 2016) Mike Randell – Treasurer (<i>elected 2017</i>) Bob Payne (elected October 2016)
Co-opted:	Nina Jex Caroline Calver
PCC Secretary:	Dee Bramley

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

THE REVD. STEPHEN THATCHER

In October, we were delighted to be able to appoint the Revd. Stephen Thatcher as our new Rector. The Rector hails from a farming community in Mid Wales. He was ordained in Llandaff Cathedral and his first living was as Vicar to a parish in Pembrokeshire. He later became Rector in the Cotswolds and then Herefordshire and so he has had considerable experience working with four and five churches in a group.

We hope that both he and his wife Linda will enjoy living in this Parish and that he will find his ministry here fulfilling and rewarding.

RECTOR'S REPORT

I am pleased to commend all the reports presented to the APCM 2018. Each report reveals a sense of real commitment to maintaining the mission and ministry of the four churches during the long vacancy. Producing a Parish profile and Statement is not an easy task and the representatives who worked tirelessly towards producing the document are to be complimented on their ability to capture the pastoral, mission, leadership, administrative and social needs of a multiple church parish. During the interregnum there have been positive signs of growth and development.

I note the following as key areas that not only meet the Diocesan strategy for growth: "Transforming church, Transforming Lives" but also provide essential foundations on which we can build up the four church communities in the future.

- Seeking creative ways to engage with children and young people
- Building stronger links with the school at Puttenham through the "Open the Book" project
- Establishing the pattern for more united services and shared worship
- The ministry of hospitality offered by the Shepherd's rest café and the Tower cafe
- The implementation of robust Safeguarding policies
- Keeping our church buildings safe and fit for purpose
- Extending the church space at the Sands through community partnerships
- Developing personal discipleship through prayer and bible study
- Caring pastorally for one another and making strangers our neighbours

As parishioners, you can take encouragement and credit for what has been achieved during the interregnum however there is more to be done if we are to be a vibrant, strong church presence in this part of God's vineyard. The overall trend for attendances has been in decline and our finances through the plate are not healthy enough to maintain mission and ministry beyond 2020, we need to improve our stewardship and fundraising to address this decline. The need to increase vocations lay and ordained is an ongoing challenge and younger leaders are required to meet the future manning levels of the parishes, diocese and the wider Anglican community.

As your newly appointed Rector I am grateful for your welcome and anticipate sharing a realistic vision based on solid church growth disciplines as we build church together in the days ahead.

MEETINGS *Anne Concanen*

There were 4 regular meetings of the PCC during the year 2017, together with a formal Section 11 Meeting to officially confirm the details of the Vacancy.

The three church sub-committees also met during the year together with the Wardens and Ministry Standing Committee, the Outreach Committee and the Finance Committee. While formal meetings of the Fundraising Committee did not take place, volunteers managed the events described later in the Report.

Section 11 Meeting - At this meeting the final version of the Parish Profile and the Statement of Needs was approved by the PCC. A Ballot was held to choose 2 Parish representatives to act on the behalf of the PCC during the selection process for a new Rector. The PCC also decided to advertise the Vacancy in the Church Times to give the greatest chance of finding the best candidate.

PCC Meetings - Throughout the year, considerable time was spent dealing with Diocesan requirements associated with the Vacancy. However, the production of a detailed Parish Profile and Statement of Needs at the beginning of the year was very useful in clearly detailing our challenge of how to grow the church across the generations and showing where we could develop outreach ideas. The Diocese required Church Development Plans by Easter, so an initial plan was drawn up based on our Profile and in response to the Diocesan Strategy "Transforming Church Transforming Lives". It outlined four wider aims that we were developing.

- To continue developing new ways of engaging effectively with people of all ages, especially the young (Goal 1,2,3)
- To develop our corporate prayer life (Goal 1)
- To increase links with Puttenham School (Goal 8)
- To make the Church buildings fit for purpose (Goal12)

Meetings Cont.

During the year a continuous topic of discussion was the grave financial situation and the need to increase funds. Other issues discussed (and linking to Development Plans and the Diocesan Strategy) are mentioned within the report. Towards the end of the year the PCC voted to reduce the number of services to relieve the pressure on the Ministry Team and make more services into united services.

MINISTRY TEAM *Revd. Delia Orme*

Members of the Ministry Team are: the Revd. Delia Orme and the Rev. Norman Evans, with Chris Tuckwell and Marcus Bateman (Licensed Lay Ministers), Susie Felix (Pastoral Assistant) and Geoff Graham (Parish Director of Music).

The Ministry Team took on the delivery of the church services, pastoral care and all the weddings, funerals and baptisms in the parish for what became a fifteen-month interregnum. We all thank the team for their dedication and leadership over this unexpectedly long period particularly mentioning Chris who, with Philippa, managed to keep the Parish diary running so smoothly. Special thanks also to Norman and Chris for their ministry to the sick and bereaved, which may well be unnoticed but is so valued by those in need and demonstrates what we stand for as a Christian fellowship.

Highlights of the year include:

- The set up and leadership of the three teams for Open the Book weekly at Puttenham School, which has been highly praised by teachers and pupils.
- 7 days of prayer for "Thy Kingdom Come" at Wanborough - the children of Puttenham school joining in on Ascension Day sending bubble prayers up to God.
- The Pet service at the marquee in July.
- The Seale/Sands Family service was developed this year as an All Age informal service with hands on involvement of the children. Thanks to Lianne Maxted and her family who have provided craft work and illustrated the Gospel story in many and varied ways. Who can forget those baby bunny rabbits at The Sands – beautiful. And a special thanks to Ann Payne who has provided all we asked for to support this development.
- Greater numbers at the Big Fish service held jointly with Puttenham School, including one at the back of the church when we found the Marwick hall was not available.
- Supporting Geoff through his illness, operation and recovery. Geoff has shown remarkable bravery and determination throughout.

We achieved all the above and much more besides, through the strength and wisdom provided by God, and so we give thanks to those who have prayed for us, provided teas and coffees and encouragement during 2017 and kept us going.

"SUMMING UP":

Occasional Offices:

Baptisms: 21 took place over the year.

Weddings: 4 weddings were celebrated.

Funerals: 14 funerals took and 2 memorial thanksgiving services

ATTENDANCE IN 2017 *Mike Cloughley*

- Parish attendance for the year was 5178, a fall of 12% compared to 2016 despite a similar number of services. Attendance has fallen over the last six years and was at its lowest since united parish records began.
- Children's attendance fell by 24%, accounting for just 10% of the total. It was the lowest in over ten years. 44% of the attendance was at 'special services', essentially the same as last year. (Special services are those held on festival days or to mark an event.)
- A quarter of all services were classed as special. Seale's share of the total attendance fell from 38% to 35%. Puttenham's share stayed at 33%, as did Wanborough's at 12%. The share at The Sands rose from 16% to 20%.
- The Parish annual attendance at normal services (special services excluded) was 10% lower than in 2016, continuing the decline over the past 4 years. At The Sands there was a 13% increase in attendance, reversing the fall of 8% in the previous year. Both Seale and Puttenham suffered declines of 26% and 15% respectively. Annual attendance at Wanborough would have declined were it not for the increased number of services in the year.

Attendance Cont.

- Despite the parish being in an interregnum for the whole year, the total number of services was maintained at the previous year's level. The Sands has the highest number of services (64) because of the inclusion of the Wednesday Communion and Toddlers Services. Puttenham had 57 services, Seale 50, and Wanborough 42.
- There is some evidence of a 5-year cyclical change in attendance overlying the steady decline. The last upsurge started with the arrival of the last rector, Adrian Harbidge. It is to be hoped that there will be a new surge when the new Rector Stephen Thatcher arrives in February 2018.

*This is an extract from the annual statistical analysis of Church Attendance Trends.
The full report can be viewed on the SPW website.*

THE ELECTORAL ROLL *Jane Randell*

The Electoral Roll had 171 members in 2017

Seale and The Sands 97(down from 109), including 43 who do not live in the parish;

Puttenham 46 (down from 51) including 9 who do not live in the parish

Wanborough 28(down from 31) with 14 not living in the parish.

ASSOCIATE MINISTER'S REPORT - A Review of 2017 *Revd. Delia Orme*

At the start of 2017, we were confident having celebrated Christmas 2016 well in all 4 churches and with the full spectrum of ages in our congregations. We settled into ordinary life without a Rector and planned our rotas and activities carefully. As I said at the outset, team work is essential and with that mantra we achieved all the services as planned and kept our social and outreach activities ticking along.

"Open the book" was established in January at Puttenham School, a weekly telling of Bible stories in dramatic fashion, with opportunities for the children to dress up and act out the story.

The development of our Parish Profile was an enormous task handled diligently by our churchwardens and produced magnificently by Anne Concanen. The Parish profile was needed as part of our recruitment process for a new Rector and helped us to identify areas of strength and areas where we particularly needed help.

Lent courses led into Holy Week and Easter and there was a great sense of coming together through our trials to Easter day and the children hunting the chocolate eggs as we celebrated our Lord's Day of Resurrection.

Having missed out on the launch of Archbishop Justin's call "Thy Kingdom Come" in 2016 we were determined to embrace the movement in May 2017 and centred on a week of prayer at Wanborough. With prayer stations set up based on The Lord's Prayer, the church was a welcome place of peace and inspiration to passing ramblers and committed parishioners. The daily Compline Service was well supported as was the Taizé service which started the week off. Thanks to Anne Concanen for producing much of the prayer stations and being there throughout the week.

Our Outreach Committee continued their sterling work in building relationships in the community, particularly with young families. Our fortnightly interactive family church services and Big Fish, have become firm dates for those we are seeking to nurture, and we are providing easy ways to meet us through our community events, including the now famous Welly Walks and Village Lunches.

Patronal celebrations through the summer, including after service drinks in the sunshine have become firm favourites, before we turn again to the Autumn.

All Souls service and Remembrance Sunday services continue to attract large congregations, as we offer support to all in our parish in times of great sadness.

On then to Advent and the preparations for Christmas as we entered the joy of the season in concert with many children at Puttenham school, and in our churches. There was the usual mayhem at the Christmas Crib Services as they continue to draw large numbers at Puttenham and Seale. The well-developed ride from the Posada launches with Gift services moved seamlessly into the Christmas festivities. A special thanks to Molly, Bridget and Bill Biddell bringing two donkeys to greet the families on Christmas Eve at Seale.

OUTREACH COMMITTEE - their Mission objective is:

***"Church Growth the next generation
finding and nurturing new and existing church members"***.

Meeting 6 times this year the Outreach Committee showed their commitment to the task and much work carried on via email. Being abroad on holiday proved no obstacle to entering debate and organisation of outreach group events.

Activities in 2017 included:

- Seale/Sands Village lunch helping to form strong bonds with the Community and those who do not normally enter church.
- Setting up and stocking the children's area at Puttenham church; resourcing children's activities in Seale and The Sands.
- Welly Walks in Spring and Autumn with around 70 taking part each time.
- Story telling Ann Payne continued Teddies and Toddlers at The Sands church providing excellent craft and, but numbers have been limited.
- Planned Holiday Club morning in October but insufficient numbers booked up, so we cancelled. We learnt that timing the event in the summer is crucial.
- Well-developed email system to tell families of upcoming events and encourage their attendance at Seale/Sands Family Service on 1st Sunday of the month and at Puttenham children's service on 3rd Sunday of the month.
- Posada and Crib services planning and production. An enormous task and many thanks to the whole team for once again making this memorable and bringing the Christmas story to life for our families.

Sadly, the Teens group was suspended as there were just too many demands on the Ministry Team to be able to keep this going during the interregnum. We hope to be able to relaunch this in 2018.

Revd Delia Orme on behalf of the outreach team being Caroline Calver, Verity Cassar, Nina Jex, Bridget Turner, Sam Reynolds, Ann Payne, Anne Concanen, Marcus Bateman.

SAFEGUARDING Sue Weir

There are no issues to report. However we continue to be vigilant in this area, which can cover not only children and young adults but also discrimination and bullying, so that no one is excluded from our parish. Safeguarding must be included on the agenda of every PCC meeting. Also, every member of the PCC is required to undertake a Safeguarding short course which will come into operation in 2018.

FABRIC MAINTENANCE 2017

Church Architect Our Inspecting Architect during 2017 was Adam Hieke, R.I.B.A. of Godalming.

The Area Dean visited all churches this year as part of the Archdeacon's Visitation and he was happy with his findings.

Seale and The Sands Ann Payne

St Laurence

The total decoration of the church took place in January and the Archdeacon gave a confirmatory approval over the issue of the removal of the flower cupboard at this time.

The Seale stamp was made for the use of the Pilgrim Walkers. (Stamps were also created for the other churches in the Parish.)

There was an electrical inspection in May and twenty-seven lightbulbs were replaced.

The Quinquennial took place in October.

Church of the Good Shepherd

A new piano was bought to replace the old one and the light bulbs were renewed.

The plans for an extension were passed for a Parish Office – Parish records room – a committee room – kitchen – vestry and a toilet for the disabled. A separate bank account has been set up for this.

The Quinquennial took place in December.

The Shepherd's Rest café continues to thrive. It is now a separate organisation and not under the control of the PCC, which now has no jurisdiction over the distribution of profits from the café.

Fabric Cont.

Glebe Cottage and the Rectory

The kitchen of Glebe Cottage was updated.

During the Vacancy, the Rectory was regularly inspected and a new gas boiler was installed. The garden was also kept under control. The Revd. Stephen Thatcher was appointed in October and would take up residence in the Rectory in February.

Puttenham Sarah Webster

The south porch was repaired and redecorated and the "Lusher" stone was moved from the porch to the Lady Chapel. The approach steps to the church were re-laid and reset.

Following the electrical inspection at the end of the year, work is still in progress to replace the broken timer, aisle lights, outside lights and disabled alarm in the toilet.

The quinquennial report conducted by Adam Heike assured us (although we have yet to receive it) that the church is in good condition. However, the requested asbestos report revealed that the organ bellows box contains asbestos and this has to be removed before the organ can be used.

Wanborough Anne Concanen

The external church notice board was showing signs of weather damage and was repaired.

Churchyard working parties regularly cleared the churchyard especially the French drain at the East end of the Church to encourage the drainage and reduce damp in the stones.

Plans for reroofing the Vestry were held up by the Diocese because of the Vacancy. However, the condensation has been carefully monitored throughout and we are awaiting roofing specifications from the architect. Hopefully we should get the approval to reroof in 2018.

MUSIC IN THE PARISH Geoff Graham

The latter part of 2017 was rather difficult for parish music, due to my prolonged absence. Against all odds, we still somehow manage to maintain two choirs in our Parish – as ever, we're always keen to welcome new singers. May I extend my sincere thanks to all who help to keep the music going: all choir members, occasional accompanists, and all who have worked to keep the 'show' on the road...

BELL TOWER REPORTS

Puttenham Andrew Baxter

We have rung for only one wedding this year at Puttenham, with the help of visitors. We hosted two quarter peals during the year, and a successful full peal of Plain Bob Minor was rung in December to mark the 40th anniversary of a local ringer's first peal; it was also the Tower Captain's first peal.

We have hosted a number of visiting bands during the year, and in June our District 6 Bell Striking Competition was held at Puttenham. During this (no blame attached!) #2 rope became badly frayed in a position difficult to mend by splicing, and it was decided to purchase a new rope. Fortunately, we were able to achieve this more quickly than normal by adding it to an existing order for new ropes at Seale.

The band currently has too few members to ring regularly for services on its own, and we continue to operate with Seale band, with regular joint practices and service ringing at each tower.

Seale Kevin Green

The bell ringing at St Laurence church has improved since the last report.

After a quiet start to 2017 we increased our band to seven ringers with Stuart, Lynda & Sarah all learning well and we were soon able to ring for Sunday services and our normal Monday evening practice.

My daughter Lucy, who learnt to ring at around 9 years old, has also been able to spend more time helping on practice nights and has now introduced her husband to the world of bellringing. Lewes has been ringing for the last six or seven months and is progressing well.

We have also started to join Andrew for a Wednesday practice night at Puttenham when possible and helping with services. More recently, Lynda & Sarah have stopped ringing so we are now a band of between five and seven when work commitments allow so we always welcome new ringers

VILLAGE NEWS Jane Randell (Lead Editor)

The Village News continues as a monthly magazine and this year the numbers distributed has been maintained although it is slowly dropping. We still have 630 printed of which 280 are distributed in Puttenham and 340 in Seale. There are four regular Editors – Simon Prichard, Christine Hollingworth, Dee Bramley and Jane Randell. Dee Bramley also deals with the advertisers and produces the advert pages as well as looking after the finances. Jane Randell co-ordinates the whole process and stands in as editor if required.

Again, there has been no change to the cost of the adverts or the cost of the magazine this year. The year-end accounts are produced at the end of June when all the income has been collected. In October the editors again agreed to donate £1,000 to SPW PCC, £500 to Phyllis Tuckwell and £100 each to Seale Village Hall, the Marwick Hall, Wanborough Village Hall and The Sands Room. It is estimated that there would be about £300 in the account by the end of December assuming no advertising income had come in.



**Puttenham
Church of England School**

Headteacher: Anna De Filippis

News from the school since your last annual meeting

Staffing

There have been many changes in staff this year at our school. I took over the post of Headteacher in September 2017 and Lisa Nichol became the School Business Manager in December 2017. There are currently three class teachers on maternity leave who will be returning at the end of this academic year.

Achievements

I am pleased to report that we have continued to maintain our high standards in pupils' achievements as our Key Stage 1 SATs, Year 1 phonics screening and Early Years assessment results for 2017 were high in comparison to National and Surrey schools.

Admissions and transition

We currently have 107 on roll. We welcomed 38 children into the Reception class in September with their families. We await confirmation of offers for next year. The majority of our year 2 children went to Waverley Abbey Junior School last September.

Links with Community

We have continued to increase our work with other local schools, focusing on writing and maths teaching, sporting fixtures, music festival and curriculum enrichment programmes.

We have been well-supported by Puttenham Church with the Big Fish family service, Open the Book assemblies. Church services that have taken place include Harvest, Christmas, Candlemas, Ash Wednesday, St John the Baptist, Easter and our Leavers' Service.

We welcomed the new Director of Education Canon Alex Tear last term to school.

Events in School

Annual and seasonal events have taken place in school including enrichment learning weeks such as creative and book weeks. The Parish Council kindly provide the site which enables each class to learn in the outdoor area through our Forest School programme. We had visits from the Mobile Living Nativity and Hydestile. In the last year class trips have included visits to Painshill Park, Wisley, Bocketts Farm, The Look Out, Brooklands Museum and Hampton Estate woodlands as well as visitors and drama workshops in school.

Building Programmes

The refurbishment of our Year 2 class toilets was completed in the summer.

PUTTENHAM SCHOOL HOUSE *John Hewitson*

The Management Committee was established in 1987 by the PCC 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. It reported a cash balance of £10,047 in its sinking fund at the end of 2017, having incurred significant expenditure of over £7000 during the year carrying out major repairs. *(N.B. Funds mentioned here are not reported as part of the Annual Accounts)*

GODALMING DEANERY SYNOD 2017 *Anne Concanen*

There were three meetings of Synod in 2017. At the March meeting, the Area Dean introduced "Open Microphone" as a new item for the agenda. This was the spot where parishes could share information, ideas and concerns with the Synod. The Area Dean opened the item by sharing information on the Deanery Mission and Pastoral Committee. This Committee would be made up both lay people and clergy and would not be handling finances but would aim to find out what was needed amongst the Parishes. Synod members were reminded that Parish Church Development Plans had to be completed by Easter. They heard plans for the "Thy Kingdom Come 2017" global prayer movement and they considered further information on the review of the parish share system.

In July, the main subject for discussion was "Setting God's People Free". This was a new report issued by the Archbishops' Council which sought to affirm and enable the complementary roles of clergy and lay people. During the discussion, several ideas were highlighted. These included the question of shortage of clergy, the unclear role of clergy and laity in the 21st century and discipleship and the church in the future.

Considering discipleship, the Area Dean said ideas could be linked with "Transforming Church" and one important idea was how to get people to realise that they could be God's representatives during the week. "How could discipleship be developed?" People were out there who did not come to Church. What did we offer them? There were many opportunities. It was down to us to seize them.

In November, Bishop Jo Wells, The Bishop of Dorking, gave an inspiring and challenging address on discipleship and how it related to Goal 7 of "Transforming Church Transforming Lives". Her themes included being a Disciple, God's Mission, reaching out and serving others and opening our eyes to God's Grace. A lively discussion followed with members of Synod adding their experiences and raising points of concern. On the Church shrinking, Bishop Joe said that if we engaged in mission and put discipleship first the Church would grow. PCCs spend a lot of time on buildings and finances and often say "no" to outreach and mission ideas because of costs. PCCs should be spending more time with pastoral care and mission. One way of doing this was to ensure that mission strategy was always on the agenda. Bishop Jo finished by quoting Archbishop William Temple. "The Church is the only society that exists for the benefit of those who are not its members," It is in seeking to benefit others that we are blessed.

FUNDRAISING EVENTS DURING 2017

The **Wanborough Barn Dance** in June raised a wonderful £750 and everyone had a great time.

The **Christmas Fair** at the end of November was a sell out for stalls and attracted lots of visitors in search of that special present. Another hugely successful event which raised a magnificent £2,990.

Throughout the year, the **Shepherd's Rest Café** in The Sands has been masterminded by Ann Payne and has become a regular weekly lunchtime venue for many. Themed lunches have proved very popular and the standard of cuisine is extremely high. The success of the venture has been proven by raising a magnificent £1,500 for parish funds over the year.

Another favourite is the **Tower Café** in Puttenham Church which has opened for teas fortnightly. The takings raised in 2017 reached £150 which is much appreciated.

There have been other events and activities which have raised £450 which contributes to the total amount raised through fundraising ventures for the financial year to December 2017 of £5,840. We are so grateful to the event organisers who worked so hard to produce such high quality and enjoyable events and for the support of so many in attending and enjoying what was put on

We urgently need fresh, original and imaginative ideas for fundraising and anyone who is interested in joining the Fundraising Committee would be very welcome. Our fundraising target for 2018 is £10,000.

REVIEW OF FINANCE *Mike Randell*

This has been a difficult year, with additional costs being imposed by certain aspects of the vacancy, however we have been able to keep the wedding and funeral fees due to the Diocese when not taken by a retired priest. Our expenditure was slightly less than last year, mainly due to some expense being paid from the restricted funds. However our income was some £13,200 less than last year due to planned giving with gift aid being £11,000 down and fund raising being nearly £5,000 less than last year. The retention of some of the fees helped to reduce the overall deficit.

The £13,000 deficit has resulted in a draw down of £12,000 from our reserves which now means that we only have £13,000 to meet future deficits. This is an unsustainable situation and we need to increase our income by both fundraising events and planned giving with gift aid. The church does not run itself as some members of the congregation assume – we appreciate that some cannot help financially but they do help in other ways and we hope that all members of the congregations would wish to keep the four churches open with weekly services.

The PCC has worked strenuously to minimise our expenses and apart from transferring some charges to the Seale and Puttenham restricted funds we can find no other means of reducing these further. The future of the Parish and our four Churches is in your hands. There are about 100 regular givers via the PGS and original covenant schemes who donate a total of £48,000 to the parish, this is an average of £40 per month per person; if this could be increased to £50 then the total extra with gift aid would amount to £15,000 and we would be well on our way to recovery.

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 the Guildford branch of Investec Wealth Management to manage our investment assets. During the year in discussions with their adviser the PCC agreed that our general reserve should be invested on a medium risk capital growth basis and that the restricted reserves invested on a medium risk income basis. Members of the PCC Finance Committee meet our stockbrokers on a regular basis to discuss investment strategy.

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 need a reserve to fall back on. This year our portfolio has been updated to improve capital growth.

Restricted Reserves Policy: These funds are from historical legacies which are restricted to the upkeep of Seale and Puttenham churches and are held in secure investments with the aim of achieving a good income, this pays for the general maintenance of these churches. The investments are held such that should there be a cash requirement it can be readily realised.

The Annual Accounts for 2017 are published separately.