

**SEALE, PUTTENHAM & WANBOROUGH PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL
ANNUAL REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
For the year ended 31 DECEMBER 2019**



"Lay not up for yourselves treasures upon earth, where moth and rust doth corrupt, and where thieves break through and steal: But lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust doth corrupt, and where thieves do not break through nor steal: For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also."

Matthew 6:19-21

**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)
Tuesday 20th October 2020 at 7pm
This meeting will be conducted online using Zoom**

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 2019

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 on Tuesday 20th October at 7pm online with Zoom.

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 2019, the following were members:

Rector: The Revd. Stephen Thatcher

Curate: The Revd. Philip Roche

Churchwardens:

- Seale and The Sands Ann Payne
Sue Weir
- Puttenham Andrew Baxter
Vacancy
- Wanborough Anne Concanen (Vice Chair/ Deanery Synod Representative (elected 2017)
Vacancy

Elected Members:

- Seale and The Sands Mike Randell – Treasurer (elected 2017)
Mike Thorpe (elected 2019)
- Puttenham Evelyn Gaff (elected 2019)
Cilla Batters (elected 2019)
- Wanborough Dee Bramley (elected 2017)
Vacancy

Additional ex-officio members:

The Rev. Philip Roche
Chris Tuckwell
Susie Felix (Deanery Synod Representative (elected 2017))

PCC Secretary: Dee Bramley

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

RECTOR'S REPORT

Much of the Parochial administration during 2019 has focused on legislative matters concerning safeguarding training and updating, renewing of the electoral register in April, investigating the charity status of church assets, establishing full compliancy with the requirements of GDPR divided into pastoral, administrative, worship and fundraising permissions both in the written and electronic context. It is simply no longer an assumption that Mrs. Bloggs can be put on the prayer list because she is ill in hospital, the law now requires that permission is sought from Mrs. Bloggs in order to publicly pray for her. These new rules involve a considerable amount of extra work and effort to administer. Of course, the church is not the only organisation that has to comply however as the "family of Christ" the more informal approach to church fellowship has had to give way to the formal in places where the law requires. In the matter of safeguarding, all our representatives on the Parochial Church Council and those who serve in education for example "Open the Book" volunteers and governors are all DBS cleared and trained in safeguarding matters and we take this matter very seriously in everything we do in or outside the church community.

As is our practice in SPW we review every year what we provide in terms of worship, service timings and liturgical choice. We believe strongly in providing a service in each of the four churches every Sunday and have been able to keep that pattern going thanks to support from those who regularly attend and the availability of a strong ministry team. The PCC voted to add BCP liturgies to Seale, Puttenham and Wanborough church services. We continue to attract young families at our Family Praise services which are less formal in style and well-structured to meet worship for all ages, there is a real sense of fun and fellowship combined with good teaching and hands on creative messy play with invaluable contributions from our helpers at Sands and Puttenham. We are always hopeful for more young people to join us but recognise we are not alone in this aspiration, the Church of England like many other denominations faces a national crisis in declining numbers of children and young people attending worship. The situation is greatly improved when there is a Church School in the parish, and we are grateful for the interest and support provided by Puttenham Church of England School and augmented attendances through "Big Fish" Sundays. We invested in a Children's Hymn Book which is proving popular in the parish with many of the hymns taught at the local school. The Rector continues with input into school assemblies, curriculum responsibility for RE and Foundation work on the Governing Body and each week the "Open the Book" team tell bible stories through drama and enacted parables.

Our attendances fluctuate with seasonal worship and feast days remain the most popular services. We have lost some of our loyal members through death and some have moved out of the parish. We said a sad farewell to Revd. Norman and Margaret Evans who moved to Oxfordshire and Delia Orme who took up a ministry post in Elstead, but warmly welcomed the new ministry of Revd. Philip and Helen Roche who joined the ministry team. The Electoral Roll was completely renewed in 2019 and we thank Jane Randall for this essential work, it is now in electronic format.

Financially, it has been another year of depreciating income, to add to the trend over the previous 5 years. A Financial Focus group was set up to explore church finances and seek ways to redress the decline. The FFG reported the alarming news that actual income has not been meeting the quota payment of £80,000 pa. Only half that amount has been raised each year through giving and fundraising, the balance has been paid from a reserve investment account. With the investment account now replete, the result is an overall deficit of a least £30,000 pa. The FFG also conducted a full review of our dormant church assets and presented a document to the PCC with an action plan raised to make these assets beneficial to serve the best interests of the church charity. A review of all other costs and expenses was considered and even small changes to essential services have provided savings, for example a change of insurance provision has saved over £900 pa. The Sands church extension was re-examined for affordability and it was concluded that income from this project would be raised by grants and proceeds from the Shepherd's Rest Café, keeping it independent of all other church income and expenditure. Several grants have already been received and the project has secured a third of the total amount to raise.

A full report was commissioned on the condition of the Pipe Organ at St. John the Baptist Church, Puttenham. After carefully considering the estimates to improve the organ, including consideration for an electronic replacement, the SPWPCC voted unanimously for the Organ to be refurbished with costs to be met from the restricted music fund and help from the Friends of Puttenham Church. A site inspection was made to examine the deterioration of the wall in the south eastern corner of Seale churchyard and tenders have been put in place for repairs. A site inspection was also arranged for repairs to the pointing and

tracery at St. John the Baptist Church, Puttenham and we await costings. A water pipe burst in the churchyard at Wanborough and is now all repaired with generous help from Wanborough Church Friends. Churchyard maintenance is always an emotive subject and the rules that govern the care of churchyards must be observed if the churchyard is not to become an eyesore and offensive to those whose loved ones are buried there. Allowing dogs to run freely in the churchyard with the resulting dog fouling is unacceptable, littering graves with more pots and plants than are permitted is illegal under the Churchyard Act, using hosepipes instead of watering cans to water flowers can cause grave subsidence. We try to appeal to common sense but that often falls on deaf ears. The Churchwardens are empowered to report persistent offenders to the Archdeacon and can remove anything that should not be there, hopefully people will respect the rules and such tough measures will not be necessary.

In respect of mission and outreach, our Lent course entitled *Lectio Visio* and our Faith builder series addressing various ecclesiastical subjects hosted at The Sands church were well attended and more are planned for next year. A very successful Flower Festival held in June engaged all four village communities including local businesses and it was great to see the church at the heart of "Village Life". Extended ministry to Puttenham Hill and Springfield Manor care homes brings the church and community together in a monthly communion and sing along. The hospitality shared by the Tower Café and the Shepherd's Rest Café, hosted by Evelyn Gaff and Ann Payne is a frontline pastoral outreach drawing in walkers, cyclists and others who enjoy a chat and refreshments in our churches at The Sands and Puttenham. We hosted a "Vision Day" with the Diocesan Missioner with the intention of shaping a parish plan based on a plurality Mission and Ministry growth going forward for the four churches. The feedback was very positive and plans to follow up are expected in the New Year. Helen Roche took over leadership of the outreach group and in time requested a change of name and purpose moving the group instead to a children's craft and resource group. In place of the usual Posada service the craft group supporters suggested we host a children's carol and nativity service; it was a great success and packed out both Seale and Puttenham churches. The Posada was hosted instead by Puttenham School. Our monthly Bible Fellowship continues under the leadership of Marion Thorpe with a loyal group of students who explore the scriptures through the "Daily Light" study books. Sally Welch one of the BRF contributors attended a service at Wanborough and met parishioners for an informal lunch and questions afterwards. "Transforming Church, Transforming Lives" is alive and well in the four churches of the parish.

I conclude this report by thanking with much appreciation the churchwardens, PCC members, PCC secretary and treasurer, servers, helpers, readers, intercessors, flower arrangers, gardeners, grass cutters, fund raisers, The friends of our churches, "Open the Book" story tellers, those who lock and unlock church doors, bell ringers, hospitality co-ordinators, café staff, statisticians, choristers, web administrator, wedding administrator, cleaners, magazine editors, covenant secretary, printer, electoral roll officer, sides persons, organists, verger, ministry team, pastoral assistant et al and not least Archdeacon Paul for his invaluable advice and support to our PCC.

Priorities for 2020/21

- Complete Mission and Ministry Discipleship Plan
- Continue safeguarding training
- Develop mission to children and young people
- Cultivate more confidence in Prayer ministry
- Establish world mission partnership
- Set up a food bank to support the Aldershot Nepalese family support network
- Increase church income and resources
- Realise the value of church assets for the benefit of the church charity
- Complete Organist/Verger Employment Contract
- Continue to raise grants for Sands Church Project
- Complete pipe organ restoration at Puttenham Church
- Complete historical survey on Seale Churchyard wall
- Raise grant support for stonework/tracery repairs at Puttenham church and Seale Churchyard

With my Prayers and Blessings,

Rector

MEETINGS *Anne Concanen*

There were 5 full meetings of the PCC during the year 2019. In addition, the members of the PCC attended a Parish Vision Day run by the Diocese.

The PCC meetings covered many areas of business but one of the topics for discussion was the promised review of service patterns and liturgical content outlined in the previous Annual Report. Other issues discussed and dealt with ranged from safeguarding, health and safety and general church maintenance to looking at ideas for future Parish development based on our Vision Day including training workshops, Bible study and more united social events.

A great deal of time was spent considering the severe financial situation of the Parish which had become so serious that bankruptcy loomed. Immediate attention was given to find new ways to alleviate this state of affairs. The United Flower Festival raising over £2,000 was just a start and a new Finance Focus Group (FFG) was formed. The FFG recommended that the PCC urgently consider and implement a variety of options to restore financial viability.

These involved -:

- Increasing yearly giving from parishioners and fund-raising activities
- Finding ways of utilising Parish assets for a longer-term solution

The PCC accepted the recommendations, examined all possible options and considered every aspect of the plans chosen with great care and thought.

SAFEGUARDING *Sue Weir*

As a United Parish we have a duty of care to ensure the protection of the vulnerable in our community. To this end we will promote a safer church for ALL. To date there have been no concerns raised.

To date 11 members of the PCC have completed the online Core1 training, 2 members have not yet completed this as they have been unwell during the year.

As the Safe Guarding Office I am here to respond to any concerns about children or adults in the parish to make sure that proper advice is sought and correct referrals are made, to report all matters relating to concerns and allegations of abuse, to the Incumbent and Diocesan safeguarding advisor.

There is also a requirement to ensure that any outside organisation which hire any of the Church premises complies with the parish Safeguarding Policy for children, young people and vulnerable adults unless the organisation has a policy of its own. None of our 4 churches have a Church Hall, all are Village Halls, and none of the churches have been hired out in the last year.

THE ELECTORAL ROLL *Jane Randell*

The Electoral Roll numbers up until April 2020

	ER Dec 2019	ER April 2020
Total on ER	125	130
Number outside parish	32	38
Seale total	75	80
Seale outside parish	22	28
Puttenham total	34	34
Puttenham outside parish	4	4
Wanborough total	16	16
Wanborough outside parish	6	6

OCCASIONAL OFFICES & PASTORAL VISITS

Baptisms: 6 Baptisms took place over the year and 1 Service of Thanksgiving for the Birth of a Child

Baptism Preparation: 6 families prepared

Weddings: 4 Weddings were celebrated and there was 1 Marriage Thanksgiving Service

Wedding dedications: 1 marriage dedication

Wedding Preparation: 4 couples prepared at the rectory and in church

Funerals: 17 funerals took place over this period (including those held in local crematorium)

Funeral Home visits: 17 families visited in their grief

Burial Cremated Remains: 6 services in the GOR

Home Communions: 30 including the two Care Homes

Hospital Visits: 12 to wards at the RS and Frimley Park and 8 to home convalescence

Hospice Visits: 5 visits to the Phyllis Tuckwell care home

CHURCH ATTENDANCE IN 2019

(Figures taken from the annual statistical analysis of Church Attendance collected by Mike Cloughley)

Comparative statistics over a 10-year period show that the total attendance in the parish has declined since 2012 following the national downward pattern of attendance indicated in the Church of England's Statistics for Mission 2018. The total attendance in 2019 was 4874 and children under the age of 16 counted for 8% of this attendance.

The average Sunday attendance across the Parish, excluding special and feast day services, was 65.3 in 2019 compared to 67.2 in 2018. Some fluctuation in figures was due to trialling some services on new days or at different times and in different venues.

Special Services continue to be very popular especially at Christmas. Some highlights in 2019 were the crib services at Seale and Puttenham with attendances of 259 and 135 respectively and the carol service at Wanborough with an attendance of 120. During the year 2 Big Fish services had attendance in the 40s and 50s and a morning service with a baptism at Seale had an attendance of 100. These services all attracted a wider congregation and showed considerable potential for outreach.

YOUNG FAMILIES IN OUR CHURCHES

Support and Contribution *Helen Roche - Lay Minister*

This year the united parish has enjoyed the hard work and support of the young families in our churches. They have supported family services, contributing to art and craft and sermon activities, welcoming new faces and families and supporting fellowship with the teas and coffees.

We had two marvellous crib services with all the children involved in the nativity story as actors and readers, supported by an army of adults organising costumes, props and scripts. We would like to thank everyone for their time and hard in the family and festival services.

We would also like to thank the children who have been bright sparks, bring the family services to life with their enthusiasm and humour. It is wonderful to see how comfortable and at home the children are in church, drawing generations together in joyful worship of God.

Thank you to everyone!

PARISH BIBLE STUDY *Marion Thorpe*

The Parish Bible Study's regular meetings in the afternoon of the 4th Wednesday of every month in the Church of The Good Shepherd.

The editor of New Daylight, Sally Welch, who preached at the united parish's service in Wanborough last June, is also an occasional contributor to the publication. For two weeks in the middle of March 2020, she provided some thought-provoking comments on passages from the Old Testament prophet, Ezekiel.

In her analysis of Ezekiel 1: 1-3, she writes:

"Most people will experience disaster of one type or another in the course of their lives. Perhaps the events will not be as dramatic as occupation by a foreign power and subsequent exile, but traumatic occurrences such as job loss, financial upset, serious illness or death, have the power to overthrow our lives completely, so that we lose all sense of stability and security. At those times it is easy to lose sight of God, or to find our trust in him frayed or even vanished. But it is while standing with his fellow exiles by a strange river in an unfamiliar land that Ezekiel has a vision of God that sustains him in his difficulties."

If you have any queries, and/or would like to join the group, please contact Marion Thorpe on 01252 783102. New members are most welcome.

MUSIC IN THE PARISH *Geoff Graham*

We still retain two choirs in the Parish, although both are few in number. Anyone who enjoys singing and would like to contribute to our worship in this way – please let Geoff know. It is not essential to be able to read music, although it helps.

As ever thanks are due to all those who give of their time to sing in our choirs, and a special mention for Juliana and David, for their playing. Not to mention the hours of practice.

The big news in 2019 is that the decision was made to proceed with the overhaul of the organ at St John the Baptist, Puttenham. We are grateful to all who have supported this project.

BELL TOWER REPORT

Puttenham *Andrew Baxter*

We have been pleased to welcome a new ringer to the band during the year. Richard learned to ring many years ago in the village and has been gradually picking up where he left off.

We have continued the system of joint practices with Seale and Compton, which sees at least one joint practice at Puttenham in the month, with others taking place at Compton or Seale, and has resulted in a very satisfactory widening of the ringers' experience and the methods rung.

All these practices take place on a Tuesday at 8.00 pm, and anyone interested is very welcome to join us. Please contact either Seale or Puttenham Tower Captain for the current schedule.

We have been able to ring for two weddings at Puttenham in 2019 and were pleased also to host the Farnham District Christmas Carol Service, led by our own Rector Stephen. The RAF Guild visited to ring and to sing, and this well-attended service was followed by mulled wine and mince pies.

Seale *Kevin Green*

2019 has been a tough year for Seale tower. With just three ringers and no sign of any new recruits we still rely on ringers from other towers for weddings etc. and continue to share practise evenings with Compton and Puttenham.

Sunday morning services lacked ringing for almost all services other than shared services with Puttenham. Plans are be discussed between tower members on a push for new recruits.

HEALTH & SAFETY *Geoff Graham*

All risk assessments have been carried out in the 4 churches including churchyards and curtilage.

PAT testing is up to date on all electrical equipment and fire extinguisher and alarms are in good working order.

FABRIC MAINTENANCE

Church Architect: Our Inspecting Architect in 2019 was Adam Hieke, R.I.B.A. of Godalming.

Seale and The Sands *Ann Payne*

The Church of St Laurence

A leak was discovered again in January 2020, on the heating pipework at the rear of the north aisle; the heating company, Brookside, drained the heating system, replaced the defective fitting and associated pipework, tested and left in working order.

The defective fitting was returned to the manufacturer, in Germany for inspection, but the report stated that the fracture was due to external damage.

The East-end churchyard wall was identified as needing repair and tenders have been put out for the work

The Church of the Good Shepherd

In the presence of driving rain, the bellcote occasionally leaks.

The Good Shepherd continues to increase in clientele numbers and the grant applications are still being submitted.

Puttenham *Andrew Baxter*

The Church of St John the Baptist

As well as the regular and ad hoc service and maintenance visits to keep the church in good order two main items required attention during the year.

Hassell Prints This collective term refers to the John and Edward Hassell paintings and other line drawings exhibited at the West end of the church, which in 2018 had been placed in the archival care of the Surrey History Centre. High quality reproductions had been provided for display, but a deterioration in their appearance had been becoming more noticeable over a period of months.

A process of reprinting and test hanging was agreed with SHC and commenced in June. This was in due course deemed a success and the new reproductions were rehung in early December.

Organ restoration A process of cleaning and minor refurbishment of our pipe organ had been under consideration for several years, and during 2019 major steps were taken towards achieving this long-overdue goal. Reports and quotations from several organ builders were sought and considered, and towards end year a contract was signed with F H Browne & Sons, with an agreed aim of returning the organ to service by Easter 2020.

In parallel processes support and advice had been sought from and readily provided by the Diocesan Organ Advisor; funding was discussed with the PCC regarding the Hugh Morgan legacy, and with the Friends of Puttenham Church regarding a possible grant. It was intended also to seek other charity funding, and to raise funds locally.

With foundation funding in place an application for a Faculty was made to the Diocese in the autumn. Although this was not formally issued until the end of January 2020, by the end of 2019 the major elements were in place to proceed with the restoration of the pipe organ.

Wanborough *Anne Concanen*

The Church of St Bartholomew

There is still a problem with damp in the Vestry although this has been improved by the use of a dehumidifier.

In July 2019 lamps was attached to the church fence to allow better lighting along the road between the Church and the Village Hall.

In the Autumn there was problem with a water leak in the churchyard. The water first appeared near the south door and at its worst point could be seen trickling down the church path and even down the road. This was a considerable mystery as water was appearing where no water was supposed to be. However, after a number of visits from SE Water, work by a private company and research into distant records, the mystery of the water was finally solved. A leak was located and mended. The water pipe route was also mapped where before it was unknown.

PUTTENHAM SCHOOL HOUSE *John Hewitson*

The Management Committee was established in 1987 by the PCC to look after School House and supervise letting the building when not required for the use of the Head Teacher of Puttenham Church of England School. It reported a cash balance of £23,342 in its sinking fund at the end of 2019 and expects to incur repair expenditure of over £15,000 on this listed building later this year. *(N.B. Funds mentioned here are not reported as part of the Annual Accounts)*

VILLAGE NEWS *Jane Randell (Lead Editor)*

The editors continue to produce a Village News on a monthly basis however the numbers distributed dropped in August from 600 to 590 and in order to keep the cost of printing down we have agreed with the printer that this number will not be decreased during 2020. Puttenham now has 260 copies and Seale 330 which is 10 less than last year.

The four regular editors remain unchanged as Simon Prichard, Christine Hollingworth, Dee Bramley and Jane Randell. Dee Bramley deals with the advertisers, produces the advert pages for the February issue and also maintains the accounts and deals with all the finances. Jane Randell co-ordinates the whole process and stands in as editor when required.

The financial situation in October 2019 enabled the editors to agree to donate £1,000 to SPW PCC, £200 to Phyllis Tuckwell and £100 each to Seale Village Hall, the Marwick Hall, Wanborough Village Hall and The Sands Room. It was also agreed that there was no requirement to increase in the cost of the adverts or the cost of the magazine however the number of adverts for the 2020 issues has dropped. As at December 2019 the accounts showed that there was a surplus of about £200 assuming no advertising income had been received.



Puttenham Church of England School

Headteacher: Anna De Filippis
News from the school for the academic year 2019-2020

Staffing

This year we employed a class teacher for our year 2 otter class. We also welcomed a part time PPA teacher to cover the teachers' planning and preparation time (PPA). They have both settled in well in the school community. We have one teacher who is due to go on maternity leave in July. Last year the school trained a teaching assistant to become an Emotional Literacy Support Assistant (ELSA).

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 2019 were high in comparison to National and Surrey schools. This year due to the national school closures, all national assessments have been cancelled.

Admissions and transition

We currently have 108 children on roll. We welcomed 33 children into the Reception class in September with their families and one child into Year 2. We await confirmation of offers for next year 2019. The majority of our year 2 children went to Waverley Abbey Junior School last September. We are awaiting our admission numbers for the September 2020 intake.

Links with Community

We have continued to increase our links with other local schools in the Farnham Confederation, focusing on improving teaching and learning, sporting fixtures, music festivals and curriculum enrichment programmes. I am also part of a Guildford Headteacher's group. Our aim is to share good practice and resources across the schools.

We continue to be well supported by Puttenham Church with the fortnightly collective worship assemblies led by the Rector, a termly Big Fish family service and weekly Open the Book assemblies. Church services that have taken place include Harvest, Christmas, Candlemas and Ash Wednesday. This year Anne Concanen supported the school with a Christmas art project. A small model of a shepherd formed part of the Christmas Nativity display at Guildford Cathedral.

Events in School

Annual and seasonal events have taken place in school including enrichment learning weeks such as Religious and spiritual themed pause days, 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 and a visit to Hamptons Farm for their final forest school session. We had visits from a drama workshop company and the NSPCC carried out their 'speak out' assembly. In the last year, class trips have included visits to Hamptons estate; Milestones museum in Basingstoke; Watts gallery and Painshill Park.

Building Programmes

The PSA has kindly donated money to purchase a log cabin, which will enable the school to have a space to carry out well-being and special needs activities such as sensory, speech and occupational therapy.

Partial School Closure

Due to the Coronavirus pandemic, the school has been partially closed since the 20th March. We remain open to the children of key workers only until further government guidance.

"OPEN THE BOOK" *Anne Concanen*

"Open the Book" was developed by the Bible Society to present Bible stories to children in schools in enjoyable and imaginative ways. Under the auspices of the PCC, our Parish "Open the Book" volunteers have been taking "Open the Book" assemblies in Puttenham School since January 2017. During 2019 the 3 different Teams have presented a weekly story (up to 10 a term).

Some highlights include –

- ❖ Pharaoh as portrayed by different team members,
- ❖ The children acting as the falling walls of Jericho,
- ❖ The mass Nativity with all OTB volunteers

As you can see, it is all great fun!

I would like to thank everyone for their time, efforts, ingenuity and of course sense of humour. I would especially like to thank our new volunteers and would be very pleased to hear from anyone else who is interested in helping us.

GODALMING DEANERY SYNOD 2019 *Anne Concanen*

2 meetings of Synod were held in 2019. The new Area Dean, Rev. Simon Taylor, was not in place until after Easter so the first Synod of the year was held in July.

The main theme for the July meeting was change. The Area Dean gave an outline of the Diocesan Review that had been taking place within Diocesan House to help lead the objectives and priorities of TCTL (Transforming Church Transforming Lives) through our parishes, chaplaincies, and schools over the next five to ten years. In order to do this, there would be 3 teams (Mission, Operations and Education) supporting the parishes and a development cycle would be planned.

Members of Synod were then asked to consider Godalming Deanery in the future. Looking at a map of our Deanery, members of Synod could see what a large area was covered. The Deanery held a central position in the Diocese and had influence beyond its size. We should consider ourselves as a family supporting each other and sharing our ideas and resources.

At the end of the meeting the Synod was given an update from the Diocesan board of Education that was particularly relevant for our Parish/School planning as we were informed that SIAM's (Church) inspections now had a greater expectation of links between the parish and the parish school.

The November meeting continued the themes developed previously. The main topic was entitled "Deanery Strategy – Developing a Clear Strategy and Purpose Together".

The Area Dean shared with members of Synod draft 6 of a discussion paper on Godalming Deanery and ideas for growth and change. Some aspirations included – working more closely together, developing projects across the Deanery, not feeling isolated, being one family with different ways of doing things, creating a shared sense of purpose.

Synod was told that the Diocesan Budget for 2020 had a planned deficit of £156k and parish share would be increased by 2.5%

EVENTS DURING 2019

Myrtle's Courtyard Christmas Fair had a wonderful Christmas atmosphere and the excellent stalls attracted many of visitors. This hugely successful event raised a splendid £2,438.

The Tower Café in Puttenham Church has opened for teas fortnightly. The takings raised in 2019 reached £281, which is very much appreciated.

Film Night was a great success – not only was the Film Night wonderful entertainment and a great evening out but it also raised £778.

The United Parish Flower Festival was a unique event as it was held in June in all 4 churches at the same time. It was a marvellous opportunity to showcase the talent, imagination and originality in our Parish. Apart from the beautiful flowers, this event also raised a magnificent £2,643 for Parish funds.

The Summer Show Tombola Stall benefited greatly from your stall donations and £203 was raised.

Other events and activities have raised £107.

The Puttenham Organ Fund, formed specifically to fund the organ restoration in the Church of St John the Baptist, raised the impressive sum of £5,470.

This all contributes to the total amount raised through fundraising ventures for the financial year to December 2019 of £11,921.

We are so grateful to the event organisers who worked extremely hard to produce such high quality and enjoyable events and for the support of the many in attending and enjoying what was put on.



REVIEW OF FINANCE *Mike Randell*

FINANCE REPORT FOR YEAR ENDED 31/12/2019

This has been a very disappointing year as, without any reserves in our general fund to fall back on, we have struggled to make the ends meet and as you can see from the figures our income is some £5,000. less than expenditure; it would have been nearly £12,000 more if we did not have some expenditure paid by the Puttenham and Seale restricted funds. We have succeeded in reducing our total expenditure by some £4,000, however while our regular income has fallen the increase in fund raising led to our total income being £2,000 more than last year. We can see no scope for further reduction in costs and with a falling attendance at services it is difficult to increase our regular income. Fund raising generally brings in the required money for a defined project such as the Puttenham organ rebuild but has very little effect on the general running costs of the church.

We are very lucky in having the two restricted funds for Puttenham and Seale which are invested to give a small income and growth, these funds are used to pay for all the general maintenance of these churches and churchyards and with the favourable share indices in 2019 we were able to maintain the value of these funds in spite of having to sell some of the shares, the Puttenham fund increased by £7,000, but the Seale fund only dropped by £3,000.

We are also lucky have active Friends organisations which are able to finance major projects for Puttenham, Seale and Wanborough churches; during the year the Wanborough Friends paid for the repair of the mains water leak in the churchyard, the Puttenham Friends have agreed to make a payment towards the Organ Rebuild and the Seale Friends have agreed to pay for the forthcoming repairs to the clock.

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 appointed an Adviser from the Guildford branch of Investec Wealth Management to manage our investment assets. Members of the PCC Finance Committee meet him on a regular basis to discuss investment strategy.

General Reserves Policy: The PCC aims to hold general unrestricted funds sufficient to meet six months running costs. It looks to fundraising and donations to meet the majority of normal running costs, however due to ever increasing running costs our general income is insufficient for the day to day expense, so we need a reserve to fall back on. Last year we were forced to close our general reserve fund due to the sum remaining being too small to be economically managed and due to falling income we have been unable to rebuild this reserve.

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

The Annual Accounts for 2019 are published separately.