

The Parish of Salisbury Plain
FORMAL ANNUAL REPORT AND ACCOUNTS OF THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st December 2014

Administrative information

The Parish of Salisbury Plain was created on 1st January 2014 and is a one-parish benefice comprising the historic parishes of St Mary & All Saints', Chitterne; St Mary's Orcheston; St Mary's Shrewton; and St Thomas à Becket, Tilshead. It is part of the Diocese of Salisbury within the Church of England. The correspondence address is The Rectory, Chapel Lane, Shrewton, SP3 4BX

The Parochial Church Council (PCC) is a charity excepted from registration with the Charity Commission. PCC members who have served from 29th January 2014 until the date this report was approved are:

Incumbent: The Revd Eleanor Rance - Chairman
Associate Priest: The Revd David Walters

Wardens: Elizabeth Anson
Michael Badham-Thornhill
Christine Chisholm
Ewart Grant
Robert Pryor - Vice Chairman
Marcelle Stobie
Paul Taylor

Representatives on the Deanery Synod: Gillian Goldsmith
Sarah Gooch
Paul Taylor
Mary Whitton

Elected members: David Andrews (from APCM-27 Aug 2014) - Secretary
Andrena Badgery - Electoral Roll Officer
Elizabeth Broadbent
David Chadwick - Treasurer
Claire Cooper
Richard Essberger
Heather Garnett
Arthur Gooch
Elizabeth Johns
Vix Mackay
Nick Parker
Virginia Pryor (from Nov 2014 co-opted) - Secretary
Sally Shepherd
John Smedley
Frieda White

Structure, governance and management

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

Objectives and Activities

The Salisbury Plain Benefice PCC has the responsibility of co-operating with the incumbent, the Revd Eleanor Rance, in promoting in the ecclesiastical parish the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical. It also has maintenance responsibilities for the Maddington Church Room in the historic parish of Maddington/Shrewton.

Achievements and Performance

Church attendance

There are 215 parishioners on the Church Electoral Roll, 11 of whom are not resident within the parish. 13 names were added during the year and 7 were removed either through death or because they moved away from the parish. Discounting the attendance at Benefice Services(which are identified below under a different category), Easter Sunday, Remembrance Sunday and Christmas Day services, the average weekly attendance of adults during the year 2014 was as follows across the villages:

Chitterne: 17
Orcheston: 14
Shrewton: 34
Tilshead 11

The average attendance of those under 16 across the villages, based upon monthly family services was as follows:

Chitterne: 6.5
Orcheston: 3
Shrewton: 13
Tilshead: 4.5

Attendance on Easter Sunday and at Christmas was as follows:

	Easter	Midnight Mass	Christmas Day
Chitterne:	37 & 10	~	25 & 3
Orcheston:	36 & 14	~	44 & 8
Shrewton:	83 & 20	37 & 1	60 & 10
Tilshead:	29 & 9	21	50 & 14

A marked increase in attendance at Benefice services was also noted; average attendance at Group services in 2013 was 30. Average attendance at Benefice services in 2014 was 42.

Review of the year

The full PCC met 5 times during the year with an average level of attendance of 80%. Local Committees met between meetings and minutes of their deliberations were received by the full PCC and discussed where necessary.

The PCC approved the proposal that all Benefice Services should use Common Worship liturgy, and that where possible the significant festivals of the year should be marked together (especially Holy Week and the services during December). It also approved the possibility of developing a midweek Communion service and an informal service for parents and toddlers, though neither of these services have yet begun within the Benefice. The PCC supported various fundraising meals for the South Sudan, notably a lunch with the Bishop of Ramsbury during his visit in November, and a Christmas Lunch at Chitterne in December. It was agreed that Sudan lunches would not take place on a monthly basis but that instead an occasional, larger event would occur.

Much of the past 12 months has involved the PCC making structural and administrative changes in order that the 4 villages might operate effectively as a one-parish Benefice. Of greatest significance in this regard was the meeting in November where it was agreed that all Standing Orders into church funds should in future be paid directly into the Benefice account. The PCC account is the only account that has charitable status and through which Gift Aid (tax relief) may be claimed. This decision was communicated to the 4 villages in the latter part of 2014/early 2015. The PCC also approved and reviewed Terms of Reference for the Local Church Committees, and the Safeguarding Policy for the Benefice during 2014.

The PCC also took time to explore the pastoral needs of the community it serves, and will continue to do this as a matter of course. Two areas of particular significance were identified: the young, families and links with schools; and the care of our aging population. A briefing about Dementia from the Alzheimer's Society was held in the autumn, hosted by the PCC. New Foundation Governors for both Shrewton and Tilshead primary schools have been nominated and sponsored by the PCC in the past 12 months.

The Rector assisted the Archdeacon, The Ven Alan Jeans, in hosting a seminar about single parish PCCs in October 2014, based upon the experiences of the Salisbury Plain Benefice (SPB).

For 2015...

In February, the PCC approved the decision to apply to the Diocese for a curate for 2016. It remains for the Diocese to determine whether the Benefice would provide a suitable training context for those ordinands to be ordained in the coming year.

In the coming year the PCC will again address the worship rota, since there continue to be difficulties in sustaining the pattern inherited from the old 'Group' of parishes.

In February, during the debate in General Synod regarding multi-parish benefices, The Ven Christine Hardman spoke in very positive terms about the way in which SPB has developed its sense of shared purpose and identity in the past year. (It is possible to hear this report by following this link, selecting Thursday 12th February and scrolling to minute 29.45. <https://soundcloud.com/the-church-of-england/sets/general-synod-tuesday-10th>).

Financial Review

A bank account for the Salisbury Plain Benefice PCC was opened with the Charities Aid Foundation Bank on the 4th April 2014. The account comprises of five sub-accounts which accommodate the four churches, in addition to a General Purpose (GP) account for common Benefice income and expenditures. This allows full visibility of LCC funds deposited and held in the Benefice account.

Total receipts on ordinary unrestricted funds were £10,470 and are detailed in the Financial Statements. In addition to the agreed initial deposits by the LCCs into the central fund, the GP income of £2,458 was attributed to donations, fundraising and sponsorship events, also, £685 was raised in support of the Sudan Link.

GP expenditures amounted to £3,165 in the financial year. This accounted for general stationery costs, clergy expenses, overseas giving and other miscellaneous expenses. Gift Aid continues to be managed by parish treasurers independently on a weekly basis; however, in order to take advantage of HMRC tax repayment claims which apply to PCCs only, the benefice has submitted a claim on £34,295.06 being the total value of income valid for tax relief Gift Aid donated across the benefice in 2014. It is expected that a payment of £8,584.51 will be made to the SPB PCC, which will be apportioned to the four churches accordingly (afternote: confirmation of payment into the PCC account has been received).

The net result of the year shows an excess of income over expenditure of £7,305.

Reserves Policy

A Reserves Policy will be considered in the future by the PCC.

Approved by the PCC on 17th April 2015 and signed on their behalf by Revd Eleanor Rance (PCC Chairman)

**INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH
COMMITTEE OF THE SALISBURY PLAIN BENEFICE**

This report on the financial statement of the PCC for the year ended 31 December 2014, is in respect of an examination carried out in accordance with the Church Accounting Regulations 2006 ('the Regulations') and section 43 of the Charities Act 1993 ('the Act').

Respective responsibilities of the PCC and the examiner

As members of the PCC you are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements. You consider that the audit requirement of the Regulations and section 43 (2) of the Act do not apply. It is my responsibility to issue this report on those financial statements in accordance with the terms of the regulations.

Basis of this report

My examination was carried out in accordance with the General Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 43(7)(b) of the Act and to be found in the *Church Guidance*, 2006 edition, issued by the Finance Division of the Archbishops' Council. That examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the PCC and a comparison of the accounts with those records. It also includes considering any unusual items or disclosures in the financial statements and seeking explanations from you as trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently I do not express an audit opinion on the view given by the accounts.

Independent examiner's statement

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

- (1) which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements
 - to keep accounting records in accordance with section 41 of the Act; and
 - to prepare financial statements, which accord with the accounting records and comply with the requirements of the Act and the Regulationshave not been met; or
- (2) to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Date: 16 April 2015

Signature:

Original signed

Name:

John Quinton-Tutt

Position:

Chartered
Tax Adviser