



Annual Report for the year ended 31 December 2016

Legal and Administrative Information

Parochial name: The Parish of Ockham with Hatchford & Downside
Deanery: Leatherhead
Diocese: Guildford
Addresses: All Saints' Church, Ockham Road North, Ockham, GU23 6NQ
St Michael's Chapel, Downside Common Road, Downside, KT11 3NP
Correspondence: The Rectory, Ockham Lane, Ockham GU23 6NP

The Parochial Church Council is a charity, excepted from registration with the Charity Commission, with three related trusts. The PCC's Gift Aid registration number is X96002.

Members of the PCC who have served in the period of approximately fifteen months since the beginning of the financial year (1 January 2016) until the approval of the accounts in March 2017 are:

Ex-Officio members:

Revd Hugh Grear (Rector from October 2015) (Chairman)
Revd Elisabeth Burke (OLM from 2005)
Sally Pound (Churchwarden from APCM 2012) (also PCC Secretary)
Nick Mellstrom (Treasurer from 1999)
Alison Boothby (Deanery Synod from APCM 2011)

Elected members:

Judith Allen (from APCM 2016)
Clare Bevan (from APCM 2016)
David Boothby (from APCM 2015)
John Burge (from APCM 2016)
Fiona Cheese (from APCM 2016)
Maureen Green (from APCM 2015)
Russell Sunderland (from APCM 2016)

Co-opted members:

David Pappin (co-opted from July 2015)
Richard Peters (co-opted from APCM 2016)
Ann Watson (co-opted from APCM 2013)

Bankers: Barclays Bank, 5 Church Street, Leatherhead, Surrey KT22 8DE
NatWest Bank, 9 High Street, Cobham, Surrey KT11 3DJ

Insurers: Ecclesiastical Insurance, Brunswick Road, Gloucester, GL1 1JZ

Architect: Robert Shaw, BA, Dipl Arch, 32 Foster Road, Chiswick, London W4 4NY

Independent Examiner: John Burge, Broughton, Norrels Drive, East Horsley KT24 5DR
Surrey

Legal Adviser: Vacant

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 PCC of Ockham with Hatchford & Downside has the responsibility of co-operating with the group ministry clergy, in promoting in the ecclesiastical parish the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical. It also has maintenance responsibilities for All Saints' Church, Ockham, Hatchford Churchyard and St Michael's Chapel, Downside.

Achievements and Performance

There were 111 parishioners on the parish electoral roll during the year, more than half of whom are not resident within the parish. We last revised our electoral roll early in 2013. The average weekly attendance for our two places of worship combined, counted during October, was around 51 adults and anything from 5 - 12 children, but this number increased at festivals. All Saints' carol service was attended by about 110 and the Christmas Eve crib and carol services at St Michael's Chapel were attended by about 120 adults and children.

RECTOR'S REPORT – Revd Hugh Grear

The group ministry - With Renos already in place in East Horsley, we had to wait for the arrival of Rev Phil Herrington at West Horsley on 15 March 2016 before the group ministry could really start in earnest. However, we held the group wedding preparation day in East Horsley during February, and Renos and I did a 'pulpit swap' on Valentine's Day. We also celebrated a Passover meal in the Canterbury Rooms on 23 March, which was well received. The other big group event was the Tenors Unlimited concert on 23rd July. Since Phil arrived, the three rectors have been praying together every Thursday, and as a result the group is beginning to knit together. Late in the year we also agreed upon a joint Alpha Course, planning for which began in November 2016.

Leading your church into growth - Mission has been placed at the heart of the parish and the diocese during 2016, with the launch of the new diocesan mission initiative *Transforming Church, Transforming Lives* in September. We played the accompanying DVD in both the chapel and the church on 2 October. In the same month I was sent by the diocese on a residential training course, entitled 'Leading your church into growth'. The PCC has agreed to follow this up in 2017.

Children - In April we held an open meeting with Alison Hendy, diocesan children and families ministry adviser, to discuss the possibility of children being trained to receive Communion before confirmation. The PCC has now agreed that this can go forward, and we are beginning to draw together our first cohort of children to receive instruction. Pebbles continues to be a vital part of what we offer families.

St Matthew's School, Downside - Elisabeth and I continue to be involved in both school assemblies and governance, and Fiona Cheese also became a governor in 2016. In the autumn Chris Wilkins became the chair of Governors, and I became the vice-chair of governors; this coincided with Kathy Hutt taking over fully as headteacher. The school continues in good heart, and we are pleased that many of the parents bring their children to church. In March we celebrated the opening of the new school classroom intended for the reception class. Although there have been some initial difficulties with the building, the fundraising effort by the parents and the community has been superb. We were delighted that the school supported our harvest service and bring and share lunch in Guileshill Barn.

St Michael's Chapel - Our lease for the chapel has been renewed for a further 30 years; we are very grateful to the Cobham Park estate, the owners.

Appeal for funds - Our appeal month in November has had a positive effect, but it remains the rector's view that there are some people who are quite new to the church who might be persuaded to join the Parish Giving Scheme.

Charities and charitable giving - We remain extremely grateful to the Friends of All Saints' Church for their generous support. Although the Friends is a separate organisation, we have an extremely close association which we hope benefits all concerned. There was a Friends concert on in June, which was well supported, and raised significant funds. We were glad to be involved with Ockham Fete in May, and very grateful to be the recipient of some of the funds raised. We have re-established a small group to consider our outward charitable giving, and the group ministry has chosen Christian Solidarity Worldwide (www.csw.org.uk) as its chosen charity, and we will be choosing a local/national charity in 2017.

Thanks - There are so many people we are very grateful to: Nick Mellstrom, our treasurer and all those involved in gathering funds and keeping track of them. Sheila Mellstrom and her choir for all that she brings to the life of the church, not least of which is our wonderful music. In addition, in 2016, Tina Grear began to play the piano for family services and Martin McElwee now plays the organ for us once a month. Russell Sunderland continues to play the piano beautifully at the chapel. We are grateful to John Young, our tower captain, for the excellence and endurance of our bell-ringers. New ringers are urgently needed to keep this ancient tradition alive. Our thanks too to the team who produce *The Parishioner*, now mainly digital, but with hard copies available to all who would prefer it.

The team - Hugh remains honoured and delighted to be the Rector of this parish, ably assisted by Revd Elisabeth Burke, who plays a full part, including stepping in when I was unavailable. Our sole warden, Sally Pound, is efficient, calm and wonderful, but needs a fellow warden to support her. We are blessed to have Clare Bevan training for reader ministry. She began her second year of training in good heart, and the academic side of her training is (as one would expect) going brilliantly. We are also fortunate to have Maureen Pappin training for the role of occasional preacher.

Wisley airfield planning appeal - We pay tribute to the Wisley Action Group for continuing to oppose the ill-advised plans for Three Farm Meadows and Wisley Airfield. Many members of church and community have been involved. We were relieved that their planning application was unanimously rejected by Guildford Borough Council, but we now know that this is subject to an appeal by the developers, so this sorry saga continues. 2017 is likely to be the decisive year in our village's campaign, and involvement and funding for the campaign will be vital.

CHURCHWARDEN'S REPORT – Sally Pound

2016 has passed off smoothly. It has given Hugh and the family time to settle in and get to know everyone. Apart from the normal running of the parish, Hugh has also had to get to know the rectors of the other two parishes of the group ministry, Renos Pittarides at St Martin's and Phil Herrington at St Mary's. He has regular contact with them and they pray together once a week. There have been group services and we look forward to doing other activities with them as time goes on so that we can help each other. The future looks exciting, as there are various things planned.

Tina, Honor and Ben have also been busy helping in various ways. Tina plays the piano for the family services and also has played in the orchestra, and said the prayers, and Honor and Ben have read the lesson, and all of them have helped with Pebbles and more too.

Hugh has been with us for well over a year now, and when he was originally installed, the legalities of the group ministry had not been completed. He still has the formality of signing the papers to make him Rector. I am pressing for the Bishop of Guildford to come and preach one Sunday and complete Hugh's position. I do not want to let it become forgotten further.

Church Fabric - Having been congratulated in the quinquennial report that our church is in very good order, we have only needed running repairs this year. We now have a new notice board attached to the wall which looks a lot neater and the leaflets have been placed in a more orderly fashion on the adjacent table. New carpeting has been installed this year throughout the church, with grateful thanks to the Friends of All Saints who funded that and also the new pulleys for four of the bells in the bell tower. Nick Mellstrom has been looking into the question of the rewiring the lights in the churchyard as it is old and does not always work properly. We also need new lights in the car park now that the tree to which the old lights were attached has been removed. This is to cover both safety and security. The older of our two chalices has been repaired. It had been 'wobbly' for years, and it was found that

the rod that keeps the bowl, middle and base together had lost its thread so needed replacing.

St Michael's Chapel - The congregation here slowly continues to increase and there are often around 18 on a Sunday morning. As always, the Christmas crib service was well attended, with standing room only, but the greatest joy was to see the chapel full with 39 in the congregation at the carol service following the crib service on Christmas Eve. It had been attended by numbers in the mid-teens for a couple of years, the numbers very slowly increasing from the time this Service was started when the Chapel was enlarged. A new lease has at last been signed for the Chapel and we just await the seal of the Diocese and a further legality to be completed.

Finance - In 2016 we have tried to encourage more members of the congregation to do their giving through the Parish Giving Scheme. This helps the treasurer because the Gift Aid is reclaimed monthly rather than annually and donors' giving can be index-linked. The response to this has been a bit slow, so Hugh has decided that October will be 'Giving Month' when we will be encouraged to increase our giving.

Churchwarden - I have been the sole churchwarden during the past year, but I have had tremendous support all round without which I could not have managed. My special thanks go to Richard Peters, the last churchwarden, who has continued to look after the website and also quite a few other things too! I am sure there must be someone in the congregation who could become the second churchwarden. As I have only one more year before I will have completed my six year stint, if I get the backing of the congregation at the next APCM. This is becoming a rather important situation which must be resolved.

My thanks go to those who give so freely of their time to help All Saints' and St Michael's Chapel run so smoothly and look so lovely.

LEATHERHEAD DEANERY SYNOD REPORT – Alison Boothby

At the close of last year the Archdeacon Paul Bryer had made it quite clear that he expected the Deanery Synods to be less passive as a group and to become more open to directly challenging and supporting parishes in the Deanery as part of the Renewal and Reform agenda.

Broadly, our theme again this year has been about moving from a pastoral to a mission focus. The common thread is all about how better to reach out into our communities beyond our congregations to share God's work. Why share our faith? How do we build discipleship? This year there has also been a focus on working collaboratively, sharing talents and resources, reaching out for help and not trying to do everything on our own.

So, in 2016 we have enjoyed some lively talks and debate to rev up the group starting with Paul Bryer challenging us to think about *What are Deanery Synods for and how can they be effective?* During this session we also looked at the relationship between the deanery synod and the PCC.

This was followed up with an open meeting led by Bishop Andrew, exploring the Future of the Diocesan Plan and Common Purpose.

Peter Coles, Diocesan Secretary was next up discussing 'Our biggest Challenges' and encouraging debate about *How the diocese can better support parishes and how parishes can draw on the resources of the diocese.*

Our final meeting of the year was another open meeting led by Alan Hulme, director of the Diocesan Parish Development and Evangelism Team and always a lively and challenging speaker. *How to talk about your faith and still keep your friends* was an evening aimed at all Christians who want to become more confident in talking about their faith and sharing it with others.

Along the way we enjoyed parish snapshots from Great Bookham, Leatherhead and Stoke D'Abernon. Three very different parishes indeed.

For 2017 all meetings will be Open Meetings whereby all church members are welcome. Building on the ideas covered in the last two years, the theme will be *Engaging with ...*. The first meeting of 2017 is entitled *Engaging with Refugees* at which the speaker will be Bishop Jo Wells, the new Bishop of Dorking.

PEBBLES AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S WORK – Elisabeth Burke & Alison Boothby

We have continued to have a trickle of new families during the year. Some are local, having moved in recently or deciding to bring their children to church now they are more settled. Others are from further away, encouraged by friends or neighbours who come or by the possibility of their children attending St Matthew's School.

In 2016 we had 11 baptisms – including two at St Michael's Chapel. Again these were a mixture of first babies, siblings and couples who had been married at All Saints' and although not living locally wanted to keep the connection. We do, of course, encourage all families to support their local parish church, but it is a joy to see them again.

Family Services still delight the large numbers who come and Zoe and Alison are valuable members of our planning team, always ready with new ideas, costumes and props with Hugh or Elisabeth rounding up with a more adult thought to finish.

During the year the children have made an Easter Garden, used the side area in church for activities during Easter Sunday, the holidays and on 5th Sundays, been generous at Harvest and very respectful on Remembrance Sunday. The Christmas services were very well attended and the chapel was full at the Crib and Carol Services on Christmas Eve and the church was full on Christmas Day.

As yet we haven't reinstated the termly service in St Matthew's School or arranged for the teenagers to lead the service as we had hoped. ... Something for the year ahead.

Pebbles - Our Cabin has continued to be enjoyed as our base for providing a varied and stimulating programme for our youngest members and we continue to use the outdoor space and the churchyard too when weather permits. As last year, we have continued to keep a fairly flexible approach to the lectionary, choosing activities, themes and stories that

appeal to our very youngest members. Sam remains a stalwart presence as our oldest child, and frequently impresses with his knowledge and memory.

With the majority of our regular children at pre-school age we have done more craft and less drama activity, but our story telling has improved with frequent use of our own 'Godly Play' style knitted figures, including some gruesome hijacks on the road to Jericho! We've picked up on key events in the church calendar of course, but also revisited core values and qualities such as *listening*, *helping* and *kindness*. I think Alison's attempt at laminating a pancake will be remembered for a long time...

We are extremely grateful to the entire Pebbles team. Sadly Jason's family commitments mean that he has stood down, so for 2017 our four leaders are Alison, Zoe, Fiona and Tina. Official helpers are slim on the ground but we love having Honor on a regular basis and Rebecca Packard too. We have had some lovely new children attending in the recent months and hope we will continue to see them regularly.

We are always keen to welcome new members and new children. Our weekly numbers do fluctuate, but a healthy rolling average of between 4 and 6 is the norm rising to 10 on occasion! We would ideally recruit two additional helpers to bolster the team.

SAFEGUARDING - Judith Allen

All Saints' has complied with the Diocesan policy on providing a safe environment for both children and adults. Risk assessments covering activities for Pebbles and the church environment continue to be in place and there has again been particular emphasis placed upon the need to keep lone workers safe.

The PCC adopts the Diocesan Safeguarding Policy annually following the APCM.

I am also the safeguarding validator for all volunteers applying for a DBS certificate to work with children and/or adults who may be vulnerable. The relevant forms have been checked and cleared by the Disclosure and Barring Service.

I attended a refresher Module 1 of the Church of England Safeguarding Course and training is also open to other leaders and helpers involved in children's work. This provides a useful opportunity to exchange views and explore areas of uncertainty in a supportive environment.

There have been no expressed worries about children's safeguarding issues during the past year and I am sure that we all recognise that we have a collective responsibility as church community to be aware of good practice in safeguarding and to feel secure in voicing any concerns.

CHARITIES COMMITTEE – David Boothby

Following the departure of Mike and Carol Binnie from the parish the PCC has been reviewing our charitable giving during 2016, as a result of which there was only one fund-raising even during the year, carol singing around the village, organised by Jenny Milligan, which raised a record £213.

In January 2017 a new charities group was formed, consisting of Elisabeth Burke, David Boothby, Judith Allen and Fiona Cheese - a sub-committee of the PCC.

The PCC meeting at the beginning of January highlighted a proposal for the group ministry to adopt a group charity - with Christian Solidarity Worldwide (www.csw.org.uk) being selected and (at the time of writing) with cautious expectation of agreement from East Horsley. A group ministry representative will then make contact with CSW to explore next steps. CSW operates worldwide and is a Christian organisation working for religious freedom through advocacy and human rights in the pursuit of justice. It is based in Epsom.

The initial meeting of the Charities Group took place on 13 January and agreed to work towards the further appointment of initially one, potentially two people in time depending on the impact of fundraising, charity/charities. It was decided that the first additional charity would have a local focus. The charities team is working through a shortlist of suggestions and aims to announce the additional charity as soon as possible.

Several local fundraising ideas were discussed with the aim of an event in the spring, one in late summer and one in autumn. The team plans to meet again in February and thereafter as appropriate to develop and deliver fundraising opportunities. Further updates will be provided regularly covering progress.

THE FRIENDS OF ALL SAINTS' – Gillian Lachelin

The Trustees are very grateful to all those who are continuing to support the Friends with generous donations.

Last year the Friends funded new carpeting which has been much admired and also work on the bells including four new pulleys.

At the time of writing, the Annual General Meeting of the Friends was due to be held on 30 March 2017 at 8pm in Guilehill Barn.