



Annual Report and Financial Statements for the Parish of Ashford Hill with Headley Year Ended December 2012



Highlights of the year

- Alpha course and follow up events held
- Continuing popularity of Café Church
- Successful Spring fete despite terrible weather conditions; and plans for 2013 fete set in motion
- AH school establishing a link with a school in Mityana
- New Basingstoke Foodbank supported
- Evelyn Hiscock celebrating 60 years as organist in the parish
- St Paul's churchyard being gradually tidied
- New heating installed in St Paul's
- Well received thank you parties for the many volunteers in the parish
- More encouraging financial situation thanks to new regular givers and generous legacy
- Partition between vestry and main church in St Peter's completed

Administrative information

The parish of Ashford Hill with Headley is one of two parishes which together make up the United Benefice of Kingsclere and Ashford Hill with Headley, within the Diocese of Winchester, within the Church of England. The Incumbent is the Rev Lucy Thirtle. There is an Assistant Curate, Rev Trish Bancroft, licensed to the benefice for a limited period in a training capacity.

Ashford Hill with Headley Parochial Church Council (PCC) is a charity excepted from registration with the Charity Commission.

There are two parish churches – St Peter's Headley in Newbury Road, Headley and St Paul's Ashford Hill. The correspondence address is The Vicarage, Fox's Lane, Kingsclere, Newbury.

The membership of the PCC during 2012 was as follows.

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|-----------------------|---|
| Vicar | Rev. Lucy Thirtle |
| Churchwardens | David Chamings David Fowler (until May 2012) Penny Stewart (from May 2012) (Vice-Chair) |
| Deanery Synod members | Alison Goodyer Patrick Taylor (from April 2012) |
| Elected Members (6) | Rachel Chamings Andrea Fearon Terry Richardson – until November 2012 Susie Sainsbury Evelyn Hiscock Colin Scott-Malden |
| Co-opted member | David Fowler (from May 2012) |
| Curate | Rev. Trish Bancroft |

Structure, governance and management

The method of appointment of PCC members is set out in the Church Representation Rules. Members are elected for a 3 year term. All regular worshippers are encouraged to register on the Electoral Roll and stand for election to the PCC. :

Officers of the PCC

Vice Chair: Penny Stewart

Treasurer: Colin Scott-Malden

Secretary: Emma Rivers – Benefice Administrator (non-voting)

Safeguarding Officer: Emma Rivers

Electoral Roll Officer: Rachel Chamings

Certain tasks are delegated to sub-Committees (membership for 2012 only shown)

Standing Committee (statutory sub-Committee which must include Vicar, Churchwardens and minimum two reps). PCC reps elected in April 2012: Colin Scott-Malden and Patrick Taylor

Other sub-committees were:

- **Finance Committee** (Membership: Patrick Taylor (chairman), Colin Scott-Malden (Treasurer), Rev. Lucy Thirtle, Dave Chamings, David Fowler (until May), Penny Stewart (from May),, Tom Sneyd (co-opted),
- **Fete Committee** Gemma Hughes (Chair); Dave Chamings; Simon Hiscock; Terry Richardson; Rev. Lucy.
- **Benefice Outreach Group (covering parish of Kingsclere also)** Rev Trish Bancroft, Susie Sainsbury (AHwH), Georgie Selby (AHwH), Alison Goodyer (AHwH); David Goodfellow (K), Emma Rivers (K), Bryony White (K), Maggy Wallace (K) Jane Freeman (K)

Full reports from these committees follow.

Objectives

The Ashford Hill with Headley PCC has the responsibility of co-operating with the incumbent, Rev. Lucy Thirtle, in promoting in the ecclesiastical parish the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical. It also has maintenance responsibilities for the parish churches and their churchyards.

The full PCC met 6 times during the year (including one very short meeting following the Annual Meeting to appoint officers), with an average 80% attendance.

Achievements and performance

Worship

The worship provision, particularly the split of services between the two parish churches at Festivals, was kept under review. The 'all age service' in St Paul's on 4th Sunday of the month continued to attract good congregations, including a number of families with children, visitors from Kingsclere and some older couples without children who prefer the non-Communion format. On occasions, it was felt appropriate to include Communion in this more informal service.

Four Café-style services were held during the year – two during an afternoon – one on Saturday before Mothering Sunday and the other on a Sunday in December; one during the 4th Sunday 10.30 service and one for Harvest Evening Worship in September. In each case, the format attracted good numbers including newcomers or more occasional visitors and good feedback was received.

A post-Alpha celebration service was held on Sunday 29 April with music provided by the Diocesan Orchestra and Rev Phil Dykes, Diocesan Discipleship Officer attended as preacher.

At the start of the year, it was agreed that 8am services would continue to be held in St. Peter's during the coldest winter months until a new heating system could be installed.

The Parish Communion service at Headley was held at 10.30 during the year – this would be reviewed early in 2013.

We were grateful to continue to have the services of Evelyn Hiscock as organist at St Peter's. Evelyn celebrated her 60th anniversary of being an organist in the parish during the year. We were sad to say goodbye to Fanny Paget but were grateful for the services of various individuals keeping the AH show on the road for the second half of the year. In particular we were pleased to welcome Christine Goodyer who was brave enough to play at some of our services.

Mission & Outreach

Following the Mission Audit exercise in 2007 we defined our mission to this parish, which is made up of multiple small settlements and scattered dwellings, as being "to extend the role of the church – people and buildings – as an agent for community gathering and activity and finding ways to use increased contact with the community for sharing with people of every age the joys and benefits of faith."

Pursuing this aim fell in part to the Benefice Outreach Group, whose activities the PCC were glad to support during the year. See later report.

Being a welcoming community continued to be an important part of our mission. St Paul's Church offers a particularly useable and flexible space and we continue to look for ways of exploiting this. We were delighted that, thanks to Rev Trish, St Paul's was able to be kept open most days for visitors.

We were delighted to have 3 weddings in St. Paul's during the year. All agree that the building is a beautiful and special venue for a wedding, and this is an area of ministry which we would like to develop.

We were also pleased to welcome the children, staff and parents of Ashford Hill School three times during the year for Harvest, Christmas and Easter services. The church was also used by the Kingsclere Singers for concerts.

Monday morning coffee at St. Paul's continued during the first part of the year but with numbers waning after the summer, it was decided to cease this initiative in the autumn. We were very sorry to learn of the terminal illness of Geoff Tetlaw, one of the regular attenders at the coffee morning at the end of the year.

Report of the Benefice Outreach Group

The year began with an Alpha course, run by members of the Group at The Ship Inn, Ashford Hill. Delicious meals were prepared by a large number of volunteers. 18 people attended over the course of the 10 weeks, this included a group of 8 who are worshipping members of the Kennet Christian Centre but many of whom live in the parish. Participants also include committed church members, newer worshippers as well as those on the fringes who wished to explore faith. Grateful thanks to Georgie Selby and John Lewis for generous hospitality in providing the venue and carrying out many of the practical behind the scenes preparations and washing up. The event was a great encouragement to all who took part as well as to the parishes in general.

The Outreach Group supported the running of some modules from the Emmaus materials as a way of building on the Alpha Course input later in the year. Some members were involved in running a Time Out event on a Saturday in December aimed at busy young parents. Attendance was disappointing but the event much valued by those who attended.

Lay Ministry

The parish was grateful that Penny Stewart was willing to take on the role as churchwarden with effect from May. Penny took over many of the responsibilities previously looked after by David Fowler although we are indebted to him for completing the liaison with the Heating Working Group, whose task was completed during the year. David continues to look after a number of jobs connected with preparing for services at St Paul's church.

Penny Stewart and Patrick Taylor were authorised as Communion Assistants during the year.

The thank you party in December highlighted just how many individuals in the parish are involved in one way or another with contributions of time, money, or expertise with the life of the parish. Some 100 invitations were sent out, in some cases to couples where both are involved.

We were particularly grateful to Colin Grocock for tackling a number of long-standing problems in the Churchyard in a voluntary capacity. The difference is noticeable and appreciated by many who visit the churchyard regularly. Thanks too to Brad Murduck for keeping the clock wound as well as attending to a number of other maintenance jobs around St Paul's

Stewardship of our resources

Buildings

- Regular reports were received from the Churchwardens on the state of the buildings.

St. Paul's, Ashford Hill

- Short term arrangements using gas blowers were in place for heating in the early part of the year. The Heating Working Group led by Graham Stewart successfully oversaw installation of new infrared solaire heaters in September. Thanks go in particular to Brian Watts, whose detailed planning, site supervision and finishing skills, made a major contribution to the project. The financing was aided greatly thanks to the combination of the promise of a generous grant from Greenham Trust and a generous bequest from Ann Jenkins.

- The Fabric Committee comprising Brad Murduck, Bob Lawrence, Philip Crisford and the churchwardens oversaw maintenance and repair tasks.
- Colin Grocock continued his work to reclaim and maintain those parts of the graveyard inaccessible to mowers, and his efforts have been extremely well appreciated by the PCC.
- Substantial tree and hedge work alongside the path from the car park, and around the toilet block, have resulted in a very effective tidying up operation. Subsequently the compost area has been cleaned up and levelled.

St. Peter's, Headley

- The makeshift screen between the organ and the vestry was replaced by a plaster wall, and has been greatly appreciated. Our thanks go again to Brian Watts for planning and undertaking this work, which has been funded from the McSwinney bequest.

Finance

- Regular reports were received from the Treasurer. The full financial report for the year appears at the end of this report.
- Overall income and expenditure have been roughly equal for the first time in several years. There has been a welcome increase in regular giving, due in no small measure to Tom Sneyd's excellent efforts, and most of the major expenditure on heating and tree work was separately funded from Greenham Trust and bequests. This year has demonstrated the crucial importance of legacy funds to help with major development work.
- We are grateful for the regular contribution made to our funds via the proceeds of the Parish Magazine. Our thanks go to Sandra & Michael Everitt for their hard work in producing a professional looking magazine with ever-increased content and loyal advertisers.

Reserves Policy

- It is PCC policy to maintain a Restricted Development and Fabric Fund which at the end of 2012 stood at £14338, and a voluntarily Designated Floor Fund for St. Paul's which stood at £11329 to cover fabric repairs and emergency situations. There is also an unrestricted amount of £5677, giving a combined total of £31,394.
- St. Peter's also benefits from its own restricted fabric fund of £16028, thanks to the McSwinney bequest. This compares with £15888 last year.
- It is our policy to invest our funds balances with the CBF Church of England Deposit Fund.
- Our thanks go to Colin Scott-Malden for his excellent work on treasury activities.

Reports from Sub-Committees or other officers

Fete Sub Committee

Owing to the huge amount of rain during the weeks leading up to the Fete on 28 April, the venue had to be changed at 24 hours' notice from Headley Common to St. Paul's Church. In spite of further wet weather on the day and rather limited indoor space, the event was very well supported. A number of outdoor events went ahead anyway, contributing to a successful occasion which raised a total of over £2000. Many thanks to Gemma Hughes for masterminding the event, and to the many people who shifted furniture, erected gazebos, manned hot dog stalls, ran dog shows etc. All contributed to the avoidance of what might otherwise have been a damp squib!

Rev Lucy

Music at Ashford Hill

There is currently no formally constituted committee. However, two concerts were put on in 2012, both by Kingsclere Singers, thanks to the efforts of Georgie Selby, Brian Watts and Hazel O'Leary.

Parish Magazine

The editors wish to thank all the advertisers and those contributors who constantly support the magazine by writing articles of interest. We are trying to get more articles following suggestions that something new/different would be nice to read in the magazine. We would also like to thank the willing band of volunteer distributors for all their hard work.

Sandra & Michael Everitt

Neighbourcare Group

In June 2010 the Group was amalgamated with that of Kingsclere, now named Kingsclere, Ashford Hill and Headley Care Group.

Mary Sneyd continues to ensure that the interests of Ashford Hill and Headley are kept in mind.

Whitchurch Deanery Synod Report

There is an average attendance at meetings of 25. There are regular reports on Deanery Finance and our link with Mityana and meetings of Diocesan Synod.

At the February meeting, it was reported that the results of the vote on the Anglican Communion Covenant had been submitted to the Diocese; a report on the Ministry in the Deanery of Whitchurch had been circulated and discussed and comments would be passed to the Deanery Chapter.

At the June meeting, the Revd. Phil Dykes, Diocesan Adult Discipleship Adviser, came to challenge us on how we see 'discipleship' in our churches and gave us several questions to discuss. He announced that two weeks in July 2013 would be set aside for discipleship events and that details would follow.

The November meeting included a talk on the Parish Giving Scheme by The Revd. Gordon Randall, Diocesan Stewardship Advisor. Feedback was given on the presentation by Bishop Tim on 13th November which members found very encouraging. It was reported that there would be a vacancy in the Hurstbourne Priors benefice following the forthcoming retirement of The Rev Canon Martin Coppen and that discussions were going ahead on the Overton/North Waltham benefice.

Pauline Wooster, Secretary to Synod

Rev Trish Bancroft

The Revd. Trish Bancroft, who joined us in 2010 as Curate for the purpose of her training, has continued to be a great asset to the life of the parish. As well as sharing with the Vicar in leadership of worship and conduct of pastoral offices, she has supported the affairs of the parish with ideas and enthusiasm, and played a full part in pastoral care, liaison with the school etc. We remain mindful that she is here primarily for her benefit and not ours, and the parish cannot unfortunately rely on this level of support in the longer term. She is licensed for a maximum of four years which will be up in June 2014.

Thanks from Vicar and PCC

The Vicar and Churchwardens would like to thank the many volunteers who contribute in so many ways to the life of the parish.

This report was adopted by the PCC at its meeting on 18 March 2013.

Signed: *Lucy Thistle* (Chair)