

St Alban's

Loving Praying Doing



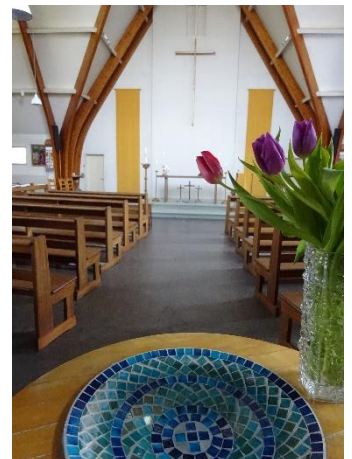
St Alban's West Leigh
Bartons Road, West Leigh, Havant, PO9 5TE

ANNUAL REPORTS
&
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
OF THE
PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

for the year ended 31st December 2023

Priest In Charge:
The Revd Canon Karina Green
St Alban's Vicarage
Martin Road, West Leigh
Havant, Hampshire
PO9 5TE

Bank:
Lloyds Bank PLC
4 West Street
Havant, Hampshire
PO9 1PE



St Alban's Church

St Alban's PCC has the responsibility of co-operating with the Priest-In-Charge, Canon Karina Green, in promoting in the parish the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelistic, social, and ecumenical. It also has the responsibility for the Church building and the halls attached to St Alban's.

Membership

Members of the PCC are either ex officio or elected by the Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM) in accordance with the Church Representation Rules.

During the year the following served as members of the PCC:

Priest in Charge:	Canon Karina Green	Chairperson
Associate Minister:	The Revd Laura Cameron	
Assistant curate:	The Revd Jennifer Camirand	from 24.6.23
Licensed Minister:	Mrs Christine Hoskins	
Churchwardens:	Miss Sharon Hardie Mr David Vincent	Vice Chair Hon Treasurer
Representatives on Deanery Synod:	Miss Cathy Stevens Mrs Jackie Howard Mrs Christine Hoskins	till 30.4.23 from 30.4.23
Elected members:	Mrs Jill Ashton Mrs Alison Coleshill Mrs Mary Craven Mrs Alison Jerome Mr Paul Jerome Mrs Yvonne Pearce Ms Diane Price	Hon Secretary till 30.4.23
PTO Minister:	The Revd Max Millett - not on PCC	

INTRODUCTION

2023 has been another challenging year for us all. The number of people who attend worship has sadly not returned to the levels before the pandemic.

Committees

Standing Committee

The only committee required by law meets every other month between PCC meetings, if required. It has the power to transact the business of the PCC, subject to the directions given by the council. Members of this committee are agreed at the first PCC meeting after the APCM. The committee for 2023 were:

Canon Karina Green
Mrs Alison Coleshill

Mr David Vincent
Mrs Jackie Howard

Miss Sharon Hardie

St Alban's Mission

St Alban's aims to be a **Praying, Doing, Loving** Christian community welcoming and showing God's love for all. We are engaged with the goals of the Diocesan "Live, Pray, Serve" strategy: to make disciples for Christ, grow our church, equip our people for lifelong learning and promote the transformation of society.

Church Attendance

The average weekly attendance is 32 adults and 8 children. These numbers can increase at special services and festivals.

Worship

The pattern of worship in the parish was as follows:

Sunday 10.00am *Sung Parish Eucharist*.

Friday 9.30 – 11.00am *Little Lambs* - weekly during term time, jointly with St Faith's. Held in the Pallant Centre in Havant - a short service with story, songs and prayer for pre- school children and their parents/carers.

Morning Prayer is said Tuesday to Saturday at 8.00am.

Our Licensed minister oversees both the Home Communion ministry for people who are house bound, and a monthly service in Eileen Beard House – a retirement housing complex run by the Guinness Partnership.

As a parish we are signed up members of Inclusive Church. The Inclusive Church Statement is shown below:

“We believe in **inclusive church** – a church which **celebrates and affirms every person** and does not discriminate.

We will continue to challenge the church where it continues to discriminate against people on grounds of **disability, economic power, ethnicity, gender, gender identity, learning disability, mental health, neurodiversity, or sexuality.**

We believe in a Church which **welcomes and serves all people** in the name of Jesus Christ; which is scripturally faithful; which seeks to proclaim the Gospel afresh for each generation; and which, in the power of the Holy Spirit, allows all people to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Jesus Christ.”

Review of the Year - Loving Praying Doing

The PCC met six times in 2023 with an average attendance of 80%.

Occasional Offices

We had nine baptisms and ten funerals. Of the latter, one was in St Alban’s church, one in Warblington Church, one at the natural burial site; with the remainder being at either Portchester or The Oaks crematoria.

Ministry Team

At the end of June, following her ordination in Portsmouth Cathedral, we welcomed Jennifer Camirand as stipendiary Assistant Curate to serve her title four years with us. Jenn and her partner, Tineke, have become a valued part of our church family, and make a wonderful contribution to the life of our church and community.

We continue to be blessed by the ministry of Laura Cameron as our self-supporting Associate Minister, Chris Hoskins as our Licensed Minister (Reader) and Max Millett with Permission To Officiate (PTO) who are part of our ministry team with our Church Wardens. We greatly value and appreciate their ministry with and among us.

Churches Together in Havant and Bedhampton

This year we led one of the sessions for the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity and hosted the World Day of Prayer at St Alban’s. It is a supportive group when we meet together, but several of the churches either do not have a minister or their minister has several congregations over quite a wide area, so gathering together is an increasing challenge.

Review of the Year

The number of people who attend worship has slowly begun to increase. We have seen a couple of new people and families join us.

In the New Year we began a series of talks entitled '*Sharing The Journey*' with an invited speaker who spoke either about their life journey, hobby, or work in relation to their faith. These took place after our Sunday morning worship and ended with a bring & share lunch, giving everyone an opportunity to talk with the speaker or with each other about what they had heard.

Both the *Lent Group* and the *Advent Group* met via Zoom – with a time of prayer, reading, reflection and opportunity for discussion. Both were well attended.

We continue to work closely with St Faith's. Relationships between the two ministry teams are well established. Once again St Faith's joined us on Ash Wednesday and for our Patronal Festival. We, in turn, joined them for their Patronal Festival and for the annual December Memorial Service when we 'Remember Loved Ones at Christmas' and where the families for whom we had conducted funerals were invited. We also held two joint *Quiet Days* in the year.

We have begun to explore the possibility of employing a joint family & young persons' worker and very much hope this can be realized as an ongoing project for us both.

During the six weeks of *Lent*, we held Stations of the Cross on alternate weeks in our two churches, led by members of our ministry teams. In Holy Week we held joint services on Monday at St Alban's, Tuesday at St Faith's and Wednesday back at St Alban's.

On Holy Saturday we held our first joint Easter Craft workshop for children and families, and for the few families that attended it was a great time. We hope to build on this event in the future.

Following on from the two previous years, we ran *Crafts and Carols around the Christmas Tree*, aimed at young families. This attracted some new families from both St Alban's and St Faith's which was great to see.

In the summer we held a joint '*Celebrating You*' service at St Alban's, inviting our baptism families and the families who attend Little Lambs.

For *Harvest* we once again collected items for the Southern House of the Medaille Trust – a charity that works with people caught up in Modern Day Slavery. The quantity of new items (pyjamas, dressing gowns, duvet covers, mattress protectors, towels) that we collected was brilliant considering the many financial challenges people face.

There was a really good community feel to the *Christmas Fayre* this year, with many new visitors and entertainment provided by Alive and Singing, Identical School of Dance and Wacky Wednesdays Ukulele Group. It was a huge success as a community event as well as raising our greatest sum to date.

We are grateful for the financial and practical support we receive from both Southern Co-op Funeralcare and the Oaks Crematorium, who support our English Breakfast, and fundraising events.

Families finally began to move into the new housing opposite the church in April. We ensured that every dwelling was visited and offered a gift bag with a tin of biscuits/shortbread plus a welcome booklet. These were very well received, with some good conversations begun. Several people have attended breakfast, and 4 or 5 residents came to Midnight Mass.

Food Banks - We have continued to support the Food Banks throughout the year, often delivering two or three full bags of food every two weeks or so, along with purchasing food for them as part of our mission giving. We supported the PO9 Big Wrap, once again, supplying selection boxes and gifts for children and adults, and items for Christmas food parcels.

Conclusion

2023 has been a good year and I want to thank everyone for their support, energy, and prayers. We are grateful for all that people have given to the life of St Alban's over the past year. We are blessed by many talented and generous people, who contribute in many and various ways - thank you.

We feel called to be a Christian presence here in West Leigh, to welcome, love, pray for and serve our local community.

Parochial Church Council (PCC)

OTHER REPORTS

Safeguarding Report

The PCC was made aware of its Safeguarding responsibilities at the first meeting after last year's APCM, and at that meeting our Safeguarding Policy was reviewed, agreed, and signed. Safeguarding is all our responsibility.

During the year we have updated all DBS checks as necessary and completed all the basic training requirements for PCC members, which includes Basic Awareness Pathway, Foundation Pathway and Domestic Abuse awareness.

All information on DBS checks and training is now recorded on a Church of England National Safeguarding Dashboard and Safeguarding Hub. We have updated what information we can and will continue to ensure that it is kept accurate.

Any issues that arise are referred to the diocese as required by our Policy.

Philip Tibbs, Parish Safeguarding Officer

Electoral Roll

The number on the Electoral Roll as declared at the APCM on 30 April 2023 was 72. Of this number, 36 are resident within the parish and 36 are resident outside the parish. Four people have been added since the last roll was prepared and, sadly, two members have died.

Electoral Roll Officer

Church Accounts

The Church's Accounts for the year ending 31 December 2023 which have been independently examined and agreed by the Parochial Church Council as aforesaid form a separate part of this report.

Financial Review 2023

Our Church paid in full its Parish Share, amounting to £15,331.00, in addition we accepted a challenge from the bishop and paid an additional 5%, **making it £16,097.55**. This predominantly goes towards the stipends of all the clergy, along with maintaining the vicarages, training of clergy and lay ministers and clergy pensions.

Our insurance with Ecclesiastical Insurance in 2023 was £2,567.89.

Our Planned Giving (Parish Giving Scheme and Stewardship), and Regular Giving (Plate Collections and Income Tax claimed under Gift Aid) was £20,866.33, an increase of £1,907.18 on 2022.

We were very fortunate and grateful to receive two £500.00 donations, and the Co-operative Funeralcare donated £200.00 towards our Saturday breakfast.

Yet again we have seen the benefit of the hall hire as a reliable source of income, bringing in £22,029.00, this is slightly down on the 2022 figure of £23,146. This was due in part to one of our long-term hirers moving on and a drop in the Ad-Hoc bookings.

In November we held a very successful Christmas Fayre raising £2,306.80; in 2022 it was £2,123.58.

On the outgoing side we paid in full our day to day running expenses, insurance, fuel oil for heating, electricity charges, photo copier machine, grass cutting, altar supplies, hall and Church cleaning, hire rubbish bin, etc. The electricity was £1,476.07 (2022 £1,366.34) and heating oil £2,390.29 (2022 £2,689.07).

Other items of note include the completion of the upgrade of the lighting throughout the buildings, replacing the incandescent lighting with LED lighting (£7,275.56). Inspection and testing the Lightning Protection System (£180.00). Architects Fees for Quinquennial Inspection (£1,620.00). Continued redecoration of exterior of building (£5,955.60). New floor covering in Small Hall and adjacent passageway (£3,180.00).

My thanks go out to Catherine Stevens and Mark Urry for giving their time throughout the year counting the money for me to bank, it's greatly appreciated.

David Vincent
Treasurer to St Alban's PCC

Reserve policy

It is PCC policy to maintain a balance on unrestricted funds (if possible), which equates to approximately six months' unrestricted payments, to cover emergency situations that may arise from time to time.

It is our policy to invest our funds' balances with the CBF Church of England Deposit Fund.

Churchwardens Report

Throughout 2023 day to day maintenance and repairs have been carried out as and when required; we also continued with our pre-planned external redecoration. All these tasks were undertaken by approved contractors.

At the start of the year the upgrade to the electrical lighting throughout the premises was completed, replacing the incandescent lighting with LED lighting.

In February we underwent a Quinquennial Inspection by our approved Architect and his comprehensive report was published in May. Where necessary, appropriate action has been taken to address the 'urgent' and 'requires attention within 12 months' categories. One such area is our kitchen which requires a full upgrade. Revd. Karina has been very busy liaising with several contractors to obtain quotations. Another area is the floor covering in the small hall and adjacent corridor. This was successfully completed in August by the removal of the existing covering and installation of a heavy-duty vinyl covering.

The thanks of both Churchwardens go out to our wonderful ministry team, who hold us all together and to the whole congregation, who are always ready to extend the hand of friendship.

Sharon Hardie and David Vincent
Churchwardens

Church Hall

Hall bookings have remained steady this year. Regular lets are in place every weekday and we have had over 30 weekend parties, plus a family who hired the hall for the whole of Christmas Day!

We have sadly lost the Identical School of Dance, run by Summer, but we have gained a monthly Saturday afternoon dog training class.

The hall is well used by the congregation after Sunday services and also for our regular Saturday morning breakfasts. Our next project will be the upgrading of the kitchen, which may help to increase our income. Suggestions on going forward will be greatly appreciated.

Sharon Hardie

SCHOOLS WORK

The schools we engage with are:

- ***St Alban Church of England Aided Primary School – Inspired to make a difference in God’s world with excellence and love***
- ***Sharps Copse Primary School – The Heart of our Learning Community***
- ***Havant Academy – Believe, Succeed, Achieve.***

St Alban’s CofE Aided Primary School

St Alban’s role in this primary school, which aims to instil in children the vision and values that will encourage and guide them in making a difference in our world, is key.

- We attend/lead every week (sometimes more) a daily assembly where liturgical themes are combined with core school/Christian values and based on biblical references. The themes for 2023 included gratitude, love, perseverance, compassion, humility, and hope.
- We lead End of Term Eucharistic Celebrations for all students and staff. These services are for Christmas, Easter, and the End of the School Year.
- We lead teaching session in the church on subjects such as marriage, Ritual - in relation to the Paschal Candle, light, discipleship and salvation.
- We accompany student outings as carers but are also available for students and staff pastorally.
- Karina Green and Jenn Camirand sit on the Board of Governors for the school.
- Karina and, to a much lesser degree, Jenn were available for pastoral guidance to any staff that needed support in 2023.
- Karina encouraged the students, staff, and their families to attend any events at St Alban’s Church.

Havant Academy Secondary School

Karina has worked in various pastoral roles with Havant Academy for over a decade. In the autumn of 2023, she began a student Bereavement Group. Although attendance is few, we are confident there is a need for this group, and with time, dedication, and prayer, it will grow to become a valuable part of the school.

Sharps Copse Primary School

Sharon Hardie and Karina continue to be governors. Several classes in KS1 have visited the church – to hear the Easter or Christmas story or to look at a ‘Holy/Special’ as part of the RE topic. We spend time visiting classes and observing lessons and supporting school productions.

Sharon Hardie drove the minibus for Sharps Copse taking children to their swimming lessons and on an occasional trip out until the summer vacation. We try to offer support to the staff, taking in cakes and sweets at various times during the year.

We encourage students and their families to attend events at St Alban’s Church and one of the children at Sharps Copse School won the St Alban’s Junior Bake off at the Christmas Fayre.

Jenn Camirand, Karina Green, Sharon Hardie

Music in the Parish

The choir initially consisted of myself and Alison, but we have been very pleased to welcome Len back into the choir. Len goes back to the very early days of St. Alban’s Church, and it is lovely to have him back with us.

On special occasions we have been augmented by other members of the congregation, churchwardens, and clergy. We did perform a three-part anthem, O Holy Night, for the carol service, which was well received and enjoyable to rehearse together.

Philip has continued to give sterling service on the organ, and I have played guitar for services where Philip was unavailable.

Unfortunately, I was unable to attend the Christmas services due to Covid and I was very grateful to Alison for playing guitar at the crib service, and to Paul and Denise for augmenting the choir at Midnight Mass.

As always, anybody in the congregation is welcome to join us in the choir. It helps if you can read music, but guidance will always be given.

Paul Jerome



Little Lambs

This Christian-based group for preschool children (0-5) and their parents/carers is fantastic. It is led in combination by Karina Green (St Alban's) and Sandra Haggan (St Faith's) and has a volunteer base of 4-6 volunteers every week.

Weekly attendance is between 17-20 children on average.

Children receive time for free play with a generous selection of toys and puzzles, a very nice snack, a craft, a Biblically based story and, where possible, in line with the liturgical calendar, and plenty of sing-along songs with prayer.

The parents/carers are treated to coffee/tea and homemade baking. This bit of the program is a significant win for self-esteem and the care of some people who typically would not be offered home-baked goods and a listening ear.

On weeks when volunteer numbers are high, the volunteer team has time to set up early and then share a cuppa and a pastoral chat with one another.

Jenn Camirand

Havant Deanery Synod

Deanery Synod met three times in 2023. The meetings begin with prayer and usually a hymn led by the Deanery Band, of which Paul Jerome is a member.

The Area Dean is the Revd Andrew Sheard, and the Revd Kate Macfarlane is the Associate Area Dean. Deb Henning-Vears is the Deanery Lay Chair.

- The meeting in March took place at Hart Plain Church – where each parish was invited to share good news. Sandra Haggan from St Faith's Havant, and Karina Green spoke of how we are developing our working together, what services and activities we are now sharing.
- The June meeting, held at Christ Church Portsdown, had a presentation from Canon Dr Anthony Rustell, the Diocesan Director of Ministry and Mission. He spoke about the different forms of ministry within the church, particularly about the ministry of servers, choir members band, reading and leading intercessions etc. as well as licensed ministry. He encouraged people to think about how they may feel called to a new form of ministry within their parishes.

- The key item on the agenda in December, held at St John's Rowlands Castle, was Energy Efficiency. We were encouraged that there may be some benefit to St. Alban's completing the Energy Audit in early 2024 to see where we may find some grant funding for upgrades to the church buildings.

Alongside the speakers the deanery has continued to work on a Deanery Plan, and how we can support one another, work together, and look at areas where new work might begin.

At last years' APCM Cathy Stevens decided to stand down as one of our Deanery Representatives and Chris Hoskins kindly took up the post. Jenn Camirand also became a member when she joined the parish.

Jackie Howard, Chris Hoskins,
Jenn Camirand and Karina Green
Deanery Synod Representatives

Saturday Breakfasts

It is with great delight that in 2023 we were able to hold the following breakfast mornings:

January – 20 adults

March – 21 adults

May – King's Coronation Day Full English – 41 adults 3 Children

July – 31 adults 4 children

September – 21 adults

November – 18 adults

This year we changed the May date so that this was held on the day of the King's Coronation; we thought it would be fitting to serve a King's full English breakfast.

The people who attended were from the surrounding community, including Eileen Beard house, along with people from the congregation of St. Alban's, St. Faith's and St. Francis. Again, this year we kept the food simple by serving bacon and egg rolls which went down a treat! The cost of the 6 breakfasts this year equated to £155.13.

We would like to thank the Co-op Funeralcare, Dunsbury Way, who kindly donated £200, this was a huge help to enable us to purchase the produce. Also, we would like to thank the people who have attended and donated money towards the church funds, the amount raised from these donations alone is £485.22.

2023 saw a success with the breakfast and shows the importance of this within our community. We look forward to carrying this on throughout 2024.

Jackie Howard

Friendship Group

Our group continues to meet every Tuesday afternoon 1.30 – 3.00pm and is well supported. We met for forty-one weeks over the year and our average weekly attendance was 12 to 13, up from ten last year. Some people drop in and out, but we have a core group who, despite knowing each other very well, are always welcoming to new people.

We continue to have varied and interesting conversations over light refreshments, have completed jigsaw puzzles, played 'our' card game, enjoyed crafts, speakers, celebrated birthdays together and decorated our own Christmas tree for the Lady Chapel.

Members of the group pay a weekly subscription of £2.00 which contributes to functions, outings, speakers and other resources and expenses. In May and again in July, the group met for tea and cake at Dobbie's Garden Centre. At the beginning of December our invited speaker, Lt Col (Ret'd) Jeremy Prescott, gave a brilliant presentation entitled the miracle flower from Flanders to the Tower, and will be coming back (date to be arranged) to give a talk next year on the D-Day landings as they celebrate the 80-year anniversary. After the success of Christmas lunch in 2022 at the Rusty Cutter, that inaugural meal has now become 'tradition' as seventeen of us enjoyed another fabulous festive celebration on 12th December.

Sadly, one of our members became ill and later died in hospital during the second half of December, a funeral date is yet to be confirmed; and another member had a fall before Christmas, and it is expected they will be moving into a nursing home and will no longer be able to meet with us.

Thank you, Friendship Group, for always demonstrating kindness, compassion, and love for one another.

Christine Hoskins, Licenced Lay Minister

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