



acnbchurch

2024

Annual Report



acnbchurch, a benefice of four churches, in three parishes serving people in the Diocese of Winchester, part of the Church of England:

- The Parish Of St Mark, Ampfield
- The Parish of St Denys, Chilworth
- The Parish of St John the Baptist and All Saints, North Baddesley

Find out more about us at <https://acnb-church.org> or via the QR code below



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2024

Annual Report

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The Benefice of Ampfield, Chilworth
and North Baddesley

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About acnbchurch

The benefice of Ampfield, Chilworth and North Baddesley is a part of the Diocese of Winchester in the Church of England.

The correspondence address for all parishes is:

All Saints Church
Church Close
North Baddesley
Southampton
SO52 9ER

Vicar Reverend Vanessa Lawrence

Curate Reverend Ann Devereux

Licensed Lay Ministers: Sally Kerson
Jonathan DeVille
Keith Atton

Bishop's Commission
for Mission Cilla Riley
Gill Watkin
Abbie West
Mark West

Children and families worker Beth Robertson

Benefice administrator Sally Kerson

Benefice Safeguarding Officer Jo Hooper

Buildings administrator Trish Durrant

Independent examiners: Wendy Noble (North Baddesley)
Celia Clark (Ampfield)
Chris Dancer (Chilworth)

Banking: Nat West (North Baddesley, Chilworth)
Lloyds (Ampfield)

Insurance: Ecclesiastical Insurance

Architect: Temple Ford Ltd.

The Parish of St Mark, Ampfield

St Mark, A3090, Ampfield, Romsey SO51 9BU

Trustees in office during the year covered by this report are:

<i>ex officio</i>	Rev'd Vanessa Lawrence Rev'd Ann Devereux Mark Braund Phil Budden Sally Kerson	Incumbent (chair) Curate Churchwarden Churchwarden LLM
Elected	Daryl Pugh Adrienne Jeffery Jennie Edwards Pam Morffew Karen Phillips Stephen Phillips	Secretary Treasurer & Deanery Synod Rep. Since APCM 2024 Since APCM 2024

The Parish of St Denys, Chilworth

St Denys, Chilworth Old Village, Southampton SO16 7NN

Trustees in office during the year covered by this report are:

<i>ex officio</i>	Rev'd Vanessa Lawrence Rev'd Ann Devereux Sally Kerson Helen Carter	Incumbent (chair) Curate LLM & Deanery Synod Rep. Churchwarden, until APCM 2024
Elected	Andrea Bewick François Hugo Nicky Anderson	Treasurer, Secretary

The Parish of St John the Baptist and All Saints, North Baddesley

St John the Baptist, Flexford Road, North Baddesley, Southampton SO52 9DF

All Saints, Church Close, North Baddesley, Southampton SO52 9ER

Trustees in office during the year covered by this report are:

<i>ex officio</i>	Rev'd Vanessa Lawrence Rev'd Ann Devereux Debbie Flood	Incumbent (chair) Curate Churchwarden
Elected	Cilla Riley Fiona Cross Jeanne Greenyer Gill Watkin Julia Joyce Linda Meyer	Deanery Synod Rep.
Co-opted	Pam Morffew Abbie West Cathy Stokes	Treasurer, until September 2024 Treasurer, from September 2024 Treasurer, from September 2024

Vanessa's foreword

2024 has been another year of building solid foundations across our Benefice, and I continue to be amazed, delighted and grateful at all that God is doing, and the enthusiasm with which so many of you are joining in that work! There are three areas which we have been particularly working on this year, and I would like to highlight these.

Our first foundation is our **identity as a Christian community**. It was a source of much rejoicing as we went on a journey of exploring the topic of 'inclusive church' to find that there was overwhelming agreement amongst us that we should indeed join up to the Inclusive Church movement. Through surveys, feedback and conversation we discovered that it was important to us that all our churches across the Benefice would celebrate and affirm all people who came through our doors – without discrimination against gender, sexuality, disability, race or on any other grounds. We recognise that we might not get this right all the time, but this is the culture and ethos we are working hard to form. You can read more about Inclusive Church at their website (www.inclusive-church.org).

“I continue to be amazed, delighted and grateful at all that God is doing, and the enthusiasm with which so many of you are joining in that work!”

As part of that work, it was wonderful to see our building project come to fruition at All Saints, as we now have internal step free access through the building to the accessible toilets, and a new kitchen and meeting room for hire.

Also as part of our identity as a Christian Community, we continue to work towards becoming a **Single Parish Benefice** and are just waiting for the final public consultation to complete. We recognise the amount of repetition there is across the governance and administration of our three parishes, and hope that becoming a single parish benefice will allow us to focus on our mission and ministry.

Our next foundation is that of our **mission and ministry**. Here we saw significant growth in 2024 through our children and families' work; **Messy Church, Forest Church and Sunshine Saints** have all been developed and expanded through the work of our wonderful team, and you can read more about all of these in the pages that follow.

The final foundation that we have been thinking about is our **spirituality**. In addition to our now well-established Lent and Advent courses, I am delighted that we are now running two monthly **Pilgrims' Courses**, one at St Mark's and one at All Saints. They are warm and friendly groups, and all are welcome to attend, whether or not you have been before!

Alongside all of this work goes the general day to day running of the Benefice: weddings, funerals, and baptisms, the rich rhythm and pattern of seasons and services across the church year, recitals and fundraising and craft and lunches – all led by so many hardworking and faithful volunteers. It was a particular joy of course to celebrate Ann's ordination to the Diaconate!

Our foundations seek to help us to stand firm in our faith; to be faithful, inclusive and compassionate as we shine God's light throughout our communities. Do listen to your own calling as a Christian and come and get involved!

■ Vanessa



Easter dawn service 2024

Our mission

Our annual report is an opportunity to celebrate the work of our benefice, across all three parishes and four churches. Our website proclaims our mission to be the Church of England worshipping community, showing the light of God in our local communities.



Ann's ordination

As well as the formal trustees' report, you will read about the diversity of our worship and the range of activities that our volunteers organise.

Marking seventy years since the development of a chapel and subsequently the modern All Saints Church in North Baddesley reminds us that we are and always will be where our community lives. The ancient church of St John the Baptist reminds us that we do not forget our long history.



The past informs and strengthens us, but we look to the future. This year we celebrated the ordination of Ann, our curate; the growth of new forms of worship; and building works to make our buildings fit for continuing to share the good news, the gospel, of Jesus Christ.



Cooking marshmallows at Forest Church, St Mark



Carol singing with St Mark, Ampfield



Sunshine Saints, at All Saints, North Baddesley



Celebrating Sea Sunday at St Denys, Chilworth

Activities and impact

In the life of the church, our team and volunteers make lots of things happen. These include:

- Services and worship
- Regular events to further our mission and ministry
- Fundraising and community events

This section highlights some of our main activities and achievements.

Welcome Café

The Welcome Café continues to be open from 10 – 12 every Thursday morning with support from the PCC. It is a popular meeting place and offers pastoral care for those within the parish and beyond. We welcome around 50 people each week and love seeing new friendships being made.

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It remains open thanks to the support of our loyal volunteers who turn up each week to offer a friendly and efficient service. We are particularly grateful to Cathy, Richard, Doreen, Teresa, Carol, Jeanne, and Hilary. The North Baddesley Health Walking Group leaders set up and put away the furniture each week. Thank you, all.

The library is open at the same time as the café, so patrons can swap books at the same time as enjoying their coffee and chat.

If you have not yet ventured to the café, you can be assured of a warm welcome when you arrive.

■ Gill Watkin, BCM Pastoral

Children and Families Work

Messy Church



Messy Church is held on the first Sunday of each month. We usually welcome between 30 - 40 people to Messy Church. There is a wonderful mix of ages which brings a great opportunity to learn from each other.

We regularly have a band of between five and seven, a mix of adults and young people, leading the worship at Messy Church.



Crafts at Messy Church, All Saints

Sunshine Saints

Sunshine Saints is the baby and toddler group we run at All Saints on Friday morning. We usually welcome between 8 - 12 children and their parents/carers. The relationships we are building with our families are going from strength to strength.

The volunteers we have are a real asset, but their numbers remain low. We would benefit from more volunteers, as those we have do wish to take a break some weeks.

Messy Play at St Mark's

At the church fete we ran messy play for children to enjoy. We used this to promote Sunshine Saints and Forest Church.

Easter Activities

An Easter craft session at All Saints was

filled within 24 hours. The theme was Easter, and all the activities were for the children to take away. We welcomed 28 children, plus their parents and carers.

Arthur's Play Space, who rent the church hall, teamed up with us and provided a place for younger children to play and enjoy themselves once they had completed crafts.

“We usually welcome between 30 - 40 people to Messy Church. There is a wonderful mix of ages which brings a great opportunity to learn from each other.”

Summer Activities

We invited families to join us at craft sessions in August. These sessions were lots of fun for those who came along and we had encouraging comments from families about the activities we arranged. Unfortunately, we weren't able to provide activities for very young children and this did affect the numbers of children who attended this Summer. Without volunteers, these sessions would not have been possible, so a huge thanks to everyone involved.



Mary & Joseph, on tour!

Holiday Meals 2024

This August we invited families to join us for pizza, hotdogs, fruit and treats while watching a different film each week. We also provided activities, based on the film we were showing, for children to enjoy.

We prepared 61 meals in total on each Thursday in August. This number was lower than August 2023. However, those who came commented that they enjoyed the opportunity to be out of the house and go somewhere with their children.

Craft Sessions 2024

We were able to run a craft session during the February half term. This was popular and attended by families with children in

Sunshine Saints. Arthur's Play Space joined us for this session, so families with young children could use the play space while older children enjoyed crafts with us.

Christmas activities

Mary & Joseph travelled through the Community during December. This worked well and many photos were posted on our Facebook page. Mary and Joseph finished their travels at the Crib Service in All Saints on Christmas Eve.

Messy Christingle, a combined Messy Church and Christingle service, attracted a congregation of 44.

A combined Crib Service and Christingle on Christmas Eve at St Mark's Church had a congregation of 103. Meanwhile, 18 people worshipped at a Crib Service at All Saints.

The changes to date and format of Christingle saw attendance increase substantially from last year's disappointing numbers.

Other successes

- We have had 11 baptisms in the Benefice.
- The number of families who come to Sunshine Saints and then also come to our Messy Church, Forest Church and Craft Sessions has increased. Throughout the year

Disappointments

- We tried a baby and toddler group in May at St Mark's Church. This did not take off, so we closed this group at the end of the year. We will try a new group, Minnows, on a different day to see if this is more suitable.

Future Aspirations

- We would like to extend Sunshine Saints with a lunch club.
- We hope Minnows will be a success.

Beth Robertson, Children and Families Worker

Other activities

Café Church

As a complement to our monthly Messy Church, we run café church in St Mark's rooms on first Sundays. This is a chance to meet and enjoy coffee and a snack. Each month we engage with a bible passage in an accessible way and use an activity to think creatively about the topic. This service is streamed to allow those who struggle to get to church to join in with our worship.

Forest Church

Ampfield's Forest Church has been a hit with families and others, drawing in people who might not attend indoor services. Starting in July, we hosted four sessions this year, offering activities like bark rubbing, scavenger hunts, and "forest bathing" along with bread making, pumpkin carving and not forgetting doughnuts, and toasted marshmallows! Despite favorable weather, wellies are always at the ready.



A lovely day for Forest Church, St Mark, Ampfield

Forest Church has fostered a deeper appreciation for God's creation and gratitude towards the God who made it; we look forward to more outdoor fun in 2025.

Digital and Social Hubs

Both groups run on a Wednesday morning. Digital hub offers people drop-in help with their digital devices. Thank you to Sue Perdue and François Hugo for the help that they have offered. Social Hub provides a warm space in winter and otherwise an opportunity just to meet people over refreshments. Recently, more mums have started to join us.

North Baddesley Village Day

We rent a pitch at this annual event to promote the activities that take place in and around the churches in North Baddesley. It helps us connect with the community outside of church and share information about our services.

North Baddesley BUPA Care Home

As part of a shared ministry with other churches in the village we take a monthly service. This has been a lovely way of connecting with the residents and their families. In December the churches all met together for carol singing in the home.

Heritage Open Days

We were able to contribute exhibitions at St. John the Baptist and St. Mark entitled 'Windows into the Past' looking at and through the windows in the churches and their history. We made some interesting discoveries relating to the past incumbents of Ampfield. The open days are all about free access to heritage sites and we hope to continue to encourage people to learn more about our buildings.

St. John the Baptist Churchyard

There has been more of a challenge in keeping the churchyard in order. Unfortunately, North Baddesley Parish Council have been unable to continue funding the grass cutting. As well as meeting the extra cost, we continue to organise work parties in the Spring and Summer to keep the boundaries tidy.

Harvest lunch

Having not held a harvest lunch for some years, one was held in St Mark's room, instead of the village hall. This was successful and popular, with not only a meal but a quiz and a raffle. It is hoped that this will become an annual event.

Friends for lunch

Numbers attending lunches in St Mark's room continue to average 20 per month. We have six helpers, all from the local community. They are not regular church-

goers and this is a good way of encouraging local involvement in St Mark's. Ron meets and greets, collects money, runs the quiz and raffle and Pam deals with bookings and finances. We continue to provide a two-course meal for 10 months of the year, including a cold buffet in June and tea outside in July. We donated £500 to charities this year. Three Lent lunches were served and around £220 was raised for the Romsey Foodbank and Winchester Night Shelter.

70th Anniversary of All Saints

We were delighted to be able to celebrate 70 years of the building of All Saints Church in April this year with a tea party. A display showed the evolution of All Saints from a small chapel to today's church and hall. We also looked towards future alterations and additions. Members of the community were invited and a cake was made in the shape of the original chapel. Thank you to ROMDAG (Romsey Dementia Action Group) and The Memory Box Foundation for their support.



Cutting the cake to celebrate 70 years of All Saints

Ampfield market

We are still selling bric-a-brac and gifts and our stall is very popular and an important way of developing local relationships with St Mark's. People have been generous with their donations and we raised £677.40. We plan to include more information about St. Mark's on the stall. Members of the clergy attend the market regularly.

The Ampfield Messenger

The Messenger continues to be available online only with Phil managing distribution. It is shared on the Parish Council website and from a link on the parish weekly newsletter. A printed copy is sent to two older parishioners who do not access the internet. Collecting subscriptions is an ongoing problem.

Fundraising

Ride and Stride

Every September all four churches take part in this event. People are encouraged to be sponsored to walk, ride or drive to different churches. Half the money goes to the Hampshire and Island Historic Churches Trust and the other to the church of their choice. Supporting the HIHCT in this also enables us to apply for grants.

Craft Markets

These have now been running for over a year at All Saints Church. Local craft people rent a table to sell their wares. We sell refreshments and hold a raffle. Each market raises around £250 for the church. We now have a regular core of people who set up stalls at most of the markets.

St Mark's Fete and Dog Show

The Church Fete and Dog Show was again successfully run in June 2024. It retained the new format from 2022, along with the well-established Dog Show, BBQ, cream teas, Pimms, raffle, and games. Whilst still a success, we had fewer attending due to a clash with Braishfield, and also fewer dogs.

Other fundraising

Other successful events run in 2024 included quiz nights and wine tastings. The quiz at All Saints in October was a sell-out, raising over £600.

Churchwardens' reports

St Mark, Ampfield

The Terrier and Log Book are up to date.

The St Mark's Room Project was launched in 2022 to create an accessible spiritual heart to the community. A £25K grant was awarded from TVBC in 2024, but this needs matched funding, and is not enough to progress the remodelling desired, hence we have brought forward the refurbishment work:

Phase 1	St Mark's Church Internal Access ramps
Phase 2	St Mark's Refurbishment
2a:	St Mark's Room Sustainability Refurbishment
2b:	Access track improvement to south and west of the church & raise track locally to main door, level with first step.
Phase 3.	St Mark's Room Remodelling
3a	St Mark's Room - New doors, terrace & track
3b	St Mark's Room – Kitchen & Toilets upgrade
Phase 4.	St Mark's Labyrinth

Temporary ramps have been installed at the external door to St Mark's Room to make the room wheelchair accessible, and we expect to implement Phase 1 in 2025 to make the church buildings wheelchair accessible throughout, except for the main door. We hope to start Phase 2 later in 2025, including removal of one step at the main door by raising the external track.

The lead was stolen from the church roof in April 2024. This is the third time in five years, so we've looked hard for an acceptable alternative to replace it. The proposal is to use Terne-coated stainless steel which has no value to make it attractive to thieves, but still a long life expectancy, is recommended by English

Heritage, and weathers to look similar to lead after 12 months. A faculty has been applied for and planning permission will be resubmitted once all the documents are satisfactory.

The report following the Quinquennial Inspection in 2022 outlined work needed, primarily to the stonework and roof, which includes high level damp patches on the ceiling either side of the nave, and above the porch. The porch roof repair was completed in the autumn; the rest was delayed until spring 2025. Plans for repair of the high-level flat roof and for stonework repairs will follow once funding is in place.

A Net Zero Audit has been carried out, which gives us a plan for reducing our energy usage, which fits well with our plans to refurbish St Mark's Room to make it more sustainable. In the church the focus is on heating the people rather than the building. We are reviewing the report to develop a plan which will take several years to implement.

The Friends of St Mark's are focused on raising funds to maintain the heritage and quality of St Mark's Church, to encourage the local community to engage and use the building and appreciate its value.

The Friends have been active with fundraising events including two quizzes, a wine-tasting evening, and the Autumn coffee morning. There was also carol singing at Christmas in local pubs to raise money for Crisis, and an informal Community Carol Service with mince pies and mulled wine which was much enjoyed by many.

The churchyard has had much of the rhododendron cut back, with further work needed. As a result of a tree survey, sadly, two trees had to be felled, including a splendid Himalayan Cedar south of the main door.

■ Phil Budden, Churchwarden

St John and All Saints, North Baddesley

The church warden's role became an even busier one than usual in 2024 after Mark West retired at the APCM and North Baddesley PCC went down to just one church warden. Mark had done six years in office during which time he dealt with Covid, an interregnum, the appointment of a new vicar and training a new church warden (yours truly). All of this with his unique sense of humour still intact! Although deserving a rest he didn't get away completely. The APCM saw the PCC approve a steering group of present and past churchwardens from the benefice, the vicar and the buildings administrator. This group has provided much-needed support during the year and been a source of know-how and experience. It perfectly demonstrates how beneficial a single parish benefice will be for the administration and maintenance of our buildings. I would like to take this opportunity to extend my very grateful thanks to Phil Budden, who took on my responsibilities in addition to those of St Mark's when I suffered some ill health during the year.

The year has seen us working towards more sustainable buildings, both in terms of financial viability and their environmental impact. Upgraded LED lighting in All Saints means that the church is better suited to a wide variety of uses and users and takes less energy. Heated pews at St. John's were very welcome at the midnight mass on Christmas Eve and ensures that we are following the principle of heating the users rather than the building. In order to support future fundraising efforts, we commissioned an energy audit for All Saints. We were very pleased to discover that many of the recommendations were actions that we were already considering in order to improve the building's insulation and energy consumption.

From a financial viability point of view the completion of our new meeting room with attached kitchen has the potential to provide some much-needed income. In addition, the new level access from the church into the hall means that the previously refurbished toilets are now truly accessible across the building ensuring its

suitability for all hirers.

We have taken the opportunity to review several of our service contracts during the year and now have more favourable terms for phone and broadband, fire extinguishers and alarm and our gas contract has joined our electricity supplies under the umbrella of the parish buying scheme. At St. John's, a new grounds maintenance contract with Test Valley Borough Council's Cemeteries and graves division became necessary after the local parish council decided they were no longer able to provide support for this activity. Unfortunately, this increased our costs from £1,000 to £2,448 per annum. We also had to have several dead and diseased trees felled in the churchyard but this does provide us with an opportunity to improve biodiversity with a re-planting scheme.

New security cameras to the front and rear of All Saints and improved external sensor lighting have made the darker winter nights safer for users of the hall and the church.

“We are blessed to be able to provide a wide variety of activities and services in our buildings in both the spiritual and the community sense.”

We are blessed to be able to provide a wide variety of activities and services in our buildings in both the spiritual and the community sense. These have been nurtured and developed by the continued efforts of our vicar Vanessa and supported by the amazing team surrounding her. There is also a small army of dedicated and hard-working volunteers without whom most of these things would not be possible.

Looking after both our buildings and the people in them is essential if we are to continue to position ourselves at the centre of village life ready to share God's love with all.

■ Debbie Flood, Churchwarden

Safeguarding

It has been another busy year as we strive to keep up to date with the high standards that the Diocese demands. These standards and our progress are logged onto a Dashboard, one for each parish, which can be updated in real time. The Benefice Safeguarding Officer's (BSO) role is to ensure that PCCs are aware of their roles and responsibilities in creating and maintaining safe spaces, for people to worship, relax and play in. I am delighted that all three parishes have achieved level 3 (the highest level), although that does mean the standards are also higher.

“ I am delighted that all three parishes have achieved the highest level.”

This year with the support of Beth and Abbie, we now have role descriptions for most of the roles within our churches, which also includes the level of safeguarding training and level of DBS check, where it is required. Our aim is to complete all the role descriptions within the next few months.

In October, I attended a networking event for safeguarding leads at Old Alresford Place. This was led by the Diocesan Safeguarding Team and was a great opportunity to learn and share.

I completed Safeguarding Leadership Training, which has to be updated every three years. It has changed to use a much more reflective model: a very positive change. One of the outcomes of the training was that the churches now have Safe Spaces posters, with tear off telephone numbers, in all church toilets across the benefice. These phone numbers are an addition to the ones on the safeguarding posters. Safe Spaces is a specialist organisation who are there to listen and support people who have experienced abuse.

In November we took part in Safeguarding Sunday, an annual event promoted by the Church of England, to focus people's attention onto this important topic. It also happened to be the week that the Makin Review was published, and the subsequent resignation of Justin Welby, meaning Safeguarding Sunday was elevated to a whole new level. Personally, I found the review very distressing, and I know I am not alone in this, but I did have some positive feedback after the service, so I think it helped all of us in some way.

My thanks, as always, to the Vicar, Ministry Team and all PCC members who are unstinting in their commitment to safeguarding and their support for me as BSO. Without them, I could not achieve all that we do.

Jo Hooper, Benefice Safeguarding Officer

We are proud as a benefice to be an Inclusive Church. Safeguarding makes sure that we are also a safe space.



Buildings and works

Since December 2022, Trish has been working as Buildings Administrator, assisting the Vicar and churchwardens in managing building projects across the churches in the benefice. This includes liaising with the church architect, Ecclesiastical Insurance, contractors and arranging site visits. The PCC is grateful to Trish for all her work on these important projects.

Projects

Completed Projects at All Saints:

- Accessibility, new kitchen, meeting room, re-siting office.
- Church lighting.
- Replacement of electrical circuit board

In preparation:

- Replacement windows.
- Roof repairs, and church hall flat roof repairs.
- Blinds in church and church hall.
- Hedge removal.
- Car Park refurbishment.

Completed Projects at St John The Baptist:

- CCTV installation.
- Installation of pew heaters.
- Removal of diseased trees.

In preparation:

- Lighted, accessible footpath between car park and church entrance.
- Re-planting plan.

Completed Projects at St Denys:

- South Transept Social Space

In preparation:

- Replacement of electrical circuit board
- Roof repairs

Hall users

Trish also supports the PCCs by promoting the hire of spaces, rooms and facilities at All Saints and St Mark.

We are lucky to have Arthur's Play Space as long-term hirers of the All Saints church hall and the North Baddesley Community Library and Brownies making use of the church. Our new meeting room should provide further



All Saints

opportunities for hire income. This year we have added a weekly, term-time session with Southampton Music Bugs. Looking forward to 2025, we are hoping to take bookings for a choir and a dance class.

St Denys has hosted lunchtime recitals and talks. These started in 2023 and we have been able to enjoy performances most months. We are always looking for new choirs, musicians and speakers as we look to fill our roster for 2025 (and beyond)!

Trish Durrant, Benefice Buildings Administrator



St Mark's Room

Trustees' report

This is the combined PCC trustees' report for the year ended 31 December 2024. Statements apply to all PCCs unless otherwise attributed. The statements are in line with the Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP FRS 102).

Aims and purpose

The PCCs work with the vicar, Reverend Vanessa Lawrence, in living out the life of the church and promoting the mission of the church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical in all three parishes within the benefice. The PCCs are also responsible for maintaining the church buildings.

Objectives and activities

acnbchurch is the Church of England worshipping community in the three parishes of Ampfield, Chilworth and North Baddesley. The church exists to promote the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to the doctrines and practices of the Church of England.

The PCCs are guided by the benefice Mission Action Plan (bMAP) and consider the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit, specifically that relating to the advancement of religion.

We are proud to be an inclusive church with a ministry team, volunteers and congregations who show their faith through patterns of worship, prayer, pastoral care, social engagement and support of mission.

Achievements and impact

A fuller account of selected, significant activities can be found at pages 8-11.

We offer a range of services, from BCP, through Common Worship to Fresh Expressions. Ampfield and North Baddesley have regular Sunday morning services; St Denys on three Sundays each month. Our Café Church and Messy Church sessions run on first Sundays. We hold Midweek services at St Mark (Tuesday morning) and All Saints. (Wednesday evenings).

Café Church is streamed via YouTube and there is a BCP Evening Prayer every Sunday on Zoom.

We have 37 (12 resident in parish), 8 (2 resident in parish) and 43 (32 resident in parish) people on the electoral rolls (for Ampfield, Chilworth and North Baddesley, respectively). A new electoral roll will be compiled in 2025.

There have been 11 baptisms, 8 weddings and 19 funerals (plus many interments of ashes) across year.

Deanery synod

Our Deanery Synod representatives from across the benefice are Gill Watkin, Pam Morffew and Sally Kerson. Deanery Synod met three times in 2024.

We were pleased to host the February meeting at All Saints. Sally gave a presentation about the Small Pilgrim Places network and how churches can join. There was a discussion on church accessibility and welcoming people not just on Sundays.

Other topics in 2024 have included CMF and stewardship, a talk from Christians Against Poverty, and overseas partnerships.

Fabric

There is a fuller description of our programme of building works at page 15.

St John the Baptist is open at weekends; St Mark, and St Denys are able to be open during the day for visitors and for prayer. St Denys joined St John's as a member of the Small Pilgrim Places network.

Mission and evangelism

We continue our support to the Romsey Foodbank and Romsey Young Carers. As described in the financial review, below, we make charitable donations and raise funds for other charities.

The Ampfield Messenger is distributed

online via our website. The website, streaming services and social media are also important tools for outreach.

Financial review

Across the benefice, finances are healthy and we are anticipating becoming a single-parish benefice.

Ampfield

Total unrestricted funds at year end are £21,994. Total restricted funds are £11,774. CBF Deposit Funds total £16,048.

Total receipts on the unrestricted fund was £52,899 with total payments of £56,166. This represents a modest deficit. The figures are influenced by the balance of a significant legacy of £11,774 that has allowed some work to the hall and building to be carried out.

Giving and Gift Aid were above budget; donations of £21,556 was just enough to cover Common Mission Fund. Grants from Hampshire County Council and other organisation, plus other fundraising, such as £5,075 from the Fete, has been necessary to meet additional running costs.

Everyone's hard work and generosity has given Ampfield a good year.

The Friends of St Mark's had three successful fund-raising events, including £500 raised through carol singing which was sent to Crisis.

Chilworth

Total unrestricted funds at year end are £21,436. Total restricted funds are £7,590. Investments held in Church of England Investment Funds total £69,624.

Total receipts on the unrestricted fund was £37,521 with total payments of £39,980.

Common Mission Fund is paid in full.

North Baddesley

At year end the balance of funds is £124,036 of which £40,135 is unrestricted funds; £25,225 is designated and £58,676 is restricted. The total income for the year of

£145,594 exceeded total expenditure of £125,356 by around £20,000. Both income and expenditure are significantly higher than 2023. The increase in income is due to a legacy of just over £50,000 (half restricted for St John's; half designated for building work), a one-off donation of £8,000 and a grant of £15,000 towards the building work on the meeting room, kitchen and disabled access at All Saints. The increase in expenditure for 2024 includes installation of pew heaters at St John's (£15,000 from the legacy) and the accessibility building work at All Saints (£30,000; half of which was covered by the grant).

Church and hall hire continues to be an important source of income; supplementing income from donors to ensure that CMF can be paid in full (also noting that this was £3,000 less than in 2023). Fund-raising is also important; craft markets and a quiz evening raised £1,500. Support for other charities is an important part of our mission and in 2024, £2,100 was donated from church funds with an additional £1,000 raised in collections for a range of charities (including Christian Aid, The Rainbow Trust, ROMDAG, NSPCC, MacMillan Cancer Research, UNICEF and Romsey Foodbank).

As income for the year was over £100,000 the PCC needs to register with the Charity Commission.

Reserves policy

Across the parishes, a policy is maintained of reserves equal to three months' financial activity.

This equates to £14,000 for Ampfield, £10,000 for Chilworth and £15,000 for North Baddesley.

Risk management

There are three main risks facing the benefice as a whole.

Buildings

The buildings consume time and money for upkeep. A combination of funds raised and legacies have allowed us to invest in necessary building work and mitigate some of the more immediate risks. We continue

to work with our architect and builders to try and keep ahead of critical maintenance needs.

People

Running the church and associated activities relies on a pool of volunteers, who give generously of their time. It is a relatively small pool. Our main mitigation is the work towards a single-parish benefice to reduce duplication and the number of people needed.

Finance

We are heavily reliant on both the generosity of those within the church who give to support us and income from hall hire and other activities. North Baddesley is reliant on a single hirer for a significant amount of income. We are working to attract additional hirers to spread the risk.

Safeguarding

A fuller report on work on safeguarding is at page 14.

The PCCs have complied with their duty to have due regard to the Bishops' guidance on safeguarding, under section 5 of the Safeguarding and Clergy Discipline Measure 2016.

Volunteers

The parishes operate only thanks to the hours of effort poured in by volunteers. The PCCs would like to put on record their thanks to everyone who works across the benefice, often behind the scenes, to make sure that services and events, regular and one-off, run smoothly.

The PCC of North Baddesley wish to particularly note the extraordinary service of Mrs Pam Morffew, who stood down as treasurer this year after 40 years. Thank you, Pam!

Structure, governance and management

Each PCC is constituted and run according to the Church Representation Rules. A PCC consists of the incumbent, churchwardens, an LLM, deanery synod representatives and those elected at the APCM.

The PCCs are the bodies responsible for general decision-making and have overall financial responsibility.

The ministry team (incumbent, churchwardens, LLMs and BCMs) meet regularly to consider matters of worship and mission. It has no delegated decision-making powers in matters that would be decided by the PCC.

To improve benefice-wide planning, a Steering Group has been created. This exists as a subcommittee under CRR M32(1), answerable to all PCCs, with membership from each parish and chaired by the incumbent. The steering group has an annual delegated spending limit of £1,000.

The benefice administrator, Sally Kerson, is an employee and also a trustee, as an LLM and *ex officio* member of the PCC.

The buildings administrator acts as the (paid) PCC secretary for North Baddesley PCC.

The PCCs are bodies corporate (PCC Powers Measure 1956 and Church Representation Rules 2022) and charities excepted from registration with the Charity Commission.

Trustees are all listed on pages 4 and 5.

No trustees have claimed expenses for their activities as trustees.



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