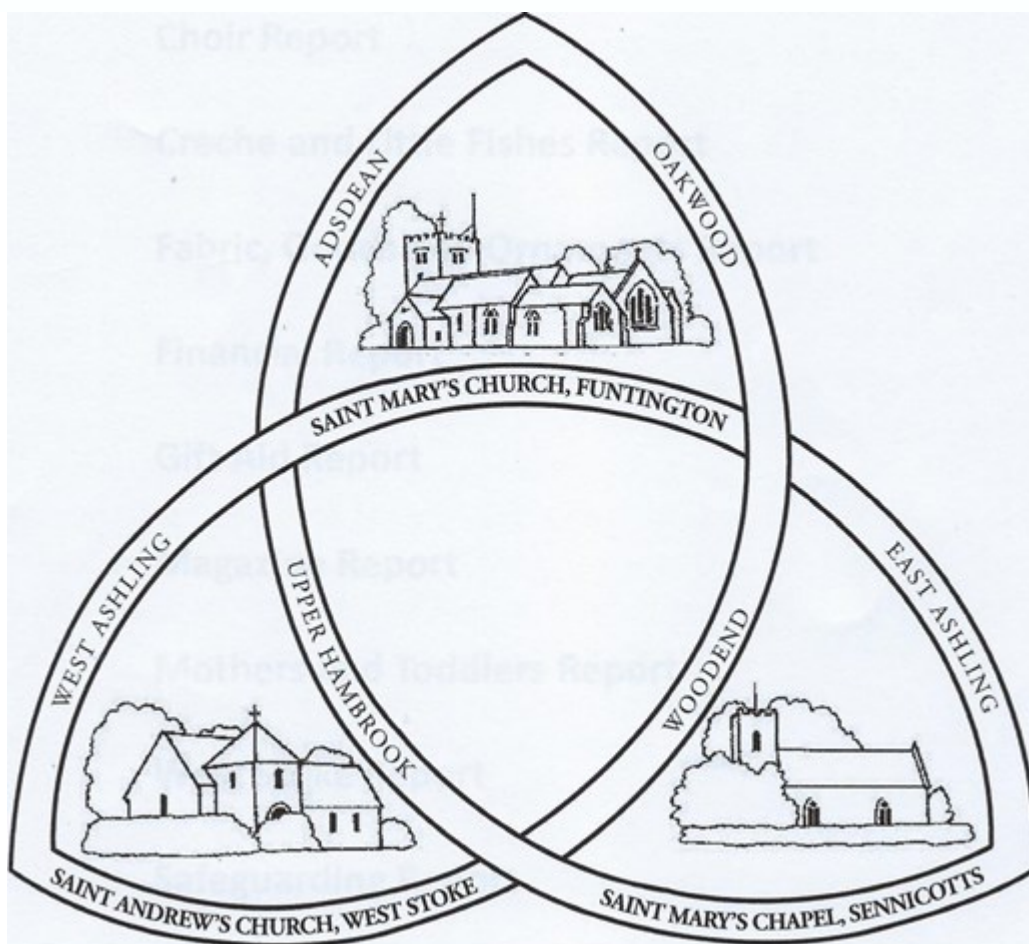


BENEFICE OF FUNTINGTON AND WEST STOKE WITH SENNICOTTS

Annual report 2022



Parish Review 2022 – Priest-in-Charge

We started 2022 with some restrictions still in place from the Pandemic. It was apparent that some of the Christmas Services still didn't have the pre-pandemic numbers for the services. In fact some of the services had been stopped to help comply with covid outbreaks. As the year developed the restrictions were slowly removed, and we also returned the use of the chalice, although not fully. By the end of the year numbers at our services were much more improved and our activities are almost returned with some exceptions. I fully appreciate that there are still some people in our community who do not yet feel safe enough to come back to church in addition to the fact that covid is still very much prevalent in our community today.

Our service times have stabilised over 2022 with a 10am Sunday service each week at Funtington; 10am service at West Stoke on the 1st and 3rd Sundays and a service at Sennicotts on the 2nd and 4th Sundays of the month. We also have a mid-week Eucharist and Healing service on Wednesdays at 10.30am each Wednesday. Services are becoming increasingly difficult to staff with ministers, but we have managed to cover all but 2 of the services in 2022. Sadly, when I am on leave or not available, the Wednesday service will be cancelled. I will work hard during 2023 to ensure that this is only cancelled where absolutely necessary. I have created a list of services all the way through to December of 2023 so that we can try and manage those 'vacant' services well in advance.

We have had a range of special services throughout the year. The Archdeacon came to Funtington in May to help us say Thank You to our out going Churchwardens Claire Hoare and Nick La Hive. Both Churchwardens had given tremendous service with 6 and 16 yrs. service respectively. We presented them with gifts at the end of the service, which also saw the swearing in of the Churchwardens for this parish and the Parish of Chidham together. Caroline Noble, Paul Wren and Pippa Kerr took the role of Churchwarden for 2022/23. I am very thankful to all 5 Churchwardens who served during 2022 of their hard work, dedication and support. Since the sad death of Richard Elwes in 2021, we have had a vacancy for Churchwarden. I hope to be able to fill this role in 2023/24's elections.

The PCC had a number of new members this year after the APCM. The PCC has had some very challenging times to deal with, and some important decisions about the future of the parish. In the early part of the year, we were very keen to move on the development of the church in relation to the roof and the chapel repairs that were required. The roof was repaired in the summer of 2022 with solar panels added to the roof in what was a first for a Grade 2 listed building. I was photographed in the Daily Telegraph blessing the tiles on the roof (!) which attracted some attention from various other churches who have been in touch with me and the architect to find out more about our project. The work to the Ratham Chapel continues into 2023. We also had our Quinquennial Inspection this year. There were a number of minor repairs which needed to be addressed (some of which were already being addressed as part of the roof and chapel work).

In the latter part of the year, we finally erected the south boundary fence having had the generous donation of the fence materials from a local neighbour. We also started the process of seeking permission for the fence on the eastern boundary from the lych gate round to meet the south boundary. This will be a black metal estate fence which will be erected once we have the necessary planning permission. The graveyard maintenance was reviewed. We engaged with a new contractor to look after the churchyard. During the year, following complaints and concerns, we reviewed the Ashes Remembrance plot which had been created a number of years earlier. When the new area was created, the faculty stated that no memorial plaques could be placed on the area. A small working party was created and recommended a number of options for the PCC to decide upon. The decision was made that we would apply for the faculty to be amended and allow a plaque made of a uniformed stone and uniform details so that each plaque would appear the same and prevent a 'patchwork quilt' effect of stones across the area.

There is still a lot of work to do in the graveyard and I will continue to work with the PCC to maintain standards and compliance with the Directions of the Diocesan Chancellor.

We held our Ash Wednesday service, Mother's Day service and Holy Week services. In Holy Week, Neil Watt created a cross which we used for our Walk of Witness. We started on Good Friday with Stations of the Cross in Funtington, before walking down to St Wilfrid's Nutbourne where we had soup and a roll and then a period of devotion before setting off with the cross to St Mary's Chidham for Veneration of The Cross and Communion. The cross was left in Chidham and will be returned on Good Friday 2023 for this year's Walk of Witness. On Easter Morning we had a joint service with the PCC of Chidham on the shoreline at Cobnor where we lit the Paschal Candle. The flame from the candle was transferred to a lantern which was taken to Chidham and Funtington churches for the lighting of the paschal candle ready for the services in church later that morning.

Other special services over the year included the Pet Service at West Stoke; Harvest Service in West Stoke and Funtington. We had our Christingle Service, Carol Services and Carol Singing. At Funtington our Carol Service included music from the Chichester City Band who played before, during and after the service for us. We had a wonderful candlelight service on Christmas Eve at West Stoke. Midnight Mass this year was held at 10pm at Funtington and 11.30pm at Chidham. This is planned to reverse in 2023. All of these services have often meant that our Churchwardens, sides people, readers and intercessors are given extra duties – we couldn't have done it without each and everyone of them and I am grateful for the time, skills and support they give.

Our support of Charities has also increased in 2022. We supported our local school with new musical instruments to the value of just over £2,000. Our Christmas Fayre raised nearly £1,000 with three different charities receiving money from the proceeds of the Fayre. We will continue to support charities both local and national (and international) in the next year and the PCC have made a firm commitment to support this.

Over the year, across both parishes there have been 15 Baptisms, 23 funerals, 15 burial of ashes and 9 marriages. In 2023 we have planned 5 marriages to date. We saw the Sunday School back in our Sunday morning services again with regular attendance. This is still very much in its infancy and so we will be able to provide a much more meaningful report of the Sunday School in 2023.

2023 will have its own challenges I have no doubt with the cost of living crisis impacting on the costs the church needs to cover to stay open. We are in a good financial state, but, we cannot rest on our reserves – we need to ensure that we set a full programme of mission and ministry in our parish and our neighbouring parishes. We need to identify opportunities and continue to maintain a presence in our community going forward. We have some great examples of this in 2022 with the Jubilee Party, carol singing etc. There is a lot more to do and we are in a strong position now to ensure that we drive forward with full commitment to promote the Gospel of Christ, serving our communities in the name of our Lord.

This review of last year is not an exhausted list of all that has been achieved, but it is evident that our numbers are growing again and coming together in fellowship with one another is encouraging. When we do, we are met with beautiful buildings, wonderful floral displays, wonderful music from our organist and the dedication of our volunteers who make our services come together. I want to say a huge Thank You to everyone who helps to keep our buildings open and welcoming.

This is very much a journey we travel together in the life of disciples. I look forward to the steps we will take together over the coming year.

Fr Andrew. March 2023

St Mary's, Funtington

Fabric

Routine maintenance:

All electrical equipment was PAC tested in November 2022; fire extinguishers are next due to be tested in 2024

Roof and Ratham Chapel Repairs: This year we gained the Diocesan approval by Faculty for the building works which were flagged up in the previous quinquennial so most of the year was taken up with the architect continuing to arrange, tender and gain consents for contractors to undertake the re-roofing of the church and repairs to the Ratham Chapel.

Prior to starting this work, it was necessary to gain local Planning Authority consent and a licence from Natural England because of the bats using the roof space. At the start of the project, we required the works to be supervised by a specialist bat conservator.

In planning the work, it was clear that not all the existing tiles would be suitable for reuse and some new tiles would be necessary. Combining this with encouragement to improve the building's carbon footprint it was decided to install solar panels within south facing roofs of the north aisle and nave and thereby save on new tile purchase. The initial panel design in turn caused some disquiet among some members of the Parish Council, who objected to these panels' potential visibility from ground level. Therefore, three panels were omitted from the eastern end of the nave – unfortunately this has reduced the amount of electricity that is generated, especially as these would have been the most productive panels, and during the winter months some of the panels are shadowed by the tower in the latter part of the day.

Once all the consents were in place work commenced during the hottest part of a very warm summer, this meant the work force worked flexible hours to get the contract done in our demanding timelines. During the work it was discovered that a significant number of the existing tiles were of significant vintage, having square holes and wooden fixing pegs, a style which the architect informed us was abandoned some centuries ago, (but is recalled in the adage about "square pegs in round holes.") The solar panels were installed and productive from mid-September with the repairs of the Vestry roof completing the work about a month later. Whilst satisfactorily producing electricity during long, sunny days the output is less adequate during the darker winter months when lighting and heating are more necessary and thus supplementary power still has to be purchased. It is believed that St Mary's, Funtington is one of the first Grade 2* listed churches in the Diocese to have solar photovoltaic panels installed this has created great interest from other Deaneries.



After the scaffolding for the roof work was finally removed, work commenced on the walls of the Ratham Chapel. The inner walls had their flaking paint removed and were redecorated, during which work the cast iron heating radiator had to be temporarily disconnected and moved out of the way. After the inside had been recoated, the exterior render and its previous cement patches on the south and east walls was stripped off and new lime mortar render applied. This occurred just before the weather turned cold and therefore has been covered with sacking ever since to protect it whilst drying.

Unfortunately, damp has still penetrated and discoloured the inner walls, and a second decorative coat will be necessary in the summer. While the building contractor was on-site, he undertook work highlighted during the latest quinquennial 2023 inspection, which had been brought forward by three months to enable this. The tower top coping stones were resecured, floor tiles in the north aisle re bedded, the southern roof drain at the east end dug out and repaired, rainwater guttering and downpipes realigned and painted. Further minor works continued into the New Year.

Despite all the above work, the church has been kept clean and available for services and many thanks are due to Mary Quinell and members of the PCC for providing enhanced cleaning during the building works. Sadly, Mary Quinell retired at the end of the year and a new person was found after some difficulty and is employed on a fortnightly basis, any extra cleaning is done by the church wardens at present.

Ground work: This was put out for tender and a new contractor Keith Goacher was employed from April to November. The work has been exceptionally good, with grass mown, paths cleared, banks strimmed and the hedges cut. The paddock was kindly mown by Nick Baird's team.

Southern Boundary Fencing: The kindly donated Chestnut post and rail fencing marking the southern boundary was installed in the summer by a local contractor.

Sadly, in the spring we lost a substantially large Sycamore tree in a storm, but this has provided an excellent supply of logs, many thanks to Neil Watt and Andrew Hughes and their team for undertaking the task of clearing the paddock and producing a large supply of logs. These logs have provided some income and were also donated to people in the parish. The rest of the branches made a huge bonfire for Queen Elizabeth's Jubilee celebration held at the Church. The rest were used for the Guy Fawkes bonfire held at Adsdean Farm courtesy of Tim and Claire Hoare.



Vicarage: The Vicarage and gardens have been rented out by the Diocese, we still have use of the paddock and stables for storage of gardening equipment, fencing panels and logs.

Church room: Bookings have remained constant, Fees were increased to £15 an hour, concessions for church related charities are ongoing

Health and Safety: During the year 2022 there were no reportable Health & Safety incidents

Volunteers: A wealth of people volunteer to help with the running of all three churches so a huge vote of thanks to all those who give their time freely to provide our wonderful flowers, cleaning the brass, serving coffee and ringing the bells which call us to worship. Thank you also to all our Sidespersons, Readers, Intercessors and Lamocs.

Terrier and Inventory is up to date.

My thanks to Nick La Hive for his assistance in this report

Pippa Kerr (Churchwarden)

St Andrew's, West Stoke

There were 38 Services held at St. Andrews which included:

- 1 Marriage
- 3 Funerals
- 2 Burial of Ashes
- 2 Memorials
- 1 Baptism
- 1 Pet Service
- 1 Remembrance service
- 4 Evening services for Advent in December.

Our long serving church cleaner Mary Quennell retired after approximately 20 years of wonderful service. A card was signed by many of the congregation and a handsome collection gathered, given with a gift as a thank you.

We have recently found a new cleaner who will come for two hours, twice a month at a cost of £17 per hour. She is very efficient and thorough.

Grounds maintenance

With the dismissal of Mulberry contractors and the employment of Liam Orchard-Webb to do the maintenance of the grounds, we have made a saving of approximately £1,285 including fuel.

Liam is doing a very good job.

Hedges/Machinery

The cost of cutting the tall laurel hedges was always an extra and this was only partially maintained in 2021. In 2022 it took two men a full day and they were not able to complete the task. One man's wages and fuel costs were donated. Liam Orchard-Webb was the other man who was paid for at his usual rate.

The paddock is being mown by C Noble 4/5 times a year.

The machinery that has been donated to the church for maintenance work was not serviced in 2022 but will be in 2023 so that additional cost will need to be allowed for this year.

The laurel hedge facing the car park needs to be cut in half widthways this year as it has become unmanageable. It is too deep to reach across the top to cut and has overgrown the headstones along the churchyard edge. The height of all the laurel hedges needs to be reduced by 3 feet and the end of the laurel hedge by the path taken back a foot or two to allow unimpeded access to the church for pedestrians.

Fabric

The low retaining brick and flint wall which was reversed into and knocked down has been beautifully restored by King and Drury at a very competitive cost. This was covered by the insurers of the lady who reversed into it.

10 of the top cornice bricks were damaged. After extensive searching we have found some at a building site where the property is being refurbished and are waiting to see if they will sell them to us. They are an unusually large size. The cost to make a modern replacement is just over £89 a brick. We will wait and try to find reclaimed ones.

Two hair line cracks have appeared which are showing signs of some water ingress: one from ground to base of stained-glass window behind the Altar, one from ground to base of stained glass window on the north east window.

There have been a couple of tiles that have slipped high up on the apex of the roof.

Large chunks of pug at the join of the chancel to the nave roofs have fallen and needs to be replaced to prevent leaking.

Andrew is aware.

I would like to reassure the PCC that I feel and am well supported at St. Andrew's as churchwarden from members of the congregation, most of whom have lived and served in the parish in one position or another for very many years.

Joelle Elwes, David Heaver, Esmond Pope and Mark Jeffries especially are all quietly supporting me behind the scenes. Without their advice and help, I certainly could not do the job.

I would ask the PCC to acknowledge and sanction this unofficial support and confirm that any issues or concerns that I bring to the table, I bring as a representative of our congregation.

Caroline Noble

St Mary's, Sennicotts

Following the disruption to services caused by Coronavirus in 2021, it was good to get back to our normal routine of fortnightly Holy Communion services.

Attendances continue to be low, and in spite of a mail drop in the new housing development, – Minerva Heights, we've been unable to increase congregations. There seems to be a shortage of people looking for our form of traditional BCP service. Once again Christmas Day was the exception with a congregation of 47, and we were grateful to Cannon David Nason for taking the service, and to Nigel Brown for providing the music.

The church was beautifully decorated by Eloise Rank and her family, and it was good to see so many of them on Christmas morning.

We've been without a cleaner for a large part of the year. The search for a replacement continues, but so far without luck.

Once again Margaret McMullen has produced wonderful flower arrangements for the altar, and we're extremely grateful to her for this.

Services during the year have been taken by Fr Andrew, Cannon David Nason and mostly by John Dane. We're very grateful to them all.

The Quinquennial inspection took place during the first quarter of the year. A few minor issues came to light but nothing too serious. It was following one of the funerals earlier in the year, that the grave diggers managed to damage the railings around the front of the church. Repairs have been delayed while insurance claims are processed.

It's a shame that attendances have not been larger, because with the candles lit there can't be many more attractive churches in which to worship.

Andrew Lillie

Electoral Roll 2022.

Following the 2022 revision the total number on the Electoral Roll stood at 130, two less than 2021.

The Roll will be revised during March 2023 but the total number is unlikely to have grown.

The next new Roll is not due to be prepared until 2025.

Andrew Lillie

Safeguarding Report 2022

There has been a steady number, albeit one or two a quarter, of new Good Neighbour applicants/volunteers.

The Diocese has now decided that a DBS check will not be valid for 5 years but from this year on only 3 years! Not sure why and no reason given.

Those people who did not register for the update service which is run by a different Government organisation will have to reapply for a DBS check.

We now have about 12 ongoing renewals in progress consisting of those who signed up 5 or more years ago.

In addition, the Diocese has decided that the one box that one ticks on the Thirtyoneight.co.uk, when declaring you have 'No Convictions' is not enough because the Statute of Limitations does not go back more than 4 years for many offences. The diocese is therefore asking you all to 'Fess Up' on any earlier offences going back to the year of your age of reason!!

So there is this new form to fill by hand or on line called the 'Confidential Declaration Form for Roles meeting the criteria for an enhanced Disclosure and Barring Service check.' This form is kept by the parish in a secure place, physically or on-line. Please forgive what seems to be a 'Hammer to crack a nut!'

When I do the final section of the ID check I will ask you to fill in the form and sign it. If you wish I can ask for it on line and fill it in at home and send it to me.

It should be said that Good Neighbour Volunteers only need this DBS check because they take Vulnerable Adults to Appointments in their own cars.

If you deal with children then you will need to declare that your role involves contact with children and an extra level of DBS check which I can obviously proceed with.

Thanks for your patience. Don't let it stop you volunteering.

Tony D'Alton

Treasurer's Report 2022

The 2022 Accounts were approved by Chris Pexton, chartered accountant (and Deanery treasurer), and passed unanimously at the PPC meeting held on 9 March.

A full copy of the accounts is available on request.

Income

Planned giving, cash collection, and SumUp donations totalled £39,160, marginally less than in 2021. We were able to claim £8,993 Gift Aid from these payments.

We received two legacies, one of £5,000 and another of £244,000 with regard to which we were advised by the Executors should be used 'for religious purposes within the parish'. It can be seen in the Accounts as the Dora Smith fund.

We received £9,073 in fees for weddings, funerals, etc, a marginal increase on 2021.

We received £3,000 in fees for the use of the Church room, several hundred of which was money owed since before Covid! This compares with just £350 in 2021.

We received £4,253 in sales of the parish magazine and advertising, obviously offset with printing costs, but still a small profit.

We received £8,454 in interest on our bank and CBF accounts, an increase of £5,000 on 2021.

The Beacon Party and Bonfire Party were held principally as social events for the village nevertheless they jointly made a profit of £1,620 which was shared between charities and the general fund. The Christmas Fair was held as a money raising event and made a profit of £960 which was split between three local charities. The West Stoke Teas and Plant Sale, held principally to raise funds for the church, in particular church flowers, made a combined profit of £1,020 from which we donated £225 to charity.

Expenditure

We paid £40,000 to the Diocese as our 'Parish Share', £10,000 less than in 2021, but in line with our share of Andrew's time.

We paid £5,613 in 'wages' for cleaning and churchyard upkeep. This was a planned reduction of £5,000 on 2021 following a review of our cleaning and gardening costs.

Clergy expenses were £2,375, an increase of £1000 on 2021.

Energy costs were up approx. £2,500 on 2021.

We were finally able to proceed with the repair to the roof and Ratham Chapel at Funtington. With some invoices still to come, we have paid £144,500 including VAT. We have reclaimed £23,290 VAT.

Charitable Donations

As a result of our fundraising, we were able to make donations of just over £4,000 to charities including the Ukraine appeal, Stone Pillow, Alzheimer's Research, Sussex Snowdrop, St Wilfrid's and Funtington Primary School which received a donation of £2,028 for musical instrument.

Operating deficit

A review of our expenses has made some savings and the significantly reduced figure of Parish Share, but we are still running at an operating deficit of around £4,000. If we want to move towards a full Parish Share contribution and break even we will need to increase our giving quite substantially.

Finally ... I want to thank Neil Watt for the many, many hours he has put into the preparation of this year's accounts which had to be presented in a different format this year (because of our increased income/ expenditure), and we both want to thank Chris Pexton for his time, expertise, and ultimately approving them.

Tricia Dry

Gift Aid report

The Gift Aid refund from HMRC for 2022 was £8,993. This was claimed on gift aided donations of £35,957 from 95 different donors as well as cash collections of £4,615. These cash figures are down on last year, but the total number of donors is increased. **Thank you so very much to everyone who has generously given gift aid** through regular standing orders, envelopes and card payments to make this tax reclaim possible. Many regular donations remain the same year on year whereas our church bills and expenses keep rising with inflation particularly this year with very high inflation. As an example, our church energy bill has risen by £2,500. **I would encourage everyone to examine and review their regular giving** and consider increasing it by 10% or more where possible to help the church meet our increased costs. People are using less and less cash and if you would like to change your regular envelope giving to a cashless standing order, I would be happy to give you all the details. In addition, we now have a card machine at the back of St Mary's which you can use to give card payments and we are trying to do something similar in St Andrews. It is worth noting that HMRC allow us to claim gift aid on all cash collections in our 3 churches up to a value of £8,000 per year. We are currently well under this value and are able to claim gift aid on all our open plate and card machine collections. HMRC has a strange rule that we cannot claim above £30 per anonymous cash gift so please refrain from using £50 notes in loose cash collections or single card payments (unless accompanied by a gift aid form). Please let me know if your tax circumstances change so that I can amend our records as appropriate. *Neil Watt*

Jesus said "Don't hoard treasure down here where it gets eaten by moths and corroded by rust or - worse - stolen by burglars. Stockpile treasure in heaven, where it's safe from moth and rust and burglars. It's obvious, isn't it? The place where your treasure is, is the place you will most want to be, and end up being." Matt 6:21

Mother and Toddler Group

After quite a number of years....I've been organising for fourteenthe group continues. However our numbers are very low and 2 of the loyal group of between 3 and 6 start school in September. I will certainly carry on until then but there are so few young families in the parish. I chat to anyone with a pram out walking to drum up business! The group is always enjoyable no matter how smallbut it might just be getting too small so more babies and toddlers please.

Julie Morrow

Bell ringers report

During this year we have returned to full activity for practice and service ringing, but our earlier inactivity has had an adverse on our performance. Previously good progress was being made towards more METHOD ringing, which is when the order in which the bells are rung is changed without orders being given. During the lockdown we lost ringers who had that ability and through their absence we resorted to mainly CALL CHANGES, that is when changes to the order of ringing are shouted out. We are fortunate that we still have the support of ringers from Westbourne without whom we would struggle to have a full team of ringers for the Sunday service.

We were very pleased to ring for the Queen's Celebrations during the summer and also to be seen doing that. We had hoped to encourage anyone that was interested to come and try their hand but no one has come forward.

However, on a more positive note we have one of our newer ringers is making good progress and we also have a new ringer who has moved to Chichester and is ringing with us on a regular basis.

We still need and will welcome anyone from aged 9 or 10 upwards to come and try their hand and bearing in mind that most of our ringer are near or over 80. Unless we pass on this very enjoyable exercise to younger generations, the sound of the bells, which we hear from many in the village, are very much enjoyed, ringing here will have an uncertain future. We are extremely fortunate here that we have all the teaching methods and ringers that are needed and an excellent set of new bells that are much admired by visiting ringers. If any of you here know of someone who would like to come and try their hand, please let them know that they will be very welcome.

John Kitchener

Social Committee report 2022

We began the year by helping Denise Foster organise a Saturday Coffee Morning selling garden plants and cakes to raise money to purchase church flowers. The weather was warm and fine which helped us arrange the plant sales outside the Church Room on the patio area. We raised over £600.00 which Denise was pleased and grateful to have.

Our party to celebrate the late Queen's reign of seventy years was the highlight of the year in June. Andrew and Deborah Hughes deserve a special mention for their authoritative planning and execution.

Again we had a fine, warm, sunny evening and set up in the rear of the church yard with a Beacon constructed on several Saturday mornings by Andrew and Deborah, Giles Elliot, Tony D'Alton, and Neil and Carolyn Watt in the Church Paddock. A barbecue with sausages and burgers generously provided by Tim and Claire Hoare and a well-stocked bar made everyone feel in a relaxed party mood and Father Andrew proposed three cheers and a toast to Her Majesty.

We sold two hundred tickets and raised approximately £1000.00 which was divided between the Ukraine DEC Appeal and the Church.

In August Anna D'Alton did sterling work with a very successful team serving afternoon Cream Teas at West Stoke Village Hall. They had so many customers that they couldn't keep count of how many they served but the event raised £525 of which £225 was given to the Ukraine Refugee Appeal and £300 to Church funds.

Next came Bonfire Night organised by Carolyn and Neil. We originally planned to hold it in the Church Paddock but the local farmer was worried that his sows might abort and give birth prematurely, so the event

was moved to Tim Hoare's Quarry Barn site. The farmer was duly grateful and offered to help move the bonfire but by then the task had already been completed.

The weather on the due date was grim and prevented us from holding the event as planned. Due to sodden, slippery ground and a bonfire which despite attempts to prevent it, was in a similar state, we had to postpone to the following weekend.

Tim and Claire once more provided the sausages and burgers for the barbecue and again the bar was well stocked. The 'Old House at Home' in Chidham deserves a special mention for providing a keg of their excellent beer every time we have needed to set up a bar. A hundred and forty tickets were sold, and we raised £472.00 which was divided between the Stone Pillow charity and church funds.

The Christmas Fair also raised funds of £950.00 and we were very pleased to make a reasonable profit given that we were in competition with three other local Church Fairs and Pippa and her team did a magnificent job providing soup and sandwich lunches. The profit was split between The Snowdrop Trust, The Alzheimer's Society and St Wilfred's Hospice.

All our events have turned a profit and were a source of pleasure and fun for everyone, both providers and participants.

We need to make a special mention of Pippa Kerr, our church warden, who is a huge source of quiet but dedicated support on every occasion.

Gwynne Oakley-Smith

Funtington Parish Magazine

Again, a big thank you to all who support us. Our regular contributors, Geoffrey Boys, Kevin Tarrant, Jason Boswell, Helen Dignum, Jane Gummer, Andrew, our parish priest for his monthly letter and not forgetting Paul Pridmore our homegrown crossword compiler from Funtington. It really is quite a commitment to produce a 750 word article each month and amazing how quickly a month goes by before I am emailing everyone again to remind them of the next month's upcoming deadline. Then there are the 'fillers' – our poet laureate, Bee Kenchington and even her daughter who comes up with the occasional amusing story from The Parish Pump website to fill the gaps, as well as the news and views from the WI, the PCC, and Funtington Primary School.

Another very important thank you goes to our 18 'Distributors' who visit on average 20 houses each to put the magazine through everyone's doors as well as, once a year, collecting the subs which could mean extra visits – the eldest is 91 and youngest 75. Sometimes I think someone will report me to our safeguarding officer for cruelty!

Tricia has put together the figures for the year which don't look quite as healthy as last year. The magazine has got more colourful with more pages so the printing costs are slightly more and one or two of our bigger advertisers are not continuing this year. I was half expecting this as the first thing that a business cuts in harder times are their advertising and marketing budgets. In addition the Church financial year ends at the end of December and the Magazine's is the end of March so the totals are a little skewed.

Totals for the year

Printing and mailing costs £4443

Advertising revenue £1440 up to end December but (an additional £920 in advertising revenue has come in since then)

Magazine Subscription sales £2813

So total revenue December to December £4253, making a small loss over the year. The magazine is non-profit making, but we would like at least to breakeven if we can without increasing the price. We will be having a push to attract more advertisers over the next few months.

We also need to talk about succession. Jo and I are now coming up to two years of editing and producing the magazine each month and neither of us are getting any younger. I have asked in the magazine for more people to join the editorial board to share the load a bit but, no surprises, no one has come forward! Both of us are very busy with Good Neighbours, our first love and I am very involved with my three youngest grandchildren who now live 40 minutes away rather than in Singapore. Jo is Chairman of the East Ashling Residents Association as well as GN and at present lobbying for a 20mph speed limit in East Ashling. Unless we can come up with a solution (which I do feel could be solved by having more people on the editorial board to share out the load). I feel I have to give notice that I cannot continue past April of next year and ideally would like to hand over the reins before then.

Anna D'Alton