

The Church of St Mary, Ewshot



The Church of All Saints, Crondall



ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING 2024

AND 2023 ANNUAL REPORTS



The Parish of Crondall and Ewshot

Dear Friend,

We would like to invite you to attend the Annual Parish Meeting and the Annual Parochial Church Meeting which will be held on Wednesday 22nd May 2024 at 7pm in All Saints Church.

Reports on the work of the church during the last twelve months are presented in the following document so that you can read them before the meeting, when time will be allowed for questions. A separate document contains the accounts and statutory review of the year.

We do hope that you will be able to join us and look forward to seeing you there.

Yours sincerely,

Reverend Tara Hellings

Vicar

AGENDA

**All Saints Church, Wednesday 22nd May 2024 at
7pm**

Annual Parish Meeting

- 1 Election of Churchwardens for All Saints Crondall
- 2 Election of Churchwardens for St Mary's Ewshot

Any person on the Church Electoral Roll, and any person who lives in the parish and is entered on the register of local government electors is entitled to vote at this meeting.

Annual Parochial Church Meeting

1. Minutes of APCM held on 27th April 2023
2. Presentation of Electoral Roll
3. Receipt of parish reports and opportunity for questions
4. Presentation of Financial Statements for 2023
5. Election of representatives on Farnham Deanery Synod
6. Election of members to PCC
7. Appointment of Independent Examiner for 2024
8. Vicar's report
9. PCC meeting dates
10. Any other business (items in writing to the PCC Secretary at least 24 hours prior to the meeting)

Only lay persons on the Church Electoral Roll are entitled to vote at the meeting. Different rules apply to clergy.

FINANCE, STEWARDSHIP AND ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE

Members: Revd Tara Hellings, Simon Crowther, Mark Williams, Dick Wilkinson (deceased), Nick Bryant, Martin Davis (co-opted). The committee met on four occasions in 2023 (February, May, August and November).

Finance

Simon Crowther was appointed as Treasurer in February 2023. He proposed that a book keeper be appointed and the accounting system be transferred onto Quick Books so that in future when a new Treasurer is appointed the accounts will be easily maintained. This was agreed by the PCC and has been implemented.

Income and Endowments

Total income in 2023 was £163,153 - £156,583 in unrestricted funds and £6,570 in restricted funds – maintaining 2022's progress which was a considerable achievement considering the two special projects that were being fund-raised for (£163,404). Consequently voluntary income slipped 5% but which was primarily due to less gift aid being claimed after the Organ Pipe fund in 2022 passed its peak and lower grants. This masked notable increases in collections (£14,115 v £8,239) and increased figures for planned giving (£63,091 v £61,825). Legacies (£3,000 v £1,824).

For other income streams, Church Rooms lettings and Cafe income was stable (£1,374 v £1,493), and (£12,481 v £13,967), while PCC fees showed a good increase confirming further recovery after covid (£8,431 v £5,389). Church magazine sales were also stable (£4,468 v £4,430) helped by advertising income recovering somewhat (£2,209 v £1,531).

Restricted fund income was limited mainly to the Organ fund and various gift aid claims. Dividends across unrestricted and restricted fund investments were up 9% (£8,790 v £8,040).

Expenditure

All PCC expenditure continues to be scrutinised and controlled with the objective of operating as cost-effectively as possible. Unrestricted fund expenditure was £158,163, up on last year - £134,727. Restricted fund reduction was utilised to support development of All Saints Church.

Investments

There was a reasonable increase in investment value, up 3.4% year on year, with a year-end market value of £191,233.

Reserves Policy

It has been the policy and aim of the PCC to build sufficient reserves of unrestricted funds to meet six months' normal expenditure in that category to cover any possible emergencies. The balance on unrestricted funds, which are not designated for specific purposes, remains more than sufficient to cover normal expenditure for six months.

2024 Budget

In late 2023 the Committee proposed a balanced budget of just over £162,466 for 2024 and this was approved by the PCC.

Stewardship

The weekly notice sheet and monthly magazine continued to stress the importance of regular giving, as it enables the PCC to plan with confidence. The Parish Giving Scheme (PGS) is the PCC's preferred option, with two additional benefits: (a) the paperwork burden on the Planned Giving Secretary is much reduced and (b) Gift Aid is calculated automatically and paid promptly.

Administration

Maria Bryant is a great asset and has been very efficient in overseeing the smooth running of the Parish Office in her role as Parish Administrator, which she took on in March. She has also assisted with the development of our website and the establishment of a new QuickBooks accounting system.

Simon Crowther

Treasurer

BUILDINGS AND CHURCHYARDS COMMITTEE

During the year we completed the new West End Annex which was opened in January by Bishop Paul with very a special service and buffet celebratory lunch afterwards.

Eight years of planning, fund raising and execution by the Contractors Coleborn's finally came to fruition. This provides us with a smart new West End Entrance and Washroom facilities and a storeroom with loft storage facilities.

Our Fund raising was spearheaded by Lynne Stewart for the ASSM Trust whose personal efforts helped run an excellent campaign. We are also very grateful to all the Parishioners and many inhabitants of the village who donated for specific items for the building or donated to the Project's fund; and for some very and inventive fund raising by Rev'd Lucy, cycling virtually to Durham and to Rev'd Tara and Reggie for completing a virtual walk to Santiago de Compostela.

We used the opportunity of the Contractors being on site, to make repairs and renovations – to our South Side roof flashing; to clear some blocked drainpipes; and to upgrade the wiring in the bell tower staircase with new LED lights and an emergency backup system. We also have an ongoing project to replace our 28 year De Dietrich oil fired boiler and upgrade with a more fuel-efficient unit, reducing our carbon footprint. As a precursor to this we lifted all the gratings in the main aisle and cleared an enormous amount of building and other debris left there from thirty years ago. Regrettably, the Porch could not be repaired last November as the wood under the lead is rotten and the lead itself is very thin, leaking, and unusable after the planking is replaced. We therefore have another major project to renovate the lead roof and redecorate the inside of the porch.

The Buildings Committee continue to provide practical maintenance of the Church Rooms with support to the Croft Café. The PAT testing was completed. The washing up sink was

upgraded. The Croft Café has provided enormous benefit through Outreach to the Church and Village Community. The Croft Café helped last year with fund raising events for the West End Annex. Many more Community groups are using the much-improved facilities. There remains the damp in the annex /kitchen area wall to be sorted with the trial exposure of a section in the spring of 2024.

There have been two churchyard working parties during the year, a dozen volunteers, attended the first in April also in October 2023 and the Churchyard looks in good order for the forthcoming Summer. The Maintenance of the Memorial Area continues with the Churchyard Group, with the Yew tree hedge maturing well. There is a meeting on the first Monday morning of each month to keep this and the church yard in good order.

I would like to thank the members of the Building and Churchyard's Committee for all their efforts and support this year, many providing practical help with the various systems we have in the Church and Café and of course our ongoing projects.

There is a separate formal report on the Fabric of the Church.

Peter Fryer
Churchwarden

NURTURE, OUTREACH & WORSHIP COMMITTEE

Members: Revd Tara Hellings (chair), Rev Lucy Roose, Pippa Wilkinson, Alison Thomas and Dianne Webb (co-opted September 2023)

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The group has been overseeing our church services and the ways in which we nurture Christian spirituality, always seeking ways to engage more widely in our communities. Revd Lucy Roose continued in her curate training role, and Rev Sue Lattey and Rev James Anderson have supported our worship with their occasional preaching, along with Peter Fryer. Their support and wisdom has been hugely appreciated by us all.

The All Saints Choir continued to provide music for the 9.30am services, and a small ad hoc choir has led our weekly Evensong worship. Morning Prayer stayed online due to the small regular congregation from near and far, while our Bible groups have continued to inform and encourage. Huge thanks to Ed Hellings, our Resident Theologian, who has helped our Bible Explorations with such insight.

Holy Communion continued each month in Clare Park, and Hillbrow and Hill House resumed their monthly services, with regular home communions gathering those unable to attend church in person on a Sunday. We continued distributing the weekly church readings, reflection and prayers electronically to parishioners throughout the year, posting these on our website each week alongside the service information for everyone to see. Our churches Facebook page has continued to connect people unable to attend services, alongside those joining worship on zoom.

Throughout the year we encouraged our wider congregations to attend services including Mothering Sunday, Holy Week and Easter, St George's, Remembrance Sunday, All Souls and our numerous Advent and Christmas Services which were all well supported.

As in former years, our worship was enhanced by our talented flower arrangers, led by Julie Binks in All Saints and Jennifer Kelly and Mary Cranstone and their team in St Mary's. We have also been blessed by the All Saints Bellringers who have also called us to worship and treated us with a number of special ringing occasions.

The Village Pump and Singing for Fun group continue to flourish, gathering older folk together in their twice monthly meetings, and offering trips out and special events.

The energy and drive of the team of leaders is wonderful, encouraging a wide range of villagers to gather and support one another. The support they offer has been really appreciated by so many. Huge thanks go to all involved.

We are also incredibly blessed through Croft Café which is so well supported by their team of competent bakers, baristas and servers, and all who come to enjoy refreshments and conversation. This has been supplemented by a new monthly film club, enjoyed by so many in our communities and beyond. Huge thanks to everyone who has worked so hard to make these ventures work so well. They are so crucial in building community and friendship.

All this activity is supported by the church leadership team. Huge thanks to the four Church Wardens, PCC Secretary, Treasurer and PCC members who have continued to work hard to keep our church life and outreach fully active. We look forward to another year of activity and spiritual growth.

Revd Tara Hellings

PASTORAL COMMITTEE

2023 – Another year with a full programme of events

During 2023 we organised 38 events for older people in the community and surrounds.

The Village Pump gatherings at the Hampshire Arms are held on the first Thursday of the month.

They continue to be enthusiastically supported by many older people from both villages. Between 25 and 45 attend with an average of about 35 across the year. The Coronation coffee morning in May was particularly well attended. Many thanks as ever to the Hampshire Arms who continue to support the Village Pump coffee mornings – it will be our eleventh anniversary in April 2024.

‘Singing for Fun’ led by Sally Hosken assisted by Liz Gruenstern continues to be enjoyed; up to 25 come along on the second Thursday of the month in Crondall Village Hall.

We put on a very successful ‘Big Day Out’ in June for 40 people who enjoyed a trip on a river boat from Runnymede to Windsor and lunch in The Royal Windsor pub under the massive walls of the castle itself.

We also held three brunches at Squires Garden Centre, three men’s ‘Pie and a Pint’ lunches, a games morning with a ploughman’s lunch, a skittles competition with basket meal, a summer tea party in Ewshot Village Hall, a celebration lunch to mark UK Older People’s Day at Crondall Village Hall and two Christmas lunches at the Hampshire Arms (as demand was so high).

This coming year we have a full programme of events – nearly 40 are planned and in the diary!

As ever, many thanks to the other Committee members - Caryl Martin, Pat Evans, Ann Botten and Sally Willshire and helpers Ann Linwood, Dai Rowlands and Melanie Puddick.

Monica Cheeseman and Tony Hopkins

EVENTS

Crondall The year has seen a number of concerts hosted in All Saints, raising much needed funds to go towards the All Saints West Ens Annex. Croft Café has also hosted a monthly film night. We also hosted a Harvest Lunch in All Saints and several mulled wine gatherings during Advent and Christmas. We look forward to hosting many more events in All Saints in the future, now that we have facilities and hot water.

Revd Tara Hellings

Ewshot (Faith Social Meetings) These meetings were re-established by Revd Tara in July 2023 and they take place in the homes of those attending on a rotating basis every other month.

During the 2 hours of the meeting there are many lively discussions about relevant topics. As an example – one member brought items to sell the proceeds going to a charity in Africa. The refreshments are provided by the host and thoroughly enjoyed by all.

Elisabeth Jenner

CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLES' MINISTRY REPORT

Our informal 4pm services continued to encourage and nurture a more formal approach to worship, with our young people reading the lesson and leading the prayers, and Natalia and Lara Webb playing the organ, followed by tea and cake after Crondall & Ewshot APCM May 2024 & Annual Reports to 31 Dec 2023

each service. Revd Lucy and I lead a weekly bible based assembly in Crondall Primary School, followed by ASK, our after school club designed to explore bible stories further (ASK).

I continued to lead worship and hold discussion groups in various year groups in my role as Chaplain at St Nicholas School, including a Big Questions session for each year group, inviting the girls to ask me any question about God and Christianity, with no question off limits. The questions stimulated interesting and varied discussions. I also led assemblies and workshops at Daneshill School. We hosted visits to All Saints Church by school and local uniformed groups including a scout sleepover. Music and Fun for Tinies and Tots also continued to welcome new parents every Friday morning in All Saints, run by me, Rev Lucy and Miranda Sargent in rotation.

Revd Tara Hellings

DATA PROTECTION

We have continued to ensure we are compliant with data protection laws. Our Data Privacy Policy has been published on the ASSM website and the notice boards in both churches, and Maria Bryant, our Parish Administrator, continued to shred documents containing irrelevant data, and carried out an audit of actions taken.

Revd Tara Hellings

MUSIC

Ewshot Jonathan Lattey and Nick Wilmer continue to enhance our morning worship with their organ playing, and the All Saints

Choir led the singing in celebration services including the Carol Service, which was greatly appreciated.

Revd Tara Hellings

Crandall Choir During 2023 the choir has worked hard to support the 9.30 am Sunday Service, to sing for several weddings and funerals, for Easter, then towards then end of the year, our usual Advent and Christmas Carol services.

As for last year, the choir remains rather small but there will continue to be a robed choir on most Sunday mornings for the foreseeable future. We have a number of “occasional” singers we can call on for special services.

A subset of the main choir also sings for Evensong every Sunday evening, when we are joined by several regular “Evensong singers”.

Anne Rogers

FLOWERS

St Mary’s Ewshot The members of the Ewshot Flower Guild have continued to decorate the church each week. We now have 17 loyal members who ensure that 2 pedestals are provided each week throughout the year.

They have decorated the whole church with appropriate displays for each festival and make special arrangements for other

services, for example, for the Bishop of Guildford's visit to commemorate the 150th 'birthday' of St Mary's church.

This year marks a new era as Jennifer Kelly and Mary Cranstone step down, with huge thanks, from their leadership role of the Ewshot Flower Guild, after decades at the helm. Sarah Phillips has gallantly stepped up to replace them.

This was marked by a hand-over meeting of the whole Guild in October 2023. At this meeting we discussed to potential to use more 'planet friendly' methods of flower arranging e.g. by replacing manufactured oasis with wire netting. We also planned the arrangements upcoming for 2024.

If anyone would like to be involved in flower arranging, please contact Sarah by email on ewshotflowerguild@gmail.com.

Mary Cranstone, Jennifer Kelly & Sarah Phillips

All Saints Crondall

2023/2024 has been a good year for the group. We had business from both wedding and funerals and had Lent Lunches, Easter Lilies the Kings Coronation, A Church Flower Show, Harvest, Remembrance and Christmas wreath making and Christmas flowers. We were also able to give a £500 donation to the West End door project and provide flowers for the opening event.

The bank Account started in March 2023 at a healthy: £1,135.6
2

Funds raised from events throughout the year reached: £4,031.4
2

Funds leaving the accounts to pay for these events and to pay for sundry items including the donation to the West End Project was: £3,148.0
6

This leaves us currently with an account balance of: £883.36

The money collected from the Easter Lilies is yet to be banked and totals currently: £185.00

These figures are very encouraging given that this year we haven't offered to make spring wreaths £171.81

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however we did do Lent Lunches and made a healthy (still to be banked):

This leaves the account due to reach:	£1,240.1
	7

This is a good start to the year and we plan to run the Flower Show again in the church at the end of July alongside the Produce show again in the Village hall since it was very much appreciated by the community.

I would like to thank everyone who has supported and continues to support us over the years and I look forward to our events in 2024 with much positivity that we can keep the church looking wonderful and festive throughout the sessions.

Julie Binks

Head of Flower Arranging

CRONDALL BELL TOWER

2023 was a busy year for the bellringers. We rang for every 9.30am Sunday service, 13 funerals/memorial services and 10 weddings. On Saturday 6th May twenty-two ringers gathered to ring the bells for the coronation of King Charles III, after which all were presented with a special limited-edition souvenir mug. Later that day we rang a special quarter peal to mark the occasion. In the lead-up to the coronation there was a national bellringers recruitment drive called “Ring For The King”, and all six of our newbies were able to ring for the occasion.

We have hosted many Farnham District ringing events, and for many of these we use the computer simulator so that the bells

are rung in the normal way but make no external sound. Our ringers have taken part in many guild and district ringing activities, including a special practice at Guildford Cathedral (involving 144 steps to the ringing room), a ringing ramble around London and an away-day to ring at Haslemere.

As reported last year, early in 2023 we were saddened by the passing of ringers Felix Lister and Michael Kelly. Later in the year we were also saddened by the death of one time Crondall ringer Toby Mann, at the young age of only 40.

The bells continue to be in good order, and no significant repairs are expected. We have mounted to wooden plaques in the ringing room in recognition of Crondall ringers Mike Kelly, and Alan & Diana Wood, all one-time officers of the tower.

The official positions at the end of 2023 were: Kevin & Ros Fox (Ringing Masters), Anne Smith (Secretary), Paul Smith (Bell Maintenance), Joseph Sharp (Treasurer), Deb Margason-Baker (Training).

We would like to thank the work of the whole team, including both ringers and non-ringing supporters, in ensuring that the sound of the bells continues to be heard across the village.

Kevin & Ros Fox

CREWalkers

There have been some key changes to the Crondall & Ewshot Walking Group this year, most notably the retirement of organisers Gerald & Pam Mansfield, who set up the group 15 years ago and, not surprisingly, felt it was time to hang up their Crondall & Ewshot APCM May 2024 & Annual Reports to 31 Dec 2023

walking boots, at least so far as making the arrangements is concerned. Organisation was taken over in August by Jen & Will Hobson as advisers to walk leaders and Sue Mitchell for correspondence. And whereas Gerald had diligently researched and planned every walk and lunch stop himself, we are now taking advantage of group members' local knowledge and walk experience and we all take turns to plan and lead walks.

We also agreed to change our regular walk day from 2nd Thursday to 3rd Thursday so that those who also like Singing for Fun, which clashed on the 2nd Thursday, can both sing and walk. As before, this is every month except August barring heavy weather and we now have a regular entry on the Events page of the Parish Magazine.

We had a full calendar of walks in 2023 with Gerald leading up to and including July and the baton being taken up in September - first by walk advisers Jen & Will Hobson for a walk around Froyle from the Hen & Chicken, then Helen & Paul Baker led the October walk from the Duke of Cambridge in Tilford, in November David Ranger took us in a circuit along the canal from the Winchfield Barley Mow and we finished the year in the Mansfield tradition with a local Crondall walk and lunch at The Plume of Feathers for 21 lunchers despite the appalling weather meant we had to re-route the walk to roads and hard-core tracks only. We enjoyed being part of the first Christmas for Emma & Gaz and hope they'll take us back again this year.

Sue Mitchell

CRONDALL PARISH MAGAZINE AND VILLAGE NEWS

Kate, Jenny, Christine and Vicky put together the last Parish Magazine under their Editorship for September 2023. We had years of enjoyment putting together articles and information with Jenny's super covers enhancing each edition.

We are delighted that Nathan and Katie Best have shown such enthusiasm in taking on the production of this valuable village asset, we wish them well. To Gill, for collecting each edition from the printers and to all of you who have spent hours delivering each edition and

collecting subscriptions, THANK YOU. Our thanks have also been expressed to all the regular and occasional contributors during our years in post.

Farewell! From the retired Editors

Hello from the new Editors!

Nathan and Katie here and we are delighted to be the new Editors of the Parish Magazine.

Magazine Stats

Each month approximately 520-535 copies of the Magazine are printed, with 440 copies being delivered to our subscribers by our 40 distributors.

The subscription cost is £10 for 10 annual issues. The remaining copies are offered for sale in both Crondall All Saints Church and St. Mary's Church Ewshot, the Croft Café and Crondall Stores for £1 each. Also, a current copy is always included within the Welcome Packs for new residents to the Villages.

The magazine is typically between 64 and 72 pages. The Classified Directory currently has around 60 advertisers. Since September 2023, and for the foreseeable future, we have sold the outside back cover to an advertiser and occasional 1/4 and 1/2 page adverts within.

Income and Expenditure

Subscriptions & Sales	£5,000
Printing	£3,900
Advertising	£4,000

New Features

To help the magazine appeal to a wider audience we have included new features such as a monthly craft, crossword or word search, Did You Know? and most recently 10 Questions With.

The Future

We are very keen to try and increase the readership of the magazine and expand its reach to the wider community in the Parish - potentially delivering to ALL houses.

The inside front and inside back covers are now colour and over time we hope to increase the number of colour pages until the magazine is full colour, to enable us to give the magazine more impact.

We would also very much like the magazine to be available for people to download from the website (this is something we have had requests for), at a slightly increased cost to cover fees. This could further increase readership and be a great source of extra revenue for our Churches.

We understand these ideas come at a cost and are looking at ways of increasing the Classified Adverts section as well as providing new practical promotional opportunities within the magazine, without it looking like it is full of adverts. This would help increase revenue and cover additional production and delivery costs.

Whilst we have added our own different ideas to the magazine, since becoming the new Editors, we are very keen for and actively encourage wider community involvement.

We are very grateful for the help of our regular contributors, as well as content from the different Social groups in the Parish, Events teams, Churches and the School. However we would always welcome more - so please do not hesitate to contact us with ideas, suggestions or content!

Thank you

Thank you so much to the previous editors. Kate Fagan, Jenny Blake-Baldwin, Christine Blundell and Vicky Assael, for all their work and in helping us to take over the magazine. A further thank you must also go to Richard Puddephatt for previously organising the Classified section. You have all earned a well-deserved rest!

A big thank you must go to all our amazing distributors, who both deliver the magazine to our subscribers and collect subscription money, when due for renewal - whatever the weather! We are so very grateful for their time and dedication.

Finally... thank you to all those who read and support the magazine. We look forward to continuing to bring you a magazine that truly emulates the wonderful communities that reside with our Parish.

Happy Reading.

Katie & Nathan Best

HOLY DUSTERS

Every month, a group of ladies clean and tidy the church. This is on the first Tuesday morning of the month, and usually consists of about five or six volunteers.

The church and vestry, are tidied, polished, cleaned, rearranged, if necessary, bins emptied, porch is swept and the toy area put back in order. This all takes a couple of hours.

When we have finished, the church looks lovely, smells clean and is ready for the following month's worship and community activities.

Thank you to all involved.

Dee Wall
Churchwarden

