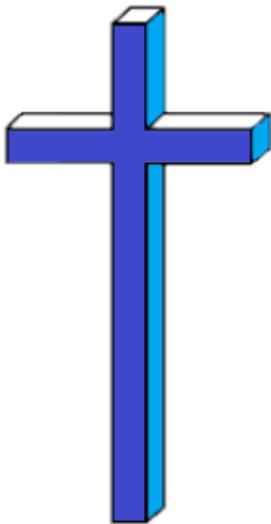


# Parish of Ashford Hill with Headley Diocese of Winchester



Credit: Diocese of Winchester



*Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and lean not on your own understanding; In all your ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct your paths.*

**Proverbs 3:5-6**

**WHO CARES?**



**Annual Report for the year ended  
31<sup>st</sup> December 2017**

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### **Administrative information**

The parish of Ashford Hill with Headley is one of two parishes which together make up the United Benefice of Kingsclere and Ashford Hill with Headley, within the Diocese of Winchester, within the Church of England Rev Ben Read is the incumbent.

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

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

The membership of the PCC during 2017 was as follows.

Vicar	Rev. Ben Read
Churchwarden	Penny Stewart (H) Georgi Selby (AH) – until April 2017 David Fowler (AH) – from April 2017
Deanery Synod member	Alison Goodyer David Hunt (from April 2017)
Elected Members (9)	Rachel Chamings (from Apr 16) Susie Sainsbury (from Apr 15) Colin Scott-Malden (from Apr 16) David Fowler (until April 17) Marilyne Simmonds(from Apr 15) Terry Richardson (from Apr 16) Vanessa Martin (fromApr 16) Jane Loveless (from Apr 17)
Secretary	Emma Rivers (non-voting member)

### **Structure, governance and management**

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

#### **Officers of the PCC**

Chair: Rev Ben Read

Treasurer: Colin Scott-Malden

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

Safeguarding Officer: Emma Rivers

Electoral Roll Officer: Rachel Chamings

Certain tasks are delegated to sub-Committees as follows:

#### **Fete Committee**

#### **Finance Committee**

Full reports from these committees follow.

#### **Objectives**

The Ashford Hill with Headley PCC has the responsibility of co-operating with the incumbent, in promoting in the ecclesiastical parish the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelistic, social

and ecumenical. It also has maintenance responsibilities for the parish churches and their churchyards.

### **Annual report of PCC**

The PCC met 5 times during the year in addition to a brief meeting following the Annual Meeting to elect officers. The average level of attendance was 85%.

During the year, the PCC:

- Discussed and implemented changes to the pattern and style of services in the parish as well as inviting feedback on these changes.
- Surveyed and responded to our local community under the banner of “Who Cares”
- Saw Bryony appointed as a Licenced Lay Minister in our benefice, and Steve had his permission renewed.
- Monitored the financial position of the parish
- received reports on the state of the church buildings and churchyards
- agreed special services in the parish (i.e. Seder Meal and Harvest)
- supported a very successful fete and concerts
- agreed plans for storage solutions in St Paul’s
- oversaw repair to the bell at St Peter’s.

This report was adopted by the PCC at its meeting on 19<sup>th</sup> March 2018

Signed: Rev Ben Read (Chair)

The following sections give more detail on the life of the parish.

## **Regular Worship and Pastoral Offices**

Having been part of the church family for a year, I spent some time prayerfully considering how we might change the pattern of services in the benefice to make them more accessible to everyone in our community. Having discussed with churchwardens, PCC and others involved in worship we decided to commence a 6 month trial of the new service pattern in May 2017. While the majority of changes to the service pattern have taken place in Kingsclere, the churches in Ashford Hill and Headley have seen very little difference in the style and times of worship. The existing pattern of one 8am and one 10.30am service per month at each church has enabled us to offer traditional worship every Sunday in the benefice for those that prefer it. An additional 8am service has been added in the parish on the 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday when there is one.

The Bible readings used during all services have tended to follow a series through a book of the Bible. This helps to explore the Bible as it was meant to be read and gives continuity each week.

We will continue to listen to God to and pray that the services might develop in the way He wants them to. We're on a journey and I'm looking forward to the next stage in the coming year.

This year, we had the privilege of being involved in 4 weddings, 7 baptisms, and 13 funerals in this parish. As ever, these were a good opportunity of showing the love of God to our community at significant times in their lives. Thank you to all those involved in this valuable ministry and all our regular worship services.

*Rev Ben*

## **New service pattern – consultation and feedback**

The new pattern of services was introduced into the benefice in April 2017. Built into the implementation was a consultation and feedback process which was undertaken in July and October 2017. Many parishioners responded, with over 70 individual responses containing over 300 comments on various aspects of the changes. The focus of the survey was to consider what aspects of the changes were most likely to bring new worshippers into the churches and worshipping community. People were also asked what changes they thought were least likely to encourage new worshippers.

Many honest, thoughtful and considered replies were received and analysed (the full analysis of responses was available on request ) and some immediate changes were made as a response, including the addition of a second monthly Holy Communion service at St Mary's. The timings of the services and the effects on all the churches in the Benefice were also re-examined and modified arrangements made for a more measured start to the services where necessary.

*Maggy Wallace*

## **Morning Prayer**

Morning Prayer happens at St Mary's Kingsclere on Wednesdays and at St Peter's, Headley on Fridays, at 9am. A traditional form of prayer is used, including Bible readings, prayers for the benefice, and for people ill, or bereaved. A small number of faithful souls attend. Any others wishing to join us would be most welcome!

*Bryony White*

## **Prayer & Praise**

Most months from April 2017 onwards we have been holding Prayer & Praise evenings which have been an opportunity to learn new worship songs and to pray for the things that are happening to our churches. This has been an added opportunity to gather from across the churches, providing fellowship and encouraging us to worship and pray together.

*Rev Ben*

## **Lent Group**

The Lent Course this year was based on The Archbishop of Canterbury's Lent book, 'Dethroning Mammon: Making money serve grace'. Between 25-30 studied the book under the guidance of Maggy Wallace. Looking at money and materialism we reflected on how the impact of our own attitudes, and the pressures that surround us, affect how we handle money. At times hard-going, the course gave us much to think about and challenge in our own lives.

*Maggy Wallace*

## **"Alpha in the Afternoon"**

During the spring and summer of 2017 we ran a benefice Alpha Course in the Kingsmill Room. Those attending explored God and Christianity through the Alpha course material and enjoyed cakes and fellowship too. The friendship that built up during the course led to a Bible study group being formed to continue to study God's word.

*Rev Ben*

## **Kingsmill Bible Study Group**

Following on from the Alpha course, the Bible study group met weekly throughout the rest of the year and have read the Bible, discussed questions and then thought about the implications on their lives of the scripture. Studies have looked at the Gospel of Mark as well as St Paul's letter to the Philippians. All are welcome to join us as the sessions continue into 2018.

*Melanie Townsend*

## **Bible Book Club**

An idea from the Bible Society, the "Bible Book Club" sessions are stand-alone Bible study evenings which were introduced in our benefice in the later part of 2017. They are a way in which to study the Bible without commitment to an ongoing Bible study meeting. Studies have included Jonah, 1 John and Malachi.

*Rev Ben*

## **Novena**

Thy Kingdom come Novena is a national call to all Christians to pray for the 9 days between Ascension Day and Pentecost for more people to come to know Jesus. A variety of events took place in the Benefice during that period in 2017; a service in Headley on Ascension Day, a Prayer & Praise evening, a Prayer Walk around Kingsclere, Early Morning Prayer (at 6am) with the 9 days culminating in the Beacon Event in Winchester Cathedral which several of us attended, and where the Archbishop of Canterbury preached. We look forward to more creative ways of praying "Thy Kingdom Come" in 2018.

*Rev Ben*

## **Licensed Lay Ministers (LLM)**

On 14th October, seven of us, who have completed the three year Lay Minister training in the Winchester Diocese, were licensed in the cathedral, during what was a wonderful and affirming service. Many other lay people were formally recognised in new pastoral and worship leading roles, during the service, too. It was lovely that so many of our family and friends, and congregation members, could be there, and thank you to everyone who made the journey, from this benefice.

It's a real privilege to be an LLM (Licensed Lay Minister, previously known as a Lay Reader). My training has, I hope, equipped me to be of real service, and I am completely open to God as to the form this may take.

Ben and I meet regularly; at the moment, I take Communion to people at home, begin the Communion Services at Headley and at Ashford Hill, and lead the monthly Home Communion service at Rose Hodson Court in Kingsclere.

Readers are able to take funerals; this is something I would love to do, as time goes on, and I am working alongside Ben, visiting, and beginning to assist, as invited by families.

I'm delighted that Steve Green is resuming his role as Reader (I can't stop using the old name) and look forward to working with him again, all of us contributing our different gifts.

*Bryony White*

As many of you will be aware, I have recently been relicensed (technically given temporary permission to officiate as a licenced lay minister!) as a LLM. Work duties and family commitments keep me away from the Benefice quite often, but I am looking forward to supporting Ben and Bryony in what they do for us. A lot of people support the ongoing worship of Christ in our villages, with Gods help and your continued support I hope to also play a part.

*Steve Green*

### **Monthly Benefice Prayer Diary**

Evelyn Barr and I have produced a monthly Benefice Prayer Diary for four years. The diary has included prayer for baptisms, weddings and other benefice events, a cycle of prayer for all roads, shops and businesses in the neighbourhood, and gives the Old and New Testament Morning Prayer reading for the Church of England, every day, to help people have a focus for reading the bible, if they would like it. At the start of 2018 we have taken a break, so that the Diary can be reviewed, but would value suggestions about any new form the diary may take!

*Bryony White and Evelyn Barr*

### **Prayer Circle**

The Prayer Circle continues, as a small group of parishioners who include people in their personal prayers for long periods of time. This particular prayer support is mainly offered for those experiencing long term illness, or difficult circumstances. It's impractical to keep names on the weekly Pew Slip for long periods of time, and sometimes, people ask for prayer, but privately. Requests for prayer can come from anyone. The team includes several older very faithful congregation members who are no longer able to attend services regularly yet can offer this very valuable ministry from home.

*Bryony White, Licensed Lay Minister*

### **Benefice Prayer Group**

The benefice prayer group meets at 9.30 am every Friday in the Kingsmill Room. We begin with a short time of worship and meditation on a passage of Scripture. We then pray for those benefice needs that are known to us and time permitting widen our concerns to include the nation, government and church. All personal topics are kept in the strictest confidence

*Rev Neil Britton*

### **Pastoral Care**

The pastoral visiting team continue to support Ben in the essential pastoral work of the benefice. All members of the team have undertaken specific preparation for their role and offer visits and other means of contact support, as required. Individuals needing support can self-refer, be identified by the vicar or by others who see a need. Support can vary from visits (usually monthly), phone or email contact or, exceptionally, longer term arrangements can be put place. A range of individuals are currently helped in this way. Contacts are much appreciated and visits bring benefits both to those being visited and to those visiting. The team meet on a regular basis to identify, confidentially, any issues for consideration and possible resolution and to support their work and each other prayerfully and pastorally. If you know of anyone from the church family who might appreciate a visit, within the benefice, please contact Ben, Bryony or Maggy.

*Maggy Wallace*

### **Home Communion**

People who are housebound are able to receive communion at home. Seven people, at the moment, receive this, usually once a month. Referrals have usually come from the vicar. The home communion

service is about thirty minutes; usually a shorter order of Common Worship is used, but some choose the Book of Common Prayer with King James readings, or a very simple service from the hospital chaplaincy team. The whole visit lasts about an hour, making time for friendship and general catching up as well. The visits are a privilege to do. They help people continue to be a valued part of the church family. If you know of anyone who may appreciate communion at home please contact Ben, Bryony or Maggy,  
*Bryony White*

### **Mission & Outreach**

#### **Community Lunches**

The Community Shop lunches continue to be a meeting point for a regular band of residents and Ben has started a drop-in session in the Community Room. On December 12<sup>th</sup> Ben joined us at the Community Shop carols where Evelyn yet again saved the day by playing for us as poor Mary Bayly had been taken ill

*Penny Stewart*

### **Stewardship of our resources**

#### **Churchwarden's Report – St Paul's, Ashford Hill**

Our thanks go to all the teams of cleaners, flower arrangers, graveyard carers, coffee makers, as well as the readers, sidespersons and servers upon whose generous gifts of time we all depend for the maintenance of the church and services. In particular I would like to mention Vanessa Martin, whose tireless efforts to raise money and present music in many forms go far beyond our expectations of the organist!

*David Fowler, Churchwarden of Ashford Hill*

#### **Churchwarden's Report – St Peter's, Headley**

In April we welcomed back our refurbished bell and Helen Piper rang it for the first time at our 10.30 service on May 14<sup>th</sup>. It is now rung regularly by Helen and Evelyn Hiscock. Just in time for Christmas we put up some safety handles to make our entrance step more user friendly, and the outside light was replaced with a much more appropriate fitting as requested by Daniel Forshaw in the last QI. The light on the corner has now been replaced with a similar one. All this work has been made possible by a bequest from the McSwiney family which was designated for fabric work at St. Peter's.

We are very grateful for the regular church cleaning undertaken by Wally Kingston and his son, and it is lovely to welcome Roy into our 10.30 service. The churchyard continues to be kept tidy by Ray and Pete Coventry, and Pete also helps clean the gutters and replace the odd light bulb, but hopefully not so often now as we have gone LED. Thank you to them all and also to Jane Loveless and her merry band of Flower Ladies who keep the Church decorated. In the cooler months we are very appreciative to Diane Crook who switches on the heating before our services and guarantees us a warm welcome.

Thanks to the inspiration of our LLM Bryony White we have been able to maintain our 10.30 starts, Bryony begins the service and Ben is able to slip in almost unnoticed. One week when Bryony was unavailable Evelyn Hiscock started us with a hymn which finished just as Ben came in!

We very much appreciate all the hard work which Michael and Sandra Everitt put into the monthly magazine and we had a very jolly Christmas get together to thank them and their loyal magazine deliverers at Aurora.

*Penny Stewart, Churchwarden of Headley*

#### **Buildings and Churchyards**

Early in 2017 the PCC decided it was not appropriate to start another £200,000 fundraising campaign so soon after the previous one, which had been so generously supported. This meant some hard decisions had to be taken. The priorities were to complete the steeple repointing, use

the old flower vestry for storage and to create cupboard space at the rear of the church. These could all be achieved with the funds from the original campaign and will be completed in 2018.

There remain issues around the floor, which needs shoring up and replacing, and about space for storage of chairs and tables so that they are not visible inside the church. These have been deferred but not forgotten, and it remains the PCC's intention to continue discreet fund raising to build towards another campaign when the work becomes essential.

Enormous efforts have been made to regain control of the graveyard, and in particular the rampant bracken. The breakthrough came when Stuart Butler very kindly offered and delivered his services and we hope to maintain this regime. We have also started a dedicated churchyard fund to which certain families with graves are contributing, and we shall use this to tackle the more challenging work to facilitate easier maintenance.

*David Fowler, Churchwarden*

### **Reports from Sub-Committees or other officers**

#### **Fete Sub Committee**

Thanks to a glorious sunny day and loads of hard work from the Community our fete on Saturday 3rd June on Headley Recreation Ground raised a record £6937 for St. Paul's and St. Peter's Churches.

The fete was opened by the Reverend Ben Read and the entertainment began with the Cheam School String Quartet followed by the Cold Ash Brass Band. In the main ring Ray Prior put on an enthralling display with his birds of prey and Carl Pettiman amused the children with magic and balloon artistry. The ever popular dog show featured new classes including best-looking rescue dog and best six legs!

The stalls round the main ring included a very popular Pimms Tent, Egg Throwing, Bottle Tombola, Face Painting, Coconut Shy, Stocks, Bric-a-brac, Plant Stall and of course the Café and Bar. Another new edition was a Nursery Rhyme Scarecrow competition displayed in the Grand Raffle Tent.

It would not have been possible without EVERYONE who helped plan, set-up, run the stalls on the day and clear up and sort out afterwards. THANK YOU TO YOU ALL.

*Graham and Penny*

#### **Parish Magazine**

2017 was not such a profitable year for church funds as the total raised was only £1,322.50 compared with £2,410 in 2016 which, as the publishers, we felt slightly disappointing. The reason for the loss of revenue was mainly due to advertisers not renewing their adverts stating that they had to make cut backs in the current financial climate although we have held advertising costs the same for the last three years. We did go out to find new advertisers, but success was very limited.

As magazine publishers we are concerned that should we be unable to produce the magazine we have nobody who currently has any knowledge as to how and what is involved in its preparation. As a result of this concern we wrote an article stating what we do each month from receiving articles/notices, their preparation on computer, magazine layout through to collecting the finished magazines from the printer. We also mentioned the advertising side and collecting payments for adverts. The article was published for two consecutive months within the magazine asking if anyone would like to help or get involved in any way and possibly with a view to taking over at some time in the future. Sadly we had not a single offer of assistance on the preparation of articles, layout, dealing with advertisers, collecting advertisers' payments etc. We did have one offer to help with distribution only.

We have also asked if anyone would like to contribute articles either as a one off or on a monthly basis to add to those people who currently write articles which help to make the magazine more interesting for the readers. Again sadly no offers. So there must start to be a big question over the future of the magazine.

Finally once again our thanks must go to Carl, our printer, at Advance Printing on Greenham Common for all his help in printing the magazine. We also wish to thank all those who regularly write articles each month, our advertisers and all our distributors for their support and help.

*Sandra & Michael Everitt*

### **Whitchurch Deanery Synod**

Our Parish is represented on the Deanery Synod by Alison Goodyer and David Hunt but across the benefice also by Ben Read, Nick Selsey & Chryssie Green too.

Our Parish is represented on the Deanery Synod by Ben Read, Nick Selsey & Chryssie Green. The Deanery Synod meets four times a year, at different church halls within our area. The reason for the Deanery Synod is to understand the relationship of each parish within our diocese, how we are affected by the decisions taken by Winchester and Canterbury.

### Mityana Outreach

The focus of outreach this year has been our progress with our sister church in Mityana. Our coordinator Revd Dodie Marsden presented us with progress from the water project and the visit to Mityana. The visit in Feb / Mar 2018 to Mityana will include Janet Larkins from St Mary's who will be involved with our link church and school.

### Treasurer Report

We have discussed the changes to finances within the dioceses, the parish share contributions for 2017-8, the share allocation method and the Diocesan Working Group and how these will affect the contributions made by individual churches and the changes this will bring to our full-time ministry team within the dioceses.

### Deanery Mission and Pastoral Committee

The Eco Church is being discussed with talks given by A Rocha UK, CRES, Christian Aid and Tearfund. Bishop David is actively asking us to engage with environmental issues and to help our churches and communities to becoming part of this initiative.

### The Rural Dean

The Rev Kelvin Inglis stepped down as Rural Dean this year as he moved from Whitchurch parish to become Rector of St. Thomas and St. Edmund in Salisbury. The new rural dean is the Rev Craig Marshall from St Mary Bourne. He got to work straight away and out lined the process of managing the future shape of the ministry in our Diocese, the different MAP's and how to outreach to more people with a sharing approach across the deanery.

*Ben Read, Nick Selsey, Chryssie Green, Alison Goodyer & David Hunt*

**Ashford Hill with Headley Financial Statement for year ended  
31'st December 2017**

<u>Income</u>	2016	2017
<b>Income from Donors</b>		
Planned giving	30554	28660
Income tax recovered	15968	8664
Non Gift Aid	2175	1100
Collection and other giving	3285	3167
Sundry donations	2938	3153
VAT Reclaim	9633	15618
<b>Income from Activities</b>		
Fete Gross	3160	6937
That's Entertainment	1765	
Jumble Sale	2048	
Fundraising	36786	11833
Hire of church		50
Magazine	8292	6612
Parochial fees retained for PCC	4998	5172
Grant from Ashford Hill PC	-	
<b>Income from Investments</b>		
Interest on unrestricted funds	150	90
Interest on restricted funds		
Interest on McSwiney fund	77	46
Payments received for Diocese	1722	2117
 <b><u>Total Receipts</u></b>	 <u>123548</u>	 <u>93219</u>

<u>Payments</u>	2016	2017
<b>Church Activities</b>		
Diocesan Parish share	38892	38892
Incumbent expenses, inc. secretary	4516	5176
Assistant Clergy expenses	224	139
Church running expenses, electricity, insurance	4164	6427
Church Maintenance: organ tuning, fire inspection	3863	2324
Support costs	225	80
Churchyard maintenance: tree & grass cutting	1028	631
Magazine printing	5904	5290
Salaries/Honorariums: Verger, organist	1752	1830
Title deed registration	-	
Screen for Ashford Hill		157
Payments to Diocese	1710	1616
Cost of services/licences	-	
Church Administration costs	401	749
Capital expenditure	8621	1442
	52432	10862
	-	
VAT reclaimed on Capital expenditure		
Remembrance Day	463	487
Other Giving		600
<b>Total Payments</b>	<b>124196</b>	<b>76700</b>
<b>Total Receipts</b>	<b>123548</b>	<b>93219</b>
<b>Excess of receipts over payments</b>	<b>-647</b>	<b>16520</b>
Balances at beginning of the year	97089	96442
Excess of receipts over payments	-647	16520
Creditors Previous year (unpresented cheques)	-	
Debtors Previous Year		
Creditors (unpresented cheques)		
Debtors (uncleared deposit)	-	
<b><u>Total Funds</u></b>	<b><u>96442</u></b>	<b><u>112962</u></b>

Notes: Clergy expenses includes telephone, postage, stationery, transport, secretarial assistance, office equipment, maintenance of robes, hospitality, provision of locum tenens and visiting speakers.

Some expenses are shared with Kingsclere.

Figures are rounded to nearest £1

## Bank Accounts

	Balances as at 31-12-2016	Interest	Balances as at 31-12-2017	
Deposit Account	32004	90	32094	
McSwiney Bequest account	16365	46	16411	
Current Account	48073		64456	
Totals	<u>96442</u>		<u>112962</u>	Actual figures

**INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT**  
**TO**  
**THE PCC OF ASHFORD HILL WITH HEADLEY**

I report on the accounts for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> December 2017 which are set out on pages

Respective responsibilities of the Trustees and Independent Examiner

The charity's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act) and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to

- examine the accounts under section 145 of the 2011 Act;
- follow the procedures laid down in the General Directions given by the Charity Commissioners section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act; and
- state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of Independent Examiner's Statement

My examination was carried out in accordance with the General Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from the management committee concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in a full audit, and consequently I do not express an audit opinion on the accounts.

Independent Examiner's Statement

In connection with my examination, no matters have come to my attention

1. which give me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements to keep accounting records in accordance with s.130 of the 2011 Act; or to prepare accounts which accord with these accounting records have not been met; or

2. to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Signed  .....

Dated *29/3/18* .....

R. Hopes, FCA

Bell House, Ashford Hill, Thatcham, Berks. RG19 8BB