

Sheet

PARISH PROFILE



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BISHOP'S WELCOME

The Diocese of Portsmouth is in good heart and together we have heard God's call to Live, Pray and Serve the Kingdom of Christ, in and for the world.

If you sense the good Lord is calling you to join in with this beautiful work of retrieval and love we will be ready to receive you – all that you bring – in the days ahead.

With my prayers and blessing,



THE RT REV JONATHAN FROST,
BISHOP OF PORTSMOUTH



ARCHDEACON'S WELCOME

Petersfield deanery has an exciting vision for parishes and clergy. The deanery plan involves each stipendiary priest giving 30% of their time to building and supporting a particular area of ministry across the deanery. For St Mary Magdalen's, the intention is that the incumbent will give 30% of their time to developing and championing mission, outreach and evangelism across the deanery. There's more information about this part of the role in the appendix.

St Mary Magdalen, Sheet, is a dynamic parish with much to offer the community and the deanery. We're looking for a priest and leader who can enable and energise the parish for the next step in its life and ministry- someone who can give energy and direction to this parish, and to help it to fulfil its potential across the town and deanery. If you have a calling to enable a community and every person in it to find and respond to their calling and vocation, I hope you'll explore this role further.

Sheet is part of a group ministry with St Peter's, Petersfield and St Mary's Buriton, and the person appointed will be team player, developing a culture where the churches work together to serve the whole community, especially those places which the Church has not yet reached.

Rev Canon Will Hughes, Acting Archdeacon of the Meon
Rev Dr Susie Collingridge, Area Dean

DEANERY INTRODUCTION

PETERSFIELD DEANERY

Not all deaneries are the same! We may be biased, but we think that Petersfield Deanery is quite special.

The Deanery Chapter has developed into a warm and supportive community of stipendiary and self-supporting clergy. Meeting on alternate weeks over a lunchtime enables us to keep in touch, to share and pray in an enjoyable environment of mutual respect, learning and encouragement. It is important for us to keep growing together and for anyone joining us to become a full and positive part of this community.

The Deanery Synod, and its active Standing Committee has become a place of energy (surprising, I know!) which has been learning to work well together as its members have prayerfully forged a plan to build the Kingdom of God here, in the Deanery Mission Action Plan. We want to value the best of what we are while reaching and praying for the 'more' that we could be.

An essential part of our progress is the 'Deanery Lead Roles' attached to all the parish incumbent posts. These include:

- 'Growing Faith' (children and young people),
- Mission, Evangelism and Outreach,
- Anna Chaplaincy (Older adults),
- Developing Lay Ministry,
- and Area Dean.

This is an exciting time to be part of life here as we bring that innovative vision into reality. The next few years are important ones as these roles are established and developed. Crucially, each individual works across the deanery in their lead area, linking with lay people in creating a Task Group and coordinating with fellow clergy who in turn provide support in different



areas. Firmly based in parishes (0.7), deanery lead roles will constitute 0.3 of the post, and will be reviewed after 3 years to allow role holders to move focus. The lead roles provide the opportunity for their holders to think creatively and strategically and to act sensitively and energetically across the deanery.

We hope that you will be excited by the prospect of working here, being embedded in your own parish community, while making the most of the rare chance to use and develop your experience of working and relating beyond parish boundaries.

We look forward to meeting you and serving Christ alongside you.



WELCOME

We welcome your interest in our Church and ask you to pray for us and with us. This profile is offered as an aid to those seeking to discern whether they are called to be considered for appointment as our next incumbent.

We commit to seeking, with God's help, to nurture the faith and the future ministry of our new leader.

This document contains hyperlinks (e.g. sheet.church) where appropriate.



THIS PAINTING IS BY HAZEL LANGLEY, A LOCAL ARTIST AND CHURCH MEMBER, AND IS USED WITH PERMISSION.



THE CHURCH

Sheet Church is an open, evangelical, Anglican fellowship within the largely rural Petersfield deanery in the Portsmouth diocese of the Church of England. The Church is comparatively well-resourced and has a desire to be led to grow in depth, in impact and in number; we are receptive to development of the Church in new directions. Its members come from the market town of Petersfield, from Sheet and surrounding villages on the rural border of East Hampshire with West Sussex, and from a wide variety of backgrounds and traditions. We are now seeking a new leader (a new incumbent) to take us forward.

This vacancy comes at a time when both the deanery and the diocese are facing significant change as they engage with the challenges of our contemporary world. We are keen to play our part in developing and participating in the mission of the deanery, including supporting other Churches as we are able and joining in multi-Church initiatives.

The Church aspires to being lively, welcoming and outgoing, seeking to move forward in discipleship, service and mission as children of the Father, as disciples of Christ the Son and empowered by the Holy Spirit. In its practice and services, the Church embraces both traditional and modern approaches. It is open to both Word and Spirit.

Approximately 50% of members live outside the parish of St Mary Magdalen Sheet, which itself includes Sheet village and the adjacent northern area of Petersfield. Attendance at services on a typical pre-Covid Sunday had been 80-100 adults, plus children and young people (the figures for 2019 are appended). During Covid lockdowns, the Church

developed pre-recorded, structured, online Sunday services (1 hour, on YouTube) including music, interviews, sermon and a simple liturgy. In-church services resumed progressively.

Sunday services at 10 am in church are now also live-streamed and are made available as recordings. The funding for high quality live-streaming was donated by Church members in 2021, alongside the simultaneous provision of a new digital projector by the Friends of Sheet Church.

The employment of a Youth Worker and a Seniors Chaplain were major initiatives. An exciting development in the last two years has been the arrival of a significant number of families who are now actively seeking to play a full part in Church life.

Ministry is typically Christ-centred and missional, with a Biblical emphasis. The Church is currently served by a ministry team which meets weekly for devotions and prayer and includes four volunteer ministers, the full-time Youth Worker and the part-time Seniors Chaplain, with occasional support from visiting retired clergy.



LINDA CLIST



ANDY EDMUNDS



DAVID LOVELESS



MICK MICKLETHWAITE



BOB SLADE



JULIE SLADE



Andy and Mick are self-supporting clergy who have stepped down from full-time parish ministry, Linda is a lay minister and former teacher, Bob is a lay minister and academic research scientist, David is the Church's Youth Worker, and Julie is its Seniors Chaplain and the deanery's Champion for work with older people and Anna Chaplaincy.

A statement of Vision and Values (given here as an appendix) has underpinned the Church's ministry in recent years; we anticipate that this will be reviewed after the appointment of our new leader. The Church website (sheet.church) includes links to recent talks, to recorded services and to the Church's detailed, but accessible, annual report (A year in the life of... – available in the archive section of the website).

Much that is currently characteristic of the Church will be evident from this profile. Focused prayer and Parochial Church Council (PCC) discussions have led to continuing emphasis on the following, as part of the ongoing and developing mission plan:



- Biblical teaching
- Ministry to all ages
- Mission and outreach, locally and more widely
- Developing and strengthening prayer and Spiritual life
- Promoting wider involvement of the whole Church family
- Developing stewardship, including finances, caring for creation, use of time and of God-given talents
- Developing ministry to men

The Church is open to change and future development.

THE CHURCH IN ACTION

WORSHIP, SERVICES AND MUSIC

Sheet Church embraces worshippers from a wide range of Christian backgrounds and traditions. We have a mixed ecology in worship, ranging from traditional services without music through to less formal services with blended worship (mixing modern and traditional worship, including music, with 'thinkspots', interviews and drama).

There are currently two weekly Sunday services: an 8 am communion service (quiet, ministers robed, reflective, traditional, without music) and a 10 am service (a more informal liturgy, ministers not robed, music typically led by organ or keyboard or band) that takes differing forms week by week.

There is a spoken communion service in church on Wednesday mornings and a monthly Sunday service of praise and prayer at 6:30 pm. The current detailed pattern, with attendances, is summarised in an appendix. Prior to Covid, one Parish Communion per quarter was a designated healing service.

The Church has a volunteer Director of Music supported by a group of musicians who, together, make up the worship band.

The church fabric includes a classical pipe organ and a recently renewed keyboard. Parish Communion services and major festivals are supported by a choir which robes on special occasions.





PRAYER

In addition to corporate prayer during our services, further opportunities for central and personal prayer include:

- A weekly prayer group within the parish.
- Opportunities for individual prayer ministry after every 10 o'clock service.
- A prayer circle of members who can be contacted with special or urgent prayer requests.
- One-off days of prayer in the church, praying for particular situations and events e.g. Brexit, deanery reorganisation, the vacancy, a new incumbent.
- Sheet Church has organised annual 24/7 prayer times e.g. in church between Ascension and Pentecost, or, in conjunction with other local Churches, a pop-up daytime prayer room in the centre of Petersfield over the same period.



PASTORAL CARE

Mutual support and care are characteristic within the Church and of the Church as a whole; this has extended to areas such as planned temporary support with meals and networks for mutual support during the pandemic. A Pastoral Group supplies confidential pastoral support, the incumbent being a member of the group. Members of the Pastoral Group carry out home visits, which can include communion.

HOME GROUPS

These form a key component of pastoral care and support within the Church. They exist for fellowship, study, prayer and mutual support. Every Church member is encouraged to join a Home Group or a supportive, complementary expression such as the Oasis group for older people. Each of the 6 home groups has a different character and a different clientele. Some undertake Bible study and occasional socials, others are much less formal and discussions-based. Similarly, while all home groups meet on weekdays, typically once a week, some groups meet in the afternoon and some in the evening. The Home Groups coordinator provides support to group leaders and information to potential new members.

CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE

Our children's and youth work is led by a dedicated team. This area is considered highly important both for the present health of the Church and for its future. Our full-time youth worker is funded largely by designated giving (and associated Gift Aid) and focuses on work with young and older teenagers, including in secondary schools and at other sites in Petersfield; he is also a member of the deanery committee on work in and with schools.





On Sunday mornings (during most 10 am services) a crèche, The Ark, for primary school aged children and the youth-worker-led Upper Room, for the secondary age group, take place in Sheet Village Hall. During the week, activities for young people are organised and led by the youth worker (Costa, Churcher's College Christian Union, SMART, multi-church Unite). Additional events also happen throughout the year, including a weekend summer camp. During each school term, one service at 10 am is ably led by the Youth and a youth band.

WORK WITH AND FOR OLDER PEOPLE

The Oasis ministry is a Fresh Expression of Church for older people and is led by the Seniors Chaplain, who is also a licensed Anna Chaplain. This post was funded initially by generous legacies and for the following 3 years by the Henry Smith Charity, who have renewed their funding for an additional 2 years. Oasis has been the Church's response to having identified the needs of older people, the less mobile and the isolated.



The ministry is aligned with the national BRF Anna Chaplaincy organisation and includes fortnightly services in accessible surroundings, occasional socials and shared meals, visiting people in their homes and Holiday at Home (whole day activities including a Christian message). Leaders and helpers assist with transport but there is also help available from the Lady Macdonald taxi fund, a designated legacy. Oasis is part of the Church's missional outreach; several Oasis members have had little, or no, previous Church background

and many older Church members can no longer attend the church itself (due to problems of parking, mobility, seating, and the lack of a toilet).

The ministry also includes links with local care and nursing homes, including, when possible, monthly services (sometimes with communion) led by a chaplaincy team. The Seniors Chaplain visits and supports nursing homes' residents and their families and is also on call for that purpose. Intergenerational activities have included gatherings mixing both children and older people, for instance during a tea as part of Holiday at Home.



OUTREACH AND MISSION

The Church supports external, Kingdom-growing, missions work outside of Sheet Church. The Missions Group recommends to the Parochial Church Council (PCC), spends from the Church's missions budget, which is at least 10% of unrestricted and undesignated giving (including Gift Aid) to the Church in the preceding year. This is typically ca. 7% of the Church's total budget. The group also supports the incumbent in raising awareness of missions work and in recommending special collections.

Annual missions spending had been around £12,000 but in 2021 it was £18,000, incorporating a refund from a national charity.

The following organisations were supported: A Rocha International, Acorn Christian Healing Trust, Bible Society, BRF Anna Chaplaincy, DFN UK (working in India), Great Lakes Outreach (working in Burundi), Home Start Butser (a local charity), In Ministry to Children (Colombia), International Justice Mission, The King's Arms (Petersfield youth project), Tearfund, Youth with a Mission (living expenses for a missionary called from our congregation).





The Church is also committed to local outreach. This has included activities such as door-to-door visiting of all homes and streets in the parish (with advance warning and an offer of prayer) by members of the congregation in pairs. Home Groups welcome several who do not attend other Church activities. The Church has run Alpha courses, as both daytime and evening variants, for several years. Annual open-air services (notably around the time of the festival of St Mary Magdalen) are held in Sheet village.

SAFEGUARDING, RECRUITMENT AND DATA

The procedures followed in these areas are defined in a set of policies and protocols which are generally derived from diocesan templates. The Church seeks to comply with the General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR) and a PCC member is the designated internal GDPR adviser.

The Church takes very seriously its moral and legal obligation to safeguard children, young people and vulnerable adults. Its safeguarding policy incorporates the Church of England's national and diocesan guidelines (Parish Safeguarding) and implementation is in accord with governmental guidelines.

During the current vacancy, safeguarding is led by an in-house Safeguarding officer. All PCC members are Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) checked as trustees of the Church as a charity and receive safeguarding training to at least the basic level. All salaried staff and all volunteer staff are safely recruited, including the DBS process appropriate to each role, and receive safeguarding training at up to and including the appropriate levels. Disclosures and training are renewed periodically.

FURTHER REGULAR ACTIVITIES



The Church actively participates in Petersfield Area Churches Together (PACT), which brings together almost all the local Churches for collective services

in January, at Easter and at Christmas. PACT has its own website (pact.org.uk) and is active in the local community in many ways, including running the Petersfield Foodbank and providing a Christmas Day meal for those otherwise on their own.

The Church became an A Rocha Eco Church 5 years ago, has since gained an A Rocha bronze award and is working towards a silver award. The Ecology Group offers weekly green tips in the pew sheet and longer articles in the monthly NewSheet magazine. It has developed links with groups in the other Anglican Churches in the Petersfield Group and with Petersfield Climate Action Network.

The women of the Church invite local women 3 times a year to a brunch with worship, prayer and a talk from an external motivational speaker in the Herne Farm Leisure Centre, which is central to Sheet and Petersfield. Women's Brunch attracts participants widely from across the whole spectrum of PACT Churches and beyond.





THE CONTEXT

DIOCESE, DEANERY AND LOCAL CHURCHES

The Diocese of Portsmouth is the smallest diocese in mainland England, with one Bishop and three Archdeacons. Sheet is in the Archdeaconry of the Meon and its constituent Petersfield Deanery; maps showing the St Mary Magdalen parish and the deanery are given as an appendix. Sheet has representatives on both diocesan and deanery synods (1 at diocesan and 2 at deanery levels).

In common with most parts of the Church of England, the diocese is planning for reductions in costs and staffing. The deanery envisages, nonetheless, continuation of individual, distinctive Churches. As part of remodelling, Churches are being encouraged to work together and to share some resources and activities. Within the Petersfield group, the 3 Churches are meeting (as a small group of PCC members of the 3 Churches) and are focused on mission, looking to increase in impact, in depth and in number (of members). Joint working in major initiatives that could not be undertaken as individual Churches is being considered. Sheet Church expects to play its part in the establishment and leadership of such initiatives.

THE VILLAGE AND TOWN

Sheet village lies just North of Petersfield, both being in East Hampshire. Whilst mostly referred to as “the village”, Sheet gained the status of a civil Parish in 2012. The Church has links with the Sheet Village Association. The ecclesiastical Parish of Sheet also includes major parts of the North and East of Petersfield, with which Sheet village is contiguous.



The community of Sheet enjoys the benefits of a range of local facilities, such as the Village Hall, the Millennium Field, the Recreation Ground, the Village Green, the allotments and Sheet Common. The Queen’s Head pub, The Half Moon pub, Sheet Primary School, Stepping Stones pre-school and The Little School day nursery are also in the village. The previous incumbent was a community school governor at Sheet Primary school and encouraged links with the village community. The Church uses Sheet Village Hall every Sunday for children’s and young people’s groups and for coffee.

The Church links with the village community in initiatives such as Oasis film afternoons for older people (in partnership with Sheet Film Club) and in setting up, this autumn, the Sheet Winter Warmer Café (in partnership with Sheet Village Association) for one afternoon a week, responding in part to the current energy crisis.

Petersfield is an historic market town and has a population of about 15,000 residents (including Sheet). It lies in East Hampshire, near the border with West Sussex and within the South Downs National Park. The surrounding countryside of the South Downs includes Queen Elizabeth Country Park and Butser Hill to the South, the Hampshire Hangers and Downs to the West and North, and the tree-lined hills of Hill Brow and Durford to the North-East.



Petersfield is roughly twenty miles from each of Portsmouth, Chichester, Winchester and Farnham, with Guildford slightly more distant. The A3 from London to Portsmouth and the A272 from Midhurst to Winchester cross at Petersfield. The town is on the main railway line from London to Portsmouth; at peak times, the journey to London Waterloo takes just over one hour.

Many national retail chains have branches in the town, including Waitrose, Tesco, M&S Food, Lidl and Boots. There are also numerous independent



shops, pubs, cafés and restaurants and a market in the town square every Wednesday and Saturday, with a farmers’ market on the first Sunday of each month.

The area has a broad selection of schools across the state and independent sectors. None of the local primary schools are Church of England aided or controlled. The Petersfield School (TPS), a mixed school for ages 11-16, is part of the Bohunt Education Trust and is located in the town. The infant and junior schools in Petersfield are larger than average, with small primary schools in the surrounding villages.

Herne Junior School and Sheet Primary School both lie within the ecclesiastical parish, as does Churcher’s College Senior School; all three of these schools receive support from Sheet Church in assemblies, lessons and church visits. The incumbent at Sheet Church is the honorary Chaplain to Churcher’s College, where the Church’s youth worker leads the Christian Union. The youth worker’s ministry also includes work with TPS and The King’s Arms (a PACT-led, Petersfield-wide, youth project).

Petersfield is a lively town with many cultural, sports and recreational facilities and groups. The town museum has recently reopened, enlarged and now containing an art gallery. There is an annual Music Festival, several choirs and other musical groups, amateur dramatic and operatic societies, as well as rugby, football, cricket and golf clubs. The Petersfield Open Air Pool was refurbished in 2020, is heated and open throughout the Spring and Summer, and is additional to the indoor pool and other facilities at the Taro Leisure Centre at Penn’s Place.

The town has 2 group medical practices. A range of community health services is run from Petersfield Hospital, which itself



includes two rehabilitation wards and an Urgent Treatment Centre for minor injuries and illnesses that are not life-threatening. The nearest Accident and Emergency unit is at Queen Alexandra’s Hospital in Cosham, Portsmouth.

OUR PARISH

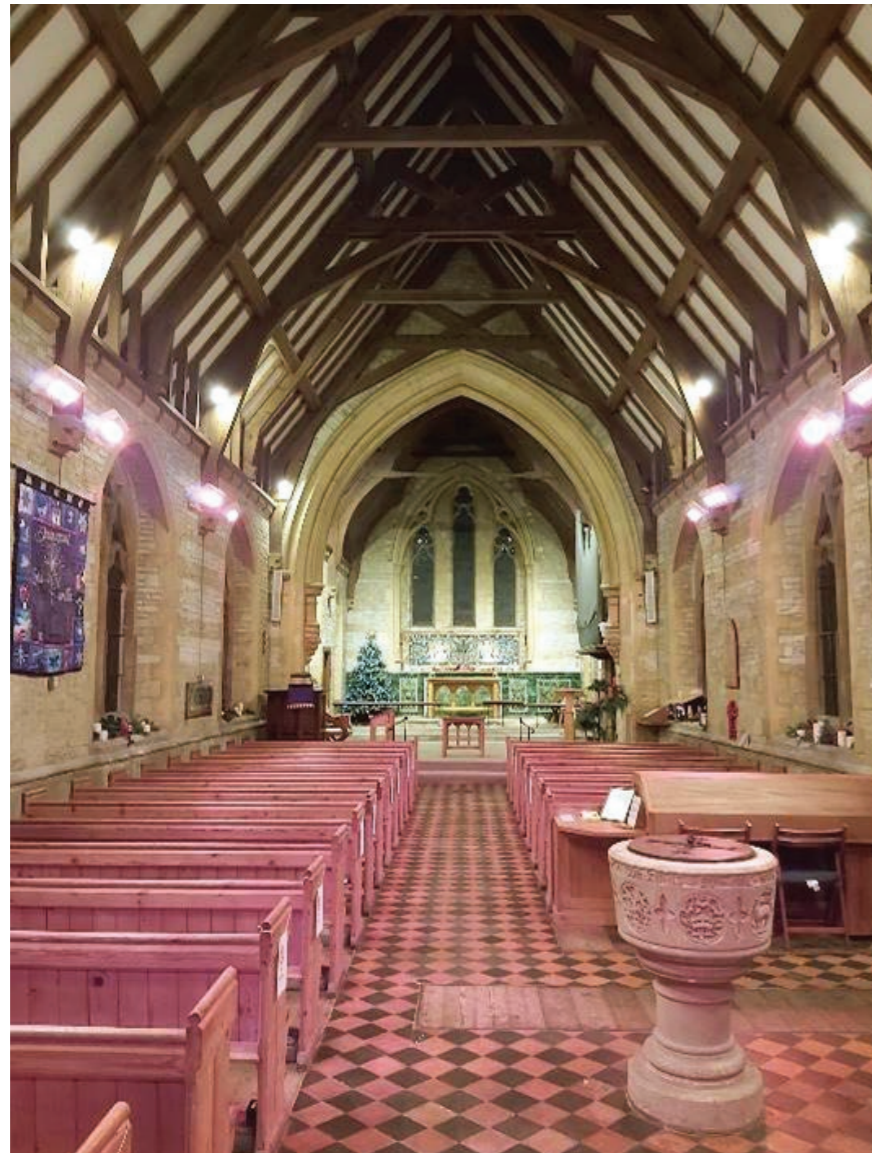
Until 1990 the church was a daughter church to St Peter’s Petersfield, but St Mary Magdalen Sheet has since been a separate parish. The ecclesiastical Parish has about 5,000 residents; the church is at the centre of Sheet village, close to the village green but not at the geographical centre of the Parish.

St Mary Magdalen’s parish is larger than the civil parish; it crosses London Road and includes areas of housing to the North and East of Petersfield town centre, including the Ramshill Estate and also Penns Place, which is the site of the Taro Leisure Centre and of the offices of East Hampshire District Council. Demographic data are available on East Hampshire District Council’s website (easthants.gov.uk); it is difficult to break out information specific to Sheet and Petersfield. There are pockets of deprivation and the incumbent of Sheet Church and the Rector of Petersfield are trustees of PASRIN (Petersfield and Sheet Residents in Need, a local Charity). The area is, nonetheless, more prosperous and less ethnically diverse than many comparable areas and housing is expensive relative to towns to the South. Accordingly, the town and its Churches may have populations that are older, on average, relative to elsewhere.



CHURCH ADMINISTRATION AND OPERATIONAL SUPPORT

A representation of the current administrative structure is included as an appendix and shows major committees and lines of communication. The Church is under the authority of the churchwardens during the vacancy. The



Parochial Church Council (PCC) meets every second month, with a Standing Committee meeting in intervening months. Purpose-defined groups and committees make recommendations and report to the full PCC, in areas such as fabric, worship, finance and missions support. The Youth and Children's Work Group provides support and direction to both children's work and youth work.

The Church Administrator facilitates the day-to-day running of the Church, provides administrative support to the incumbent and churchwardens, and provides an entry point

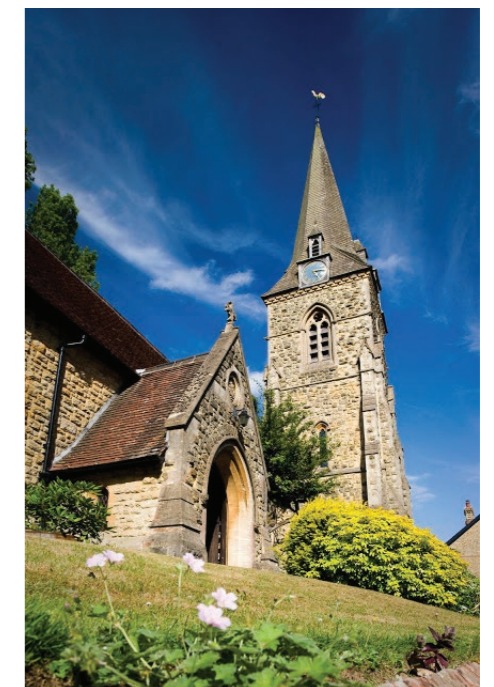
for enquiries. Rotas and weekly pew sheets are just part of that support, and a monthly multi-page magazine (NewSheet) is produced separately and delivered to every home in the parish twice a year. In this and other areas, extensive use is made of IT and internet facilities.

The preaching and service schedules are currently organised by the ministry team, which is responsible for the running of services and defining the bigger picture of worship, teaching and related ministries in the Church during the vacancy. A worship committee considers developments in worship and advises on future directions, reporting to the PCC. Services are supported by teams of welcomers, intercessors, readers, administrators and sacristans.

The Church is opened daily and aspects of its maintenance and day-to-day care are undertaken by the vergers; there are teams of cleaners, flower arrangers and gardeners, and also a Church ecology and sustainability group. Special services such as weddings, funerals and family baptisms are supported by the vergers and verging volunteers.

The Church's finances are under the authority of the PCC but are managed day-to-day by the Treasurer, the Finance Group and the Standing Committee. A detailed presentation of the Church's finances and their year-by-year development is appended. Sheet Church continues to pay its sizeable parish share in full. The position of Stewardship Promoter is currently vacant.

The Friends of Sheet Church is a separate, registered charity founded 25 years ago to raise funds to maintain and improve the fabric of St Mary Magdalen church. It has given £60,000 to this end during the last 10 years. The properties associated with the Church (the church, Sheet vicarage and the parish office) are described in an appendix.





THE FUTURE

OUR NEW INCUMBENT AND LEADER

WHO ARE WE SEEKING?

Sheet Church is well-resourced and has the desire to grow in depth, in impact and in number. This vacancy comes at a time when both the deanery and the diocese are facing the need for significant change. We believe that, with the right leadership, we can develop to make a positive contribution to this process and be part of the way forward, as we engage with neighbouring Churches and the wider community, and as we seek for the Church membership to be inspired in lives of deep and meaningful faith. We expect to play a full part in developing, and sometimes leading, major God-given initiatives that may emerge from the Petersfield group of CofE Churches and, possibly, from the PACT grouping of local Churches.

We are therefore praying for an incumbent who will see opportunities and find ways further to develop the Church's ministry.

PERSONAL QUALITIES

The person that we are looking for will be:

- An enthusiastic and effective leader, deeply rooted in the Christian faith lovingly expressed
- Prayerful and discerning
- Flexible and appreciative of different approaches to worship and ministry
- Innovative and creative in mission
- Personable, with the common touch
- Pastorally caring

- Outward-looking, a natural networker and team builder
- An effective manager, with IT skills

In discussions with the children and young people of the Church, a few of the things that they have asked for in our new leader are:

- Someone who knows the Bible and can relate it to life, so that they can teach the Church
- Someone to teach and involve the children as well as the adults
- Someone who will be adaptable and inclusive

EXPERIENCE

We are aware that God could well have surprises for us, but prior experience could include the following (in no particular order):

Experience	Essential	Desirable
Communication of the Gospel and fostering the work of the Holy Spirit	x	
Effective preaching and Bible teaching	x	
Effective team leadership		x
Effective team membership	x	
Work with local schools		x
Leading traditional worship	x	
Leading contemporary worship	x	
Strategic planning		x
Community engagement initiatives		x
Working with other Churches locally		x

WHAT WE CAN OFFER

We will seek to nurture the faith and ministry of our new leader.

We have an able team of volunteer clergy and lay workers and staff who will support our new leader. Their work spans ministry across all ages (including



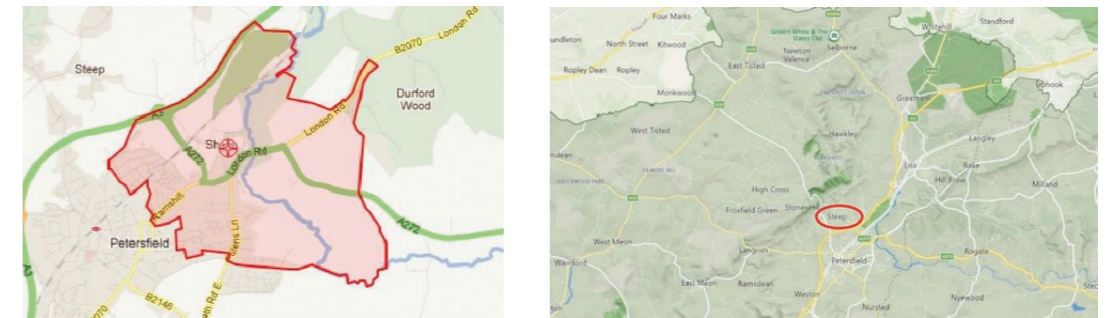
among children, young people and seniors), administration and care of the church properties.

Our congregation is welcoming, supportive and outgoing, and looks forward to the future of the Church as it continues to change and develop. Many of the congregation willingly offer service to the Church and to external organisations, both locally and more widely.



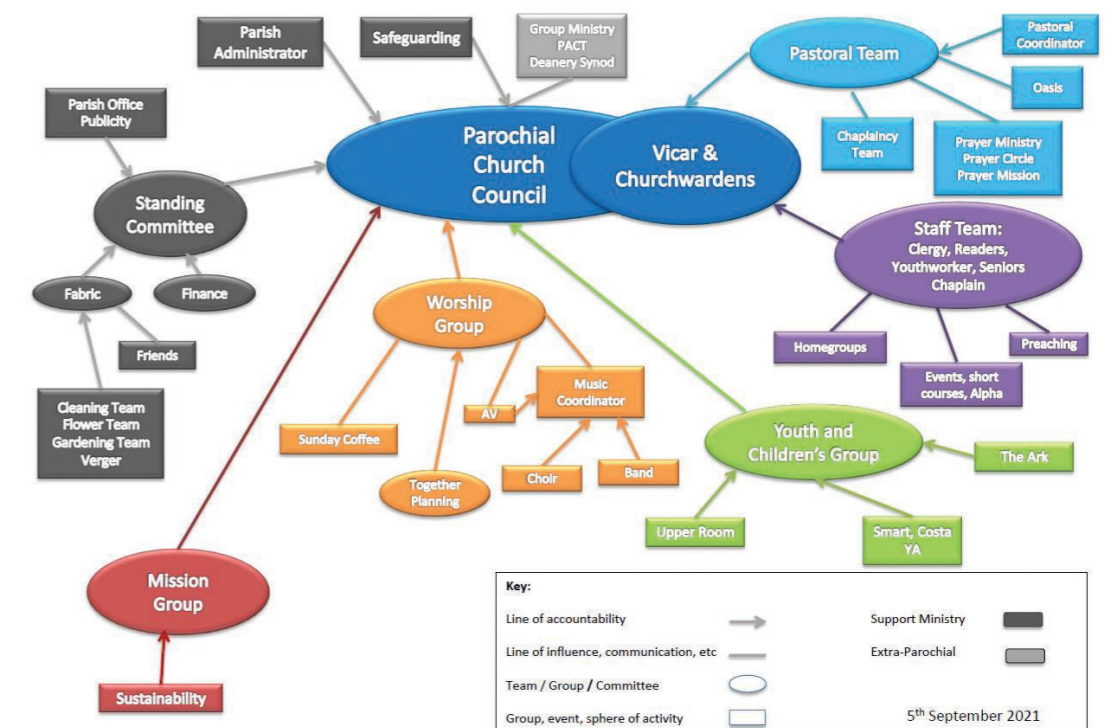
APPENDICES

PARISH MAPS



The southern edge of the deanery extends from Petersfield to Warnford, and the northern edge from Liphook to Whitehill.

ADMINISTRATIVE STRUCTURE

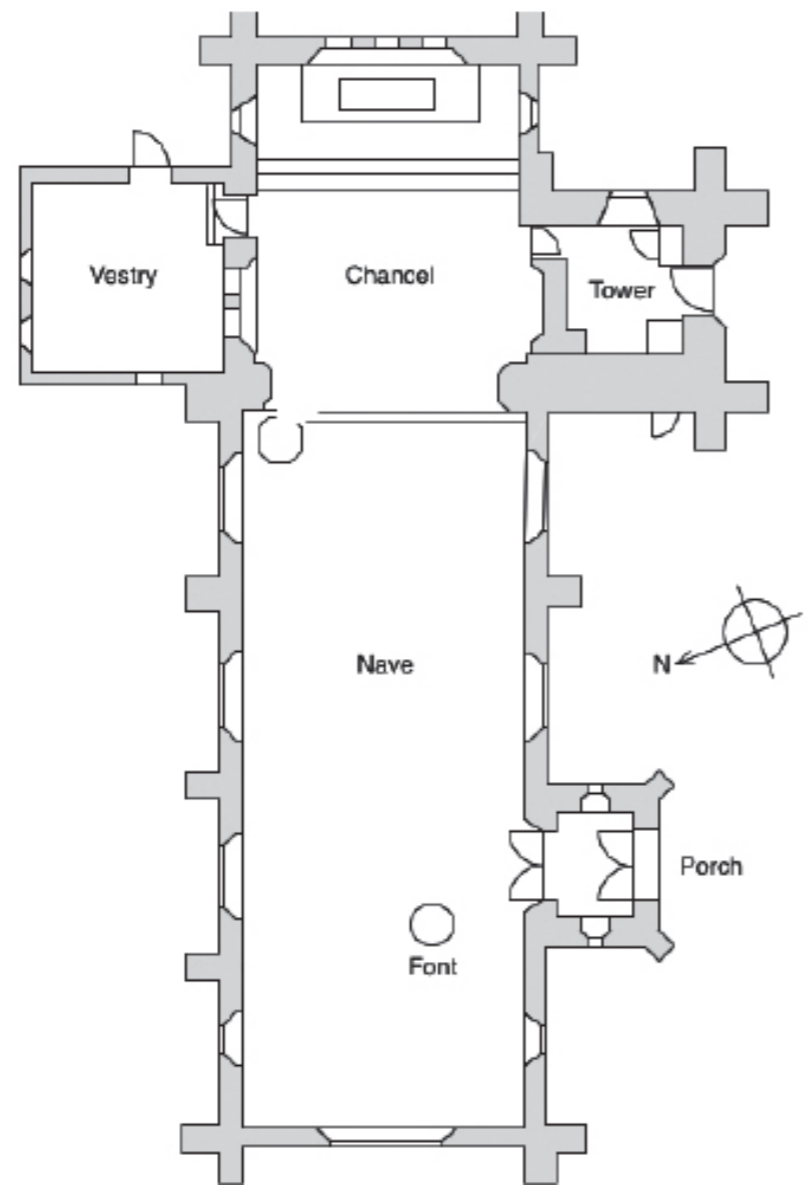


CHURCH PROPERTIES

St Mary Magdalen Sheet is a simple Victorian country church, typical of its



period. Consecrated in 1868 and built in a 13th Century style, it consists of a nave with traditional pew seating, a flexible, raised chancel and a sanctuary, together with adjacent, small choir vestry and under-tower clergy vestry. The tower is topped with a shingled spire that contains a mechanical clock that drives four clock faces. The main entrance is via a South-facing porch with further access via the choir and clergy vestries. In recent years several projects have been undertaken, with the generous financial support of Friends to Sheet Church, to make the church more welcoming and better able



to support the Church's ministry. A major chancel reordering saw the installation of underfloor heating, new carpeting and the replacement of fixed choir stalls with movable upholstered chairs. Under-pew heating was installed in the nave to improve winter heating in the church. 2021 saw the purchase of a new keyboard and the installation of a new laser projector, together with the installation of an internet modem linked to the church's IT and sound systems, which now support live streaming of services.

The most recent quinquennial inspection was during 2016; no major issues were raised and the church is generally in good repair. Another inspection is imminent.

The Fabric Group not only receives generous support from The Friends but also from many members of the congregation who volunteer their time and expertise across many aspects of church maintenance, from gardening to church flowers and cleaning.

The church has neither a hall nor a toilet. Regular use is made of Sheet Village Hall, including on Sundays for work with children and young people and for after-Church coffee; the Hall is managed by Sheet Parish Council and is 100 metres distant.



The vicarage is approximately a quarter of a mile from the church and roughly central to the parish. Built in 1938 as a private family home, it is a pleasant four-bedroomed detached house with entrance hall, study, kitchen, cloakroom, utility room and a large sitting/dining room. It is, therefore, not modern but is in good repair and has a generous garden, a detached garage and ample parking in the drive.



The Parish Office is in the grounds of the vicarage, is approached via the front drive and consists of two offices and a toilet. With the vicarage, it is linked to the internet via WiFi.

CURRENT VISION

OUR VISION

We want to express our love for God

- in heartfelt traditional and contemporary worship
- in growth to Christian maturity by the power of the Spirit
- in caring for God's creation

We want to express our love for people

- in passing on the faith to the next generation
- in sharing the Good News with individuals, with our local communities and in our workplaces
- in making a difference for the poor, marginalised or suffering

OUR VALUES

WORD AND SPIRIT

We want to

- hear and live out Bible-based teaching relevant to our daily experience
- listen to and be empowered by God's Spirit as individuals and as a Church
- be motivated and shaped by our faith in Christ and his love for the world

MISSION

We want to

- be active and visible participants as a Church in our local community
- live out the particular calling we each have to make Christ known in the world through our everyday lives
- help others discover the good news of Jesus and encounter the love of God both locally and further afield
- pass the faith on to the next generation
- bring God's love to people in acts of service
- support projects which make a difference for those who have the least
- Care for God's creation and work with others to bring renewal to the earth

WELCOME

We want to

- welcome new people joining us, irrespective of age, status or background

WORSHIP

We want to

- worship from our hearts and so experience the love of God
- pray, believing God often waits for us to ask before he acts
- pray with and for other people, believing this to be an important means by which the Holy Spirit helps us to change, grow and find healing and wholeness

CHURCH COMMUNITY, GROWTH AND DISCIPLESHIP

We want to

- enjoy good relationships, accepting one another with the love of Jesus
- care for one another and create a community of people who live for Jesus, each one offering and developing their own gifts
- fulfil our potential in Christian character and service, accepting the cost
- enable one another to live out our faith and individual calling



- develop small-group fellowship as a means of support, encouragement, and teaching
- make particular provision for children, teenagers, the elderly and the infirm

STEWARDSHIP

We want to

- encourage each person in our Church to contribute finance, time and abilities to our work, as far as they are able

ORGANISATION

We want to

- communicate clearly with one another
- foster teamwork and encourage all members of the Church to be involved in our mission

FINANCE

THE FINANCE TEAM

The Finance Team is essentially 3 'operators':

- The Treasurer minds the books, sets up payments, presents accounts, etc.
- The Donations Coordinator deals with Giving and Gift Aid matters
- The Collections Rep banks cheques and cash collections.

The Parish Administrator assists with invoices and with our Diocesan fees. The Finance Group provides thorough oversight with all payments scrutinised by a Churchwarden. The Stewardship Promoter position needs filling.

OVERVIEW OF 2019, 2020 AND 2021

2020 and 2021 Income and Expenditure have been 'distorted' by Covid. Furthermore, future 'behaviour' may well never reflect pre-Covid times.

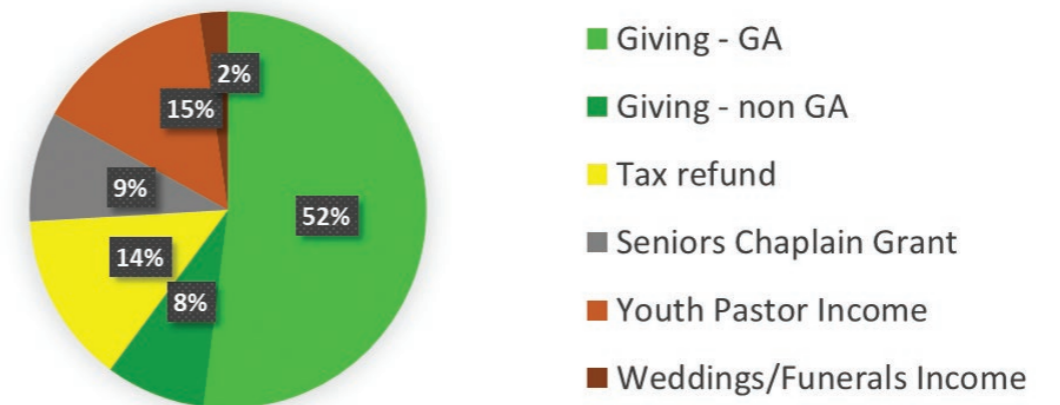
We underspent by £1.3k in 2021 thanks to a particularly generous donation.

- Youth Worker (YW) funding was £4.2k short even though bolstered by £1.5k of Job Retention Scheme Government Covid Support Grants.
- ca. £7.5k was donated (inc. Gift Aid) and expended in 2021 to enable buying and installing a Live Streaming facility.

We overspent by £3.7k in 2020; this was covered by Legacies.

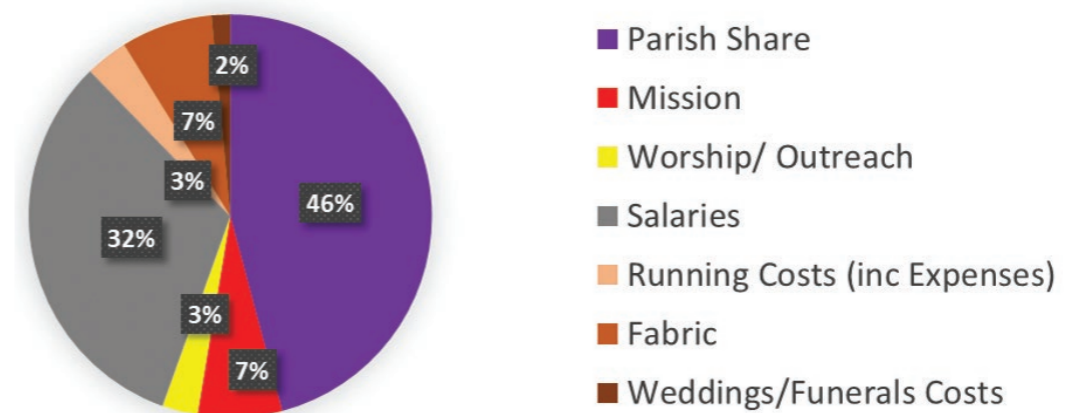
2021 TOTAL INCOME: CA. £178.5K

2021 Income: ca. £178.5k



2021 TOTAL RESOURCES EXPENDED: CA.£177.2K

2021 Expenditure: ca. £177.2k



Note that Missions Support is 10% of previous year's income excluding YW income and SC grant; it is 7% of Expenditure.



The Henry Smith Charity has funded the post of Seniors Chaplain for 3 years and has confirmed (February 2022) renewal funding for an additional 2 years. The first additional year's grant was received in March 2022.

Current 2022 Youth Worker planned giving including gift aid will be about £8k short. Increased planned giving and/or donations could solve this. Although Youth Worker funding is insufficient the General Fund covers any shortfall.

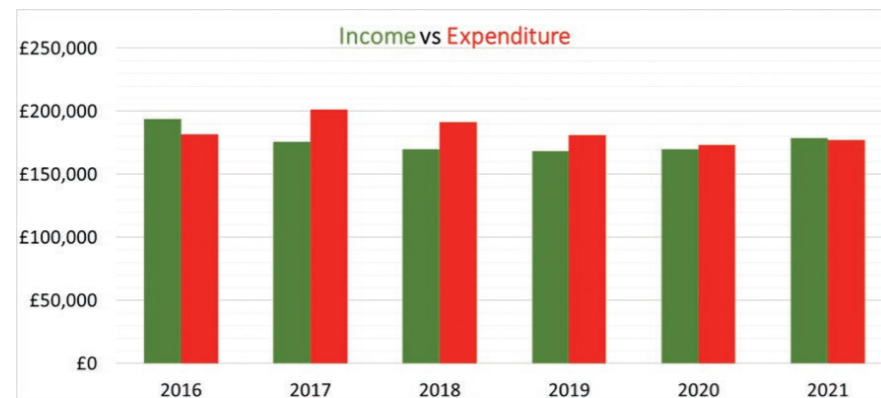


ACTUAL INCOME AND EXPENDITURE SINCE 2019

Sum of Total			Year			
IncExp	Big MA Group	MA Group	2019	2020	2021	Comment
in	Giving - GA	Planned Giving - GA	£93,225	£92,272	£92,784	
	Giving - non GA	Planned Giving - non-GA	£3,350	£3,275	£3,125	
		Church collections	£2,969	£503	£1,449	
		Gifts & Donations	£6,913	£3,276	£9,784	inc £6216.00 Streaming
		Miscellaneous	£558	£302	£174	
	Youth Pastor Income	Youth Pastor Income	£21,000	£29,704	£26,148	inc £1517.04 Covid Furlough
	Seniors Chaplain Income	Seniors Chaplain Income	£10,100	£12,800	£16,000	Henry Smith Charity Grant
	W&F In	W&F In	£5,525	£4,416	£4,134	
	Tax refund	Tax refund	£24,526	£23,036	£24,908	inc £1191.50 Streaming
in Total			£168,165	£169,584	£178,506	
ex	W&F Exp	W&F Exp	-£3,479	-£3,354	-£2,661	
	Worship/Outreach	Worship Group Costs	-£2,339	-£1,446	-£2,071	
		Children's Work Costs	-£109	-£5	-£15	
		Youth Work Costs	-£1,261	-£471	-£806	
		Pastoral	-£39	-£12	-£7	
		Local Outreach	-£3,823	-£423	-£2,146	
	Salaries	Youth Worker	-£29,711	-£30,497	-£29,741	
		Seniors Chaplain	-£15,263	-£15,540	-£15,362	
		Standing - Admin Salaries	-£11,963	-£12,210	-£12,121	
	Fabric	Fabric - Vicarage & Parish Office	-£1,422	-£1,531	-£1,206	
		Fabric - Church Running	-£4,055	-£3,309	-£3,663	
		Fabric - Church Maintenance	-£1,142	-£813	-£8,127	inc £7.4K Streaming
	Standing Various (inc Expenses)	Youth Worker Expenses	-£645	-£445	-£618	
		Training	-£487	-£298	-£190	
		Seniors Chaplain Expenses	-£473	-£472	-£5	
		Standing - Administration	-£1,876	-£1,665	-£2,156	
		Standing - Clergy Expenses	-£798	-£565	-£24	
		Standing - Hire of Halls	-£2,147	-£494	-£1,298	
		Standing - Newssheet	-£1,094	£0	-£400	
		Standing - Misc Expenses	-£1,636	-£1,358	-£1,339	
	Parish Share	Standing - Parish Share	-£85,344	-£86,031	-£81,244	2022: -£80,337
	Mission	Mission	-£12,000	-£12,400	-£12,000	
ex Total			-£181,107	-£173,337	-£177,199	
Grand Total			-£12,942	-£3,753	£1,308	
		Surplus/ Deficit	-£12,942	-£3,753	£1,308	
		YW 'Drawdown'	-£9,356	-£1,237	-£4,211	Reduced by Fundraising
		SC 'Drawdown'	-£5,637	-£3,212	£633	Covered by Legacies



OVERVIEW OF HISTORIC INCOME VS EXPENDITURE



2016 Income inc. £25k Legacy (previous 2015 Legacies of £10k (SC) and £4.5k (Taxis)).

2017/18 Expenditure inc. £14k and £15.5k reserves drawdown for SC from Legacies.

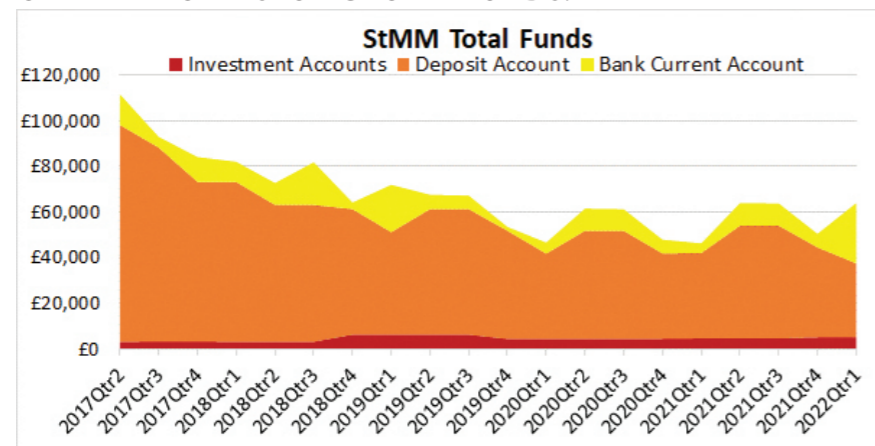
2017 Expenditure inc. £16k for under pew heating installation.

2019 £15k Over-expenditure for SC (£5.6k) and YW (£9.4k).

2021 Includes extra £4k (1/4 SC's Grant for Qtr4) + £9k due for Missions = £13k 'yet to be spent'.

2021 Received/spent £7.4k on Streaming.

OVERVIEW OF HISTORIC TOTAL FUNDS:



Note overall drop of ca. £50k since 2017 which includes:

- Use of the £29.5k Legacies (given in 2015/2016) for the Seniors' Chaplain in 2017 and 2018.
- Use of £16k for under pew heating in 2017 to ensure a warm and welcoming church.
- The £15k 2019 overspend to top up the Seniors' Chaplain and Youth Workers' salaries and expenses.
- The 2020, 2021 and 2022 mid-year 'highs' are because we received the SC Grant but still owed Missions (paid in Dec) and remainder of year SC salary.

The Church is spending money on its mission rather than just letting it sit in the bank.

FINAL POINTS

Costs are nudging up again as 'life restarts post-Covid' (e.g. Hall Hire, OASIS, Youth Work, increased salaries and NewSheet printing). Planned Giving is still holding up well despite "losing" a small number of regular givers over the past year, whereas we have not added to their ranks. We have recently acquired a contactless giving device.

The Reserves Policy is that at least £30k should be held in General and Designated funds.

The Friends of Sheet Church is a registered charity; their accounts are independently examined every year and are quite separate from the St Mary Magdalen PCC accounts. The Friends' purpose is to raise funds "for the restoration, preservation, repair, maintenance, improvement, beautification and reconstruction of the Church of St Mary Magdalen... and of the monuments, fittings, fixtures, stained glass, furniture, ornaments and chattels in the church and of the churchyard belonging to the church." In the past decade their support has totalled £60k in those areas; recent examples include minor repairs to the church roof, a significant contribution to funding of under-pew heating, a new keyboard, headset microphones, and a new digital projector (they had also funded the original).

Sheet Church continues to donate its parish share in full.



SERVICES AND ATTENDANCES

1st Sunday	8am	Holy Communion	Common Worship
	10am	Morning Worship	
2nd Sunday	8am	Holy Communion	BCP
	10am	Parish Communion	Common Worship
	6.30pm	Prayer and Praise	
3rd Sunday	8am	Holy Communion	Common Worship
	10am	Together (all age service)	
4th Sunday	8am	Holy Communion	BCP
	10am	Parish Communion	Common Worship
5th Sunday	8am	Holy Communion	BCP
	10am	Parish Communion or Morning Worship	

OTHER SERVICES

Wednesdays	9:30am	Holy Communion (CW) followed by coffee at the Queen's Head
Sundays	12pm	Occasional baptisms
Quarterly	during 10am Communion	Healing Service

During 2019 (a pre-Covid year): 19 funerals, 2 interments of ashes, 2 weddings, 7 baptisms.

[Averages over the last 6 years: 18 Funerals, 4 interments of ashes, 5 Weddings, 7 Baptisms]

2019 TYPICAL ATTENDANCES

	Service	Typical number
Sunday, 8am	Holy Communion	17
Sunday, 10am	Parish Communion	79
	Morning Worship	77
	Together	76
Average Sunday attendance (children included)		103 (16)
Wednesday, 9:30am	Holy Communion	10-16

PRINCIPAL FESTIVALS ATTENDANCES

Easter congregations	287 (Total)	185 Communicants
Christmas congregations	777 (Total) *	155 Communicants

*Includes nativity and crib services



PETERSFIELD DEANERY LEAD ROLE IN MISSION, OUTREACH AND EVANGELISM

ROLE DESCRIPTION FOR PARISH PROFILE, ST MARY MAGDALEN, SHEET

Along with all incumbency posts in the Deanery of Petersfield, the Incumbency of St Mary Magdalen, Sheet will include a **Deanery Lead Role (0.3). The role envisaged for Sheet is 'Mission, Evangelism and Outreach'.**

What is 'Mission, Evangelism and Outreach' in Petersfield Deanery and why is it attached to St Mary Magdalen, Sheet?

EXISTING WORSHIPPING COMMUNITIES

Despite solid engagement with their communities, many of our diverse groups of churches in the Deanery have seen a reduction in numbers of regular attendees over the past 10 years.

We want all our church communities to be growing in vibrancy, spiritual depth and outward-looking service. In **all our communities we want people to notice the love, understanding, care and service of our Church families and be drawn to find out more.**

In addition to the many people of all ages throughout the deanery who are not yet connected with our church communities, we want to work more closely with our schools, exploring worshipping communities on the principles of 'Growing Faith'.

NEW COMMUNITIES AND DEVELOPMENTS

All of our churches want to grow. We do not have many

communities which are under-served by their local church, but there are places within the deanery where contact from existing churches is quite limited. Some areas of newer housing are without an obvious community centre. The Deanery lead in mission, evangelism and outreach will have a key role in working with local clergy and congregations to identify such areas and to develop a strategy to reach them. After conducting research, we may be able to identify one or two areas suitable for (e.g.) pioneer ministry for which central funding might be available in the short- to medium-term.

As well as some pockets of development in smaller communities, there are notable new housing developments in Liphook, Liss and Petersfield. Cross-town discussions have already begun about outreach to parts of east Petersfield (some of which is within the parish of St Peter's, Petersfield and some within Sheet).

St Mary Magdalen has a long history of commitment to outreach in the community, including among older people (through the Oasis group) and youth and children (e.g. through the SMART group and events such as the weekly after-school drop-in at Costa). The church has a strong desire and readiness to work with other churches in the deanery to identify areas of potential growth, enabling church members and communities to reach others with the love of God in Christ. This makes Sheet an ideal place for the Mission, Evangelism and Outreach Lead to be based.

WHAT IS THE AIM OF THE ROLE?

The aim is to support and equip Deanery churches and their members to develop their faith in action and to reach out to new people and under-served communities.

WHAT IS INVOLVED IN THE MISSION, EVANGELISM AND OUTREACH LEAD ROLE?

Work cooperatively and supportively with the Deanery clergy of all traditions to build and enact a strategy to:

- build on existing good practice around the deanery;
- grow prayer across churches and wider communities for and with those seeking faith;



- build a team of volunteers to support and develop the ministry in this area;
- grow our churches' confidence and commitment in mission, evangelism and outreach.

HOW DOES THIS FIT IN WITH THE PLAN TO HAVE EACH INCUMBENT DEVOTE 30% OF THEIR TIME TO A LEAD ROLE?

Our Deanery Plan states that with God's help and support, over a five-year period we want to see:

- churches working together to grow our congregations and to make a positive difference for people of all ages;
- more children, young people, and young adults engaging with our churches;
- all our churches growing in average weekly attendance in the Deanery and regularly paying their parish share.

Working across the Deanery means collaborating with Deanery Chapter colleagues in their parish and lead roles, and developing a Task Group of both lay and ordained people to support their specific area of work. Parish clergy will rely on Lead Role holders to equip and support work in their parishes, but not to carry it out for them. They will expect the Lead Role holder to be the person initiating and planning any Deanery-level events and training.

CURRENT PRIORITIES FOR LEAD ROLES INCLUDE:

- Mission, Evangelism and Outreach
- Growing Faith: Children, Young People and their Families
- Area Dean
- Developing Lay Ministry
- Discipleship and Spirituality
- Anna Chaplaincy/Older adults

WILL THIS BE A BETTER WAY OF WORKING OR JUST BE MORE TO FIT IN? Benefits to clergy include the experience and satisfaction of working in a strategic and substantial way, at a higher level than is normally possible while being parish-based. It will enable clergy to minister beyond their parish boundaries, sharing gifts and skills, galvanising lay engagement, and building Deanery relationships and cooperation.

Clergy and churches can benefit from the focus and experience of their Deanery colleagues contributing to the life of their own church in other areas, while working to their strengths in their own Deanery roles.

As this will be a new way of working for all our parishes and clergy, we will be learning together. It will be important to look after each other (and ourselves) to ensure that we are not attempting to do too much, but rather that we are building lay engagement at parish level, being wise about what we can and cannot manage, and taking proper time off.

WHAT PRIORITIES WOULD YOU HAVE IN THE FIRST 18 MONTHS?

The initial period of this new role will be critical in establishing priorities for action in the coming 3 years (and beyond) through:

1. Research

Identify the situation

- What good practice and impact already exists?
- Where and who do we want to reach? Are there particular areas or populations that are under-served by our existing churches? What can change this? (In co-operation with Diocesan Dean of Pioneering)

2. Developing relationships and building support

Identify

- Who will support this work in the deanery? (existing and potential)
Connect with them for prayer and action in a dedicated Task Group.
- What support and training do TG members need?



3. Strategy

Identify actions and priorities

- What good practice and new initiatives can be shared across our churches and communities?
- How can Deanery churches begin to develop their ministry to respond to the gaps/needs?

4. Action

- What support, resources, training, courses, events will be offered to engage people in Mission, Evangelism and Outreach?
- How we know when our actions and priorities will be fulfilled?

5. Review and update

- What has been working well? What needs to be changed and updated?

HOW DOES IT WORK?

Each of the Deanery Lead Roles is for 3 years, renewable, to allow projects to be completed and for clergy and the whole Deanery to respond to God's leading. The role can be renewed for a further 3 years. However, with the agreement of the Deanery, clergy may change roles if a project has been completed, if the lead is no longer needed, if it is time for a fresh approach to that lead area, if a more urgent and important priority has become evident, or if the holder of the role wishes to look to a new challenge at a Deanery level. This is why all the initiatives represent a nominal 0.3 post to enable clergy to change between roles.

Please do contact Rev Dr Susie Collingridge (Area Dean) if you would like to talk more about this aspect of the post. She would be delighted to hear from you: susie.collingridge@gmail.com.

INTRODUCTION TO THE DIOCESE OF PORTSMOUTH

The Diocese of Portsmouth stretches across south-east Hampshire and includes the whole of the Isle of Wight. It includes 139 parishes, from Botley in the west to Emsworth in the east, and from Blackmoor in the north to Ventnor on south side of the Isle of Wight. It includes diverse communities, ranging from the densely populated and relatively deprived parts of inner-city Portsmouth, to rural villages in Hampshire; and from a range of seaside towns on the Isle of Wight to suburban communities west of Fareham and Gosport. In total, it covers 420 square miles and has a population of 784,000.

The Diocese of Portsmouth has 170 churches, ranging from historic listed buildings to brand new, purpose-built churches. There are around 150 clergy serving in those churches and their parishes, around 50 of whom are self-supporting. There are also around 70 licensed lay ministers who help with leading services and pastoral work. Around 13,500 people regularly worship in our churches, on Sundays and during the week. Attendance numbers have been declining over the past 10 years, but there are particular congregations that have grown. Only a tiny number of churches have been closed in recent years.

Parishes and chaplaincies within the diocese are supported by a small diocesan team, based in Peninsular House, Portsmouth. These officers support parishes and church schools, administer clergy housing and stipends, manage its property portfolio, promote social justice, handle communications, manage safeguarding procedures, and run a variety of training courses. The Diocesan Secretary oversees these staff. Separate teams of staff are employed in the bishop's office and for the three archdeacons. There is no suffragan bishop.

The diocese includes 41 Church of England schools in south-east Hampshire and the Isle of Wight. These are still mostly schools funded by the local authority, but the diocese supports them with regard to governance and admissions, building projects, Christian ethos, RE and recruitment of headteachers. The education team supports schools across both Portsmouth



and Winchester dioceses, under the authority of a Joint Board of Education. Two schools on the Isle of Wight are joint Church of England/Roman Catholic schools.

Bishop Jonathan Frost was installed in March 2022, and has shared his vision for the diocese – a place where all are invited into a life-enhancing encounter with Jesus Christ. It should be a place where children, young people and young adults are given a particular priority; and where ministry to the elderly is supported by a network of Anna Chaplains, working in every locality. The vision is encapsulated by a vocational call to all Christians, entitled **Live | Pray | Serve**, which has been supported by strategic funding from the national Church of England to promote the planting of new congregations and a network of pioneer ministers. You can read more about our vision and vocation at portsmouth.anglican.org/liveprayserve.



The Diocese of Portsmouth is one of the smallest dioceses in the Church of England, but has often “punched above its weight”, with senior staff and diocesan officers involved in the national Church, managing joint projects or implementing innovative ideas. Financially, the payment of parish share has always been good – but the recent Covid pandemic has resulted in some financial challenges.

There is a range of churchmanship across all traditions within the diocese, few parishes deliberately exclude themselves from deanery and diocesan initiatives, and our smaller, family feel means that most clergy and lay leaders know and respect each other.





Diocese
of Portsmouth

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THE CHURCH
OF ENGLAND