



**Report and Accounts
for
St Mary Magdalene Keinton Mandeville
with
All Saints Kingweston
for 2023**

Aims and Purposes

The Parochial Church Council of Keinton Mandeville with Kingweston has the responsibility in cooperation with the incumbent, Rev Dr Jane Durham, for promoting the ecclesiastical parish and the whole mission of the church, pastoral, evangelical, social and ecumenical. It also has the responsibility of maintaining the two churches, St Mary Magdalene and All Saints, their buildings, churchyards and carparks.

Objectives and Activities

This year Rev Dr Jane Durham, the PCC and the Benefice Council have continued:

to provide the range of services and activities for the parishes, leading them in worship and prayer within the churches. This maintained an overview of the worship in the parishes, in an attempt to ensure a range of services was available to suit all needs, including House Communion and Faith and Fun. As Keinton with Kingweston PCC is one of the three Parishes which make up the Wheathill Benefice, the Parish, as part of the Benefice, seeks to:

- broaden knowledge of and involvement in the mission of God in our locality and the wider world
- develop opportunities for prayer, learning and active mission
- worship together on a regular basis across the benefice
- reach out to all in our community, especially the vulnerable and the needy.

To facilitate this, it is necessary to maintain the fabric of the Churches and maintain the Churchyards and car parks.

Achievements and Performance

The Benefice and outreach

The Wheathill Benefice Council met five times in 2023. The Meetings were chaired by the Reverend Jane Durham and Ted Alexander. Sally Buxton undertook the role of acting Benefice Administrator for the year and for this the members are very grateful. We welcome our new Benefice Administrator, Jo Oubridge, who starts work in 2024. During the year, the decision was taken to ask PCC treasurers to join the Council.

The Council co-ordinates a variety of events taking place across the parishes which reach the wider community - in 2023 these included:

- Faith and Fun events for children and families which took place ten times at St Mary Magdalene, Keinton Mandeville (the most central Church to the Benefice geographically), attended by a varying number of children (between 2 and 10) and their families; these included a Teddy Bear Drop in July and a pet service in September.
- The Summer Holiday Club 'Restoration Station' for primary school age children held from 28 to 31 August, organised jointly with the Methodist Church in Keinton Mandeville, which had a maximum of 14 children one day. The first Benefice Nativity Trail for children and families held at St Peters West Lydford on 20 December, with around seventy children, parents and grandparents (and three dogs) attending. This raised £137 for Safe Families for Children.
- 'Open the Book' sessions held at Keinton Mandeville Primary School, which took place eight times and are delivered by a group of volunteers, in addition the incumbent took another six assemblies throughout the year.
- Fund-raising events including the Keinton Wassail Night on 14 January which raised around £348 for the Benefice, a Quiz held at Barton St David Village Hall on 23 September which raised £497, and a Tabletop Sale held on 18 November at Keinton Mandeville Village Hall which raised £460.
- Tea and Talk events resumed on 15 October, being held at Lydford Parish Hall around once a quarter; the speaker in October was from the Dorset and Somerset Air Ambulance Charity. These events have been well attended by members of the community.
- The Vicar and readers regularly visit local care homes and provide Communion to residents and to the housebound.

The Benefice also sponsors the publication of the Wheathill magazine, which is delivered throughout the Benefice and available online, with news of Church and community events; Vicky Power kindly co-ordinates this and we are very grateful to her.

Worship and Prayer

During the year the same worship pattern has continued, consisting of one 8.30am service and a 10.30am service in each parish, alternating between Morning Prayer and Holy Communion. One Benefice Holy Communion is held monthly at 10.30am.

Faith and Fun, held monthly on a 4th Sunday, has continued to develop and on Saturday 6th May the whole country came together to mark the Coronation of King Charles III and Queen Camilla. It was a very special day which was celebrated in style by having a special service and a party at the Village Hall.

In August, Holiday Club was a huge success for the children, Faith and Fun was enjoyed within the group and it was still being talked about when the children returned to school.

In October, Harvest was celebrated with a Benefice Service at Keinton Mandeville Church followed by a well-attended harvest lunch in Keinton Village Hall.

In November, the Advent Star was lit on the church tower as in previous years, but instead of making Christingles with Oranges, Caketingles were baked, which went down very well.

Keinton church had just one big Christmas tree instead of individual trees, and some beautifully decorated window displays from groups within the wider community.

In December it was decided to hold individual Carol Services across the benefice each of which was followed by mince pies and mulled wine. At the Crib Service, the Nativity story was told alongside dressing up, singing, readings and poems. Midnight Mass was very different this year as a “Midnight in Jerusalem” service was held for the first time. The new time of 9.30pm proved very popular and with the singing and the words of wisdom which followed, all those who attended left feeling uplifted and refreshed.

Advent, Lent Course and Bible Studies were held at The Rectory during the year.

The Church is open every day for private prayer, and Morning Prayer happens in Keinton on a Monday.

Deanery Synod

Deanery Synod met four times during the year, with the Deanery Mission and Pastoral Group, DMPG, meeting ten days beforehand to carry out any background work and set the agenda.

It was agreed that the Parish Levy would remain the same for the forthcoming year at £3.50 per member, as recorded on each parish’s Parish Share return.

The main topics that came up during the year are as follows:

Amalgamation of the Shepton Mallet Deanery and the Glastonbury Jurisdiction was considered again, but due to the financial problems of the Diocese and the ways that are being looked at to resolve this, it was decided to revisit this in another five years’ time.

Deployment of Stipendiary Clergy - due to the financial pressures the Diocese finds itself in at this time, owing to the problems of covid, the falling numbers attending church services and the large reliance on the Parish Share to balance the accounts, it is looking at ways of cutting its budget. The main offices have moved from the Old Deanery in Wells to Flourish House, a purpose-built office building on the outskirts of Wells, with the Old Deanery being sold. The number of stipendiary clergies is also being reduced in the Glastonbury Jurisdiction from six and a half posts to five by the end of 2026. To achieve this, they are looking at Shared Local Ministries, with the aim of making more use of lay personnel. A consultative process is being undertaken during 2023.

Deanery Mission Plan - this was due for updating for the next five years, which was done throughout the year and was agreed at the Deanery Synod meeting in March 2023. It is based on five marks of mission, Tend, Treasure, Teach, Transform and Tell, one to be focused on each year, with Tend for 2023.

Area Dean - David MacGeoch stood down as Area Dean in November after eleven years; thanks were given for his work in the role over those years. Ana Lawrence, vicar of Street with Walton took over, with Jane Durham, Priest in Charge of Wheathill Benefice and Mission Enabler, as assistant Area Dean. These were both licenced by Archdeacon Anne Gell at a service in Shapwick in November.

Churches, Churchyards and parking

This year we are very grateful to firstly Mark Pilgrim for clearing the ivy and weeds around the outside of Keinton Churchyard; then we were able to ask Steve Baker to rebuild the Church wall in three different areas where the ivy had caused considerable damage. It is now looking almost as good as when it was originally built.

Then a team went on to map out several areas within the churchyard to start growing wildflowers; this has now been sown and everyone involved looks forward to seeing the results over the coming months.

Mark Pilgrim has helped with the maintenance in both churchyards and continues to keep the churchyard looking good, alongside Paul Dilling who mows the grass at Keinton and Geoff Dyer who mows the churchyard at Kingweston.

Several head stones had to be laid down, as after toppling were too dangerous to leave standing.

In November we completed our EICR in Keinton Mandeville Church.

The re-ordering of Keinton, to include the removal of the pews from the church to increase the use of the building for more pastoral activities, is making progress. After a bat report and much needed further investigation under the floor, there appears to be just a void under the parquet which, hopefully, will allow us to proceed with the next stage of writing the faculty.

In Kingweston Church, a permanent Collection device has been installed, leaving the portable one available for Benefice events.

Safeguarding

All PCC members have updated their Safeguarding training. No serious incidents have been reported this year.

Volunteers

Looking after the Church and the Churchyard is a thankless task and not an easy one. There is a fantastic team of volunteers within the community without whom it would not be possible to run the Church. Heartfelt thanks go to the following:

Tea and coffee makers – Emma Stevens and Cherry Catley-Day

To all who Read and take Intercessions

Sidesmen – Neill Thomas, Belinda Simson and Judith Sherwood

Organists – Joyce Burvill, Lynne Kirkman and Wendy Eitzen

To all Bell Ringers organised by Ralph Berry and Neill Thomas

Church Cleaners – organised by Belinda Simson

Flower arrangers – organised by Belinda Simson

Church Openers – organised by Emma Stevens

Judith Sherwood for completing the Electoral Roll.

The PCC is a great team and supports one another and the wider community in so many ways, not always visible to the wider community. Thanks must go to our new Treasurer, Debbie von Bergen, who has kept us on the straight and narrow with the facts and figures, and for not allowing us to overspend and to Claire Harding, the Secretary.

Finally, our deep and sincere thanks go to Rev Dr Jane Durham for her constant knowledge, understanding and for holding the church community together, as a rock as well as leader.

Financial Review

Having moved to Keinton in September 2022, Debbie von Bergen took over as the new treasurer in May 2023 and thanked Trevor Ryder, the outgoing treasurer, for making the transition so smooth.

Many thanks were also expressed to Ken White for his independent examination of the 2023 accounts.

The financial year ended with a surplus on unrestricted income of £3,693. This is particularly gratifying in a time of economic uncertainty and is largely the result of the work done by the PCC, prior to DvB taking post, to increase regular giving. Regular donors who give monthly, quarterly or annually by standing order, continue to be the 'lifeblood' of the two churches. Their money ensures that the PCC can budget to pay its Parish Share, to continue the upkeep of the churches, and to provide services that are open to all.

The Dickinson Trust was again a significant financial donor to the maintenance of Kingweston church, whilst also donating to Keinton Mandeville and the other churches in the Benefice. Its contribution is very much appreciated. Keinton Mandeville Parish Council also gave a generous grant to help with the upkeep of the churchyard at Keinton.

After consultation with the PCC and with input from the congregation, some new minor changes have been introduced: all collections are now counted by two people, and banking is done weekly. Dual authorisation on all online payments is in hand and to this end both churchwardens have been added as signatories to the bank account.

For 2024 the PCC has agreed to introduce the Parish Giving Scheme as another way of making regular donations. This eases the treasurers' load by automatically claiming the gift aid on those donations monthly; the scheme will be launched in May 2024. There will also be a move to accrual accounting to show income and expenses more correctly in the year in which they have occurred. Gift aid will be claimed on other donations on a quarterly basis to smooth the income flow further, and monthly management accounts will be produced for the PCC to enable monitoring of the financial position of the parish.

An ambition to make our churches sustainable for the future is to be addressed over the coming months.

Debbie von Bergen BA ACA

Structure, Governance and Management

The PCC is elected from members of the Parish Electoral Roll, as set out in the appropriate church governance. The joint PCC for Keinton Mandeville with Kingweston consists of Ex Officio members, comprising the incumbent the Rev Dr Jane Durham, the Churchwardens, the Deanery Synod representatives, the deputy Wardens, and elected members. The PCC met on five occasions to carry out church business.

Electoral Role

The Electoral Roll officer confirmed that we have 30 Electoral Roll members. In 2023, two members of the roll died and two moved away. There are four new members on the roll.

Administrative information

St Mary Magdalene is situated off Church Street Keinton Mandeville, and its postcode is TA11 6ER. All Saints Kingweston is in the hamlet of Kingweston with a post code of TA11 6BD.

The occupation of the Rectory by Rev Dr Jane Durham has meant that this is once again the administrative address for the combined parishes: The Rectory, Church Road, Keinton Mandeville, TA11 6ER. The PCC is a corporate body and a charity currently exempt from registration with the Charity Commission.

The PCC members are:

Ex Officio

- Rachel Willcox – Churchwarden
- Jane Sedgman – Churchwarden and Lay Reader
- Judith Sherwood – Deanery Representative
- Sandra Cook – Deanery Representative

Elected members:

- Cherry Catley-Day
- Neill Thomas
- Emma Stevens
- Hayley Warrens
- Claire Harding – Secretary
- Deborah Von Bergen – Treasurer

Approved by the PCC on.....2024

And signed on their behalf.....