Parish of Warblington with Emsworth

Annual Report
of the
Parochial Church Council
For the year ended 31 December 2023

Registered Charity No. 1128391

Bank:
Lloyds
4 West Street
Havant
PO9 1PE

Independent Examiner:
Hughes Spencer
Unit 12
Acorn Business Park
Northarbour Road
Portsmouth
PO6 3TH

Parish of Warblington with Emsworth
Annual Report for 2023

Table of Contents

Section	Page
Parochial Church Council Report	1
Independent Examiner's Report	5
Statement of Financial Activities	6
Balance Sheet	7
Notes to the Financial Statements	8

Parish of Warblington with Emsworth
Annual Report of the Parochial Church Council
for the year ended 31 December 2023

Aim and Purposes

The Parochial Church Council (PCC) of Warblington with Emsworth has the responsibility of promoting within the ecclesiastical parish the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical. It is also responsible for the care of our churches of St Thomas à Becket, Warblington and St James, Emsworth and for our parish hall.

Objectives and Activities

Our stated Parish vision summarises our overall objective

'To see our lives and community transformed and renewed by encountering God and responding to His love in Jesus'

The PCC is committed to welcoming as many people as possible to worship in our churches and to demonstrate God's love for us in the care of others.

When planning our activities, we consider the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit and the advancement of religion.

Achievements and Performance

We started the year by welcoming our new Fresh Expressions and Pioneer Minister, Bruce Watson and his family, with a very well attended service in St James. This was followed in August with the appointment of Jacqui Watson as the part time Children's and Youth worker.

August also saw the change of Parish Administrator as Selena Barber left and was replaced by Maria McGannan.

October saw the culmination of a 2 year planning exercise, with the Parish Away Weekend with 150 attendees, at which we also welcomed Bishop Jonathan to give the keynote opening speech. This was part of a parish focus throughout 2023 on a 'Year of Discipleship'.

With the wide range of services we offer in our 2 churches St James and St Thomas a Becket, ranging from traditional evensong to contemporary family worship, from weekday Holy Communion to Sunday services with organ and choral accompaniment, and then the less formal parish hall setting providing some of our *Fresh expressions* of church, being *Breakfast Church* and *Bible2Go*. The garden in St James provides the main location for *Wild Church* attracting many newcomers who do not normally attend other services

A number of special services are traditionally held within the Parish, the 2 Services of Memories at St Thomas a Becket for the bereaved and the Remembrance Parade for Youth organisations culminating in a service at St James.

Our team of Pastoral Visitors led by our two commissioned Anna Chaplains have been able to visit both the residential care homes and the private homes of individuals needing support.

Our parish tithes one tenth of its unrestricted planned income and offertory collections, which is primarily distributed to our six core Christian charities, however the Mission committee do review this on an annual basis and can respond to appeals or disasters. In addition certain services throughout the year are held for the benefit of specific charities, which in the year amounted to £2,913 being donated to 7 other recipients.

The end of the year saw a very hectic period with carol concerts for both St James and Emsworth Primary Schools, in addition to our own annual Carol Services and then on Christmas eve in addition to the normal morning services we also held 2 Blessing of the Crib Services plus midnight communions. Attendance at our Christmas services were noticeably up on recent years which was very encouraging.

Our Churches and Buildings

St Thomas à Becket, Warblington

St Thomas à Becket, Warblington is a Grade 1 Listed Building and dates from the 11th Century. Despite its rural location, Sunday services are well attended and it is popular with walkers and visitors to the neighbouring council cemetery.

The church is open to visitors on most weekdays and we have been able to reinstate our tradition of providing refreshments at the weekends of July and August for the many walkers and visitors to the local cemetery, which has been highly successful.

St James, Emsworth

St James, Emsworth is a large Victorian church and is a Grade 2 Listed Building seating around 400 and has been used for concerts and other public events.

The garden improvements of the past few years, tree's, flower beds and benches are vastly improving the area.

We have only been able to open the church on a few occasions, with monitored admission but it did draw in some 1st time visitors.

Parish Hall

Our parish hall remains a significant resource for worship, pastoral care and other activities. It is available for private hire and is well used by many local community groups such as the Emsworth Concert Band, U3A, flower groups, keep fit classes, local auctions and others. Recently a local Guide and Brownie group have started meeting in the Hall.

The committee are continuing to ensure all health and safety aspects and safeguarding policies are maintained at the required standards.

Financial Review

The annual results are fully detailed later in this report and show an overall profit in the year of £4k, before the gains on investments, which is a vast improvement on the projected loss of £20K set in the budget last January.

The Trinity Trust is an Endowment Fund that is invested with CCLA with shares being sold as and when we need income to cover any grants made. In 2023 we drew down £37,655 which is recorded as a transfer in the accounts.

A similar transfer was made in respect of the Sunday School fund to correctly represent the property sale as an income.