**Trustees Annual Report and Financial Report**

The Parochial Church Council of the parish of

**Portslade and Mile Oak**

**for the year ended 31 December 2021**

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Parish of Portslade & Mile Oak

*Priest in Charge:*  The Revd. David Swyer, 18 Amesbury Crescent, Hove BN3 5RD

*Independent Examiner:* Mrs Joanne Golds

*Bankers:* Charities Aid Foundation (CAF), 25 Kings Hill Avenue, West Malling Kent ME19 4TA

Parochial Church Council of Portslade St Nicolas & St Andrew

And Mile Oak The Good Shepherd

**Trustees Annual Report for 2021**

**Structure, governance and management**

The Parochial Church Council (PCC) is a charity, but is excepted from registering with the Charity Commission within the meaning of the section 30 of the Charities Act 2011. Its governing document is the Parochial Church Council (Powers) Measure 1956.

During the year the following served as members of the Parochial Church Council:

*Ex officio members:*

Priest in charge: The Rev David SWYER. Chairman

Wardens: Mrs Gillian WILKS

Ms Ann BEARD

Mr Alan Langridge

*Elected members*:

Mr David SHARP

Mr Roger REEVE

Mrs Marian Burke

Mr Ken Rist

Mr Brian Taylor

Mrs Sarah Peck

Mr Terry Boxall

*Deanery Synod:*

Jimmy Hutchin

Hazel Holding

Christine Reeve

Treasurer Alan Langridge

*Secretary:* Zoe Smith

Membership of the PCC is determined under the Church Representation Rules and consists of certain ex-officio members (the clergy, the churchwardens and members of the Deanery, Diocesan or General Synods) and 12 members of the church who are elected at the Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM). Members are warmly encouraged to stand for election to the PCC and we try to ensure a balance of skills and experience where possible.

**Aim and Purposes**

The primary objective of the PCC of Portslade and Mile Oak is the promotion of the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to the doctrines and practices of the Church of England. The PCC has the responsibility of co-operating with the Priest-in-Charge, the Rev’d David Swyer, in promoting in the ecclesiastical parish the whole mission of the Church - pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical. The Reverend David Swyer is an interim minister who is licensed until the 5th of December 2022.

**Objectives and Activities**

* To enable and prosper the worship of Almighty God in Portslade & Mile Oak.
* To seek to foster an environment where disciples can grow and flourish.
* To increase the membership of the Church.
* To co-operate with our ecumenical partners wherever possible.
* To serve our community in particular through the administration of the occasional offices of baptism, marriage and funeral rites; pastoral care and evangelisation.
* To promote fellowship, friendship and community through an active programme of social activities.
* To become a welcoming, outward-looking, thankful community that creates a safe space in which to explore God, Christian spirituality and worship; to relate our lives as disciples to this faith and to celebrate God’s great gifts to us.
* To care for the buildings of which we are temporary custodians; to maintain the fabric and to make sure they are best suited to serving the mission of God in this parish.
* To ensure that, in line with “charities for the advancement of religion” we have due regard to our public benefit guidance when exercising any powers or duties to which guidance is relevant.
* Our regular worship and study gives high priority to prayer, the scriptures, administration of the sacraments and the challenge of the Gospel to walk the Way of Christ.
* Services seek to be inclusive and accessible to all; the church buildings are open during the day for casual visitors and pilgrims. Our church halls are normally used extensively by the community for a wide range of activities from The British Cactus & Succulent Society and Keyboard Lessons, to Pre-school Nursery and Brownies, Yoga, Alcoholics Anonymous, dog obedience and various other groups.
* Due to the COVID-19 pandemic and the resulting Government restrictions on social gatherings our worship and social activities have been severely curtailed. The statistics on church attendance reflect this.
* During 2021 the parish conducted 4 weddings, 5 baptisms, and 22 funerals. Our links with local schools, especially St Nicolas Church of England Primary School, have continued to be strong despite restrictions on visiting.
* Our social programme of celebrations, meals, activities and parish retreat to Walsingham has been severely affected in 2021 due to COVID.

**Achievements and performance**

*Church attendance*

At the start of 2021 the Electoral Roll stood at 66, 6 of whom are non-residential (9.1%). The Electoral roll at the end of 2021 stood at 65; 6 of whom are non residential (9.2%) an overall loss of 1.

The average weekly attendance combining both parish churches, counted in October, was about 67 adults. Some people have not returned since the partial relaxation of social-distancing. Services continue to be live-streamed.

*Review of the year*

**Safeguarding**

The parish is fully compliant with SQP, Diocesan instructions and orders and with the Church of England House of Bishop’s guidelines on safeguarding. Our parish policy and safeguarding information is prominently displayed on the home page of the Parish website ([www.portslade-mileoak.org.uk](http://www.portslade-mileoak.org.uk)) and on the church noticeboards.

The full **PCC** met 3 times during the year with an average attendance of 84.6%. Committees met between meetings and minutes of their deliberations were received by the full PCC and discussed where necessary. The standing committee had various meetings in person and via Zoom due to the Pandemic restrictions.

The **fabric** of the buildings continued to occupy much time, energy and money.

We were unable to pay our full PMC in 2021 (offering £9000). This is a 25% increase on the previous year.

**Social and Fund Raising**

Nearly all social and fund raising events were cancelled due to the COVID pandemic. The Winter Fayre took place and raised about £1000.

Our parish remains part of the Hove **Deanery Synod**.

Mrs Sharon Evans was our Parish Administrator but she resigned in October to go to a new job.

**Financial Review**

Looking forwards, the key issue is still that our income is insufficient to pay the full Parish Ministry Contribution, and that situation cannot continue indefinitely. This Parish Ministry Contribution is the largest regular expense for the PCC.  The amount covers the housing, stipend and pension costs of our Vicar and also a standard sum for diocesan central costs, clergy training and a contribution to national church funds.

One of our long term goals is to move towards paying our full responsibility.  We are very grateful to the Deanery Group for Allocating Grants for their support for the outstanding amount.

In our current financial state our charitable giving is funded by collections, special events and the Parish Giving Scheme.

**Reserves Policy**

It is the PCC’s policy:

* to maintain a balance on the general unrestricted funds (excluding property) which equates to approximately two months’ worth of unrestricted payments as contingency against unforeseen situations.
* to spend restricted and endowment funds in line with their terms and conditions
* to invest fund balances with the CBF Church of England deposit fund. (Currently such funds are restricted or endowment funds only)

The PCC recognises with gratitude and appreciation those groups and individuals who make their service of God and of His Church clear by their generous giving of their time, money and effort. Much of the work of this parish is undertaken a generation who are entering their senior years. Failing health and vigour are reducing energies which could be relied upon in the past.

In order for the Church to thrive and grow we need to engage in evangelism, mission and faith sharing to encourage growth in numbers as well as growth in faith, love and service. We were evangelised by those who helped to make Jesus real to us - and they did a successful job (otherwise we wouldn’t be here!) - so we need to do what they did and pass on our faith to this current generation.

This is the challenge we face if we are to have a future worshipping and serving in Portslade and Mile Oak.

This Trustees’ Annual Report was approved by the PCC and signed on their behalf by the Revd David Swyer, PCC Chairman

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