**THE PARISH OF THE ITCHEN VALLEY**

**Incorporating the Parish Churches of St Mary’s Avington, St Mary’s**

**Easton, St John’s Itchen Abbas and St Swithun’s MartyrWorthy**

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**ANNUAL REPORT 2015**

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**1. Administrative information**

The Parish of the Itchen Valley is part of the Diocese of Winchester within the Church of England. The correspondence address is:

Itchen Valley Parish Office

St John’s Church

Itchen Abbas

Winchester

SO21 1BJ.

The telephone number is (01962) 779845 and the office is open from 10am to 1pm, Tuesday to Thursday.

The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of Itchen Valley is a Registered Charity No: 1133110.

The Churches of the Parish are St Mary's at Avington, St Mary's at Easton, St John the Baptist's at Itchen Abbas and St Swithun's at Martyr Worthy.

Ministry team:

Rector The Reverend Amanda Denniss from April 2015

Assistant Curates The Reverend Alex Pease, The Reverend Rebecca Fardell

Licensed Lay Ministers Mr Tony Gaster, Mr Gerry Stacey

Churchwardens:

St Mary’s Avington vacant

St Mary’s Easton Anna Burness, Theo Mezger

St John’s Itchen Abbas Charlotte Appleby, Tony Gaster

St Swithun’s Martyr Worthy Andrew Impey, Robin Greenwood

Deanery Synod Representatives (elected in 2014 for 3 years):

Martyr Worthy Gerry Stacey

Easton David Anderson

Itchen Abbas Tony Gaster

Avington Sarah Shirley

Elected members of the PCC:

Sarah Shirley (Avington), Verity Coleman (Martyr Worthy), Nick Owen (Itchen Abbas), Julie Taylor (Easton)

Alternates (alternates serve as deputies for the relevant PCC member in his or her absence):

Sarah Bullen (Avington), Amanda Seymour (Martyr Worthy), Vanessa Rosewell (Easton)

Hon Secretary: Charlotte Appleby replaced by Lucy Pease from October 2015

Hon Treasurer: David Anderson

**2. Structure, governance and management**

The Parochial Church Council (PCC) for the Parish of the Itchen Valley is the governing body for the Parish. At the 2014 APCM, the Parish Scheme on Governance under the Pastoral Measure 1983 was adopted, which replaced previous provisions for the constitution of governance in the Parish of the Itchen Valley. The Scheme is supported by a Policy Guidance document. Both documents are available on the parish website.

The method of appointment of PCC members is set out in the Church Representation Rules and the Parish Scheme. The PCC met six times during 2015. As at the end of 2015, the PCC was supported by a Standing Committee, a Finance Committee and a Fund-raising Committee.

There are four District Church Councils (DCCs), one for each District centred on the Churches of the Parish. All the DCCs met regularly during 2015.

All regular Church attendees are encouraged to register on the Electoral Roll and stand for election to the PCC and DCCs.

**3. Aims and purposes**

The PCC has the responsibility of co-operating with the Rector, in promoting in the Ecclesiastical Parish and the area of the Itchen Valley, the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical. It is the duty of the Rector and the PCC to consult together on matters of general concern and importance to the parish.

**4. Objects and activities**

The PCC is committed to enabling as many people as possible to worship at our Churches and to become part of our Parish community. The Ministry Team and PCC all acknowledge the need to consider public benefit in planning activities and guidance on the advancement of religion.

**5. Achievements and performance**

The report from the Ministry team and the churchwardens’ report set out some of the highlights of the parish’s achievements and performance in 2015.

The average attendance at regular Sunday services throughout the parish during 2015 was approximately 10 at the 8am service, 40 at the 10am service and 17 at the 6pm service. These figures exclude the much higher numbers attending special services such as the Remembrance Service or patronal festival services. Attendance at services on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day totalled 531, slightly lower than Christmas 2014 (571), and 185 on Easter Day (280 in 2014). A party from St James’ Benwell in our link diocese of Newcastle visited us in June and a parish lunch was held. A Faure Requiem service was held on Remembrance Sunday. There were seven baptisms, eight weddings (or blessings) and eight funeral services during 2015.

**6. Electoral Roll**

There are 214 names on the 2015 Electoral Roll for the Parish, of whom 22 live outside the parish. This is a decrease of 3 on 2014.

**7. Report on the fabric, goods and ornaments of the churches**

*St Mary’s Avington*

The DAC granted us a Schedule B permit for the Nigel Graham Maw memorial plaque. Phase two of the conservation of the reredos was completed in April and £3,000 in grants received from The Leche Trust and The Church Buildings Council. We also appreciated being able to claim back £850 worth of VAT. We are delighted with the result which should now last for another 200 years! Malicious Damage: during the course of the year two more incidents of malicious damage occurred – stones thrown at the East window breaking a number of leaded lights and items of Christmas decorations taken. It was decided to keep the Church locked while we investigated the installation of CCTV cameras. We are hugely grateful to John Scholes and his company “Observant Innovations”. They have kindly offered to test their cameras in St Mary’s at no expense to us. We are grateful to Dave Russell for carrying out minor repairs to damaged woodwork. Plans are in hand for Lydia Gould to repair the churchyard wall this coming year.

*St Mary’s Easton*

In April we received the report on the Quinquennial Inspection undertaken by Seymour & Bainbridge in the previous month. The only matter raised as requiring urgent attention was the replacement of a number of slipped, missing and broken tiles from the Nave roof, which has been dealt with. Contemporaneously we arranged for the installation of a length guard immediately above the south door to protect against any slipping tiles. Also we commissioned an electrical inspection following which we replaced the corroded main fuse box and made some minor repairs to the external and chancel lights. In the churchyard a young rogue beech was removed and a patch of wild flower meadow has been laid funded by a generous anonymous gift.

*St John’s Itchen Abbas*

The building has needed some attention; rainwater goods have been painted (cost £525), the boiler steps better protected (£900), interior lighting improved using modern LEDs and a new consumer unit fitted (cost £2,779) and the boundary wall repaired (cost £1,154 and ongoing). Due to this electrical work new electrical certificates have been issued. During the autumn the gallery was converted for office use (cost £1,720), notwithstanding problems getting phone and internet connected, this is now up and running both for the parish administrator and bookkeeper. A regular monthly group now works in the churchyard and much has been done to improve things. In the summer, the car park had a mesh laid with the object of being able to use what was a field year round (cost £7,453, of which specific donations of £3,700 were received for this). Thus far, due to recent exceptional rains, the car park has still had to be closed sometimes.

*St Swithun’s Martyr Worthy*

After a busy few years reordering the church, the only major item of expenditure in 2015 arose from the need in November to repair the grade 2 listed 18th century Betty Wharton box tomb which collapsed earlier in the year. It cost £3,504 towards which the Friends of St Swithun’s made a generous donation of £1,000. Repairs to the roof tiles and boiler house chimney were also carried out in March (£791) which completed the works arising out of the 2012 Quinquennial Inspection. In addition, the light outside the south door required replacing in March (£103); a large chestnut tree very close to the north door of the church for its size and badly affected by leaf miner disease was felled in April (£700) towards which we received a generous donation; and a leaking roof vent above the pulpit required repairing in September (£356).  Pew cushions were

also installed and paid for by a special collection made at the Thanksgiving Service a few years ago for the late Donald Black (£878) and a donation from the Friends (£429) to make up the balance.

**8. Report from the Rector**

The APCM will mark almost exactly the anniversary of my first year here as Rector. It has been a wonderful year as I have been getting to know our four churches, our four villages, but most of all getting to know members of our community both within and outside our church. I want to thank you all for your warm welcome and support and encouragement over the last year.

I am reminded as I write this report of the picture that the apostle Paul uses in his first letter to the Corinthian church of the church being like a human body. Like a body, the church is made up of many parts. God gives each of us different gifts and different passions. The church works best if we all work together and play the part that God has called us to. Over the last year I have been very blessed by seeing the body of the church in action. Many, many people have been serving in so many ways and working together to bless the church and bless our community. I am deeply thankful for the way that so many people have contributed to the life of our church. It is not possible in this short report to name everyone, but please be assured of my gratitude. We are partners together in the gospel and co-workers with Christ. I do especially want to thank the churchwardens, David Anderson our treasurer and all who have served on the PCC and the DCCs. Alex and Rebecca have been a wonderful support and encouragement. Phil Collins, who was until December our Area Dean, has been a great source of wisdom and advice.

Our Sunday services are the main place where we regularly meet as a church community to worship God and encourage one another. The services rotate on a rather complicated rota amongst the four churches. I have been amazed at how everybody is so good at knowing which church to go to and when. David Truslove, our Director of Music, has continued to enrich the musical worship of our church both on Sundays and by a service of Faure’s Requiem in the autumn. We also have a worship band led by David Parker which has been wonderful in leading us in modern worship songs in the All Age Services.

There are many, many ways in which we live out our faith as a church both in worship and service in the church and in serving our local community across the generations. In order to reflect the variety of ministries in which our church is engaged, I have asked for separate reports from the teams involved in CAMEO, Little Rainbows, Free to Be, UTX and The Ark and our All Age Service.

We continue to value and invest in our relationship with the two schools in our parish: the Itchen Abbas Primary School and Princes Mead School, by taking assemblies on a regular basis. Itchen Abbas School uses St John’s church for some of their class assemblies as it gives them plenty of space for both children and parents. David Truslove once again worked with children from the school to rehearse a Christingle Choir. The choir sang beautifully at our Christingle Service which was attended by many of the parents.

A major focus for me as Rector in my first year has been to oversee the putting together of our pMAP (Parish Mission Action Plan). At the Diocesan Synod Conference in September 2013 four Strategic Priorities for Mission (SP1-4) were agreed. These set the agenda for the work of the Diocese for the next three years and our pMAP encapsulates our response to these priorities in the Itchen Valley. The process of putting together the pMAP was a good opportunity for both the clergy team and the PCC to reflect on where we are as a church and where we would like to be in

three years’ time. We had a very valuable PCC morning at Old Alresford Place in September where we discussed and agreed our missional priorities for the next three years.

I thought it might be helpful to summarise our four Strategic Priorities and to let you know how we are getting along. We began this process in the summer of 2015 and it has continued into 2016. The priorities are grouped under four headings which reflect the priorities of our diocese.

**SPI We grow authentic disciples**

This priority acknowledges that many of us do not feel confident in sharing our faith with others and would welcome being equipped to do this more effectively. As a church we are going to invest in our discipleship so that we can be encouraged, motivated and confident in sensitively sharing our faith. One way in which we will do this is by running discipleship courses.

During Lent this year we have run the Diocesan Lent course in place of the normal evening services on Sunday evenings. It has been a good opportunity to not only explore some of the foundations of our faith, but also the opportunity to discuss them and see how they apply to our everyday lives. In April/May we are going to run a discipleship course on five Tuesday evenings where we will explore some of the big questions of faith such as ‘Why evil and suffering?’ and ‘Do all paths lead to God?

**SP2 We re-imagine the church**

We want to continue to value and cherish our existing congregation and to strengthen our relationships with all who live and work in our community. Over the next year, a particular focus will be improving our connection with families and young people. In this priority we recognise that families and children are not well represented in our congregation. When I began my ministry here, very few families came to the monthly Family Service. In some services only one family with children was present. During the autumn, Alex visited many of the families that we have connections with to consult with them about this. As a result of these conversations, we are seeking to involve both parents and children more in all aspects of our All Age worship. The attendance at the services has increased and our relationships with parents and children is growing.

**SP3 We are agents of social transformation**

The focus of this priority is on sharing the love of Jesus in practical ways both in our local community and beyond. Our aim is to establish small discipleship groups with a missional focus. These discipleship groups will meet together to read the bible, pray and support one another. Each group will have an outward focus e.g. night-shelter, local schools, elderly. We would like to begin our first groups later this year.

It is very important to undergird everything we do, both within the church and the local community beyond, by prayer. In prayer we both listen to God speak to us and share our hearts with him for his kingdom to come in our lives and in the lives of the people we are praying for. Prayer is key to sharing the love of Jesus in practical ways.

There are many different ways to pray and we have begun two midweek prayer meetings to reflect this. On Mondays we have begun Midday Prayer which is a more formal way of praying using a simple liturgy. Midday prayer is at 12 noon and will rotate between the four churches in a regular pattern. On Tuesday mornings during term time we have begun an informal prayer meeting at 9am at St John’s. We sing worship songs and pray in an informal way. Informal Prayer is open for everybody and is especially good for parents who have just dropped their

children off at Itchen Abbas school. One of the focuses of our prayers is for our children and youth and the local schools.

**SP4 Stewardship and generous giving**

This priority recognises our need to increase our level of regular giving to match our running costs and to allow us to expand our outreach and mission. Our aim is to establish a stewardship programme that helps us to be motivated, both individually and corporately, to contribute to the financial and practical ministry of our church.

The PCC agreed to the setting up of a parish office at St John’s which is known as The Hub in order to facilitate the ministry of our church. In September we appointed Lucy Pease to be our Administrator to help the clergy and the church to fulfil our mission. A small team worked hard to get all the practical work done to adapt the balcony at St John’s to be used as an office, not least to get the phone line and wifi put in. Lucy is working part time as a volunteer and has been an enormous blessing to me as she has begun in her new role. Tony Gaster stepped down as our book keeper at the end of 2015 and I am very grateful for all the work that he did in this role. Our new bookkeeper, Madeline Quest-Ritson also works from the Hub and it is working well for both our Administrator and Bookkeeper to share office space. The Hub is normally open on Tuesday to Thursday from 10am to 1pm. Please do go along and have a look and a cup of coffee if you haven’t already done so.

My prayer for us as a community is that we will grow together in loving God and loving one another and be fruitful in all we do to the glory of God.

John 15.16-17 ‘You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you so that you might go and bear fruit – fruit that will last – and so that whatever you ask in my name the Father will give you. This is my command: love each other.’

*Revd Amanda Denniss*

*CAMEO*

CAMEO (Come and meet each other), which takes place once a month, on the third Tuesday, in St John’s, Itchen Abbas, consists of a short Communion Service, followed by a two course lunch for the over sixty-fives. It has had another successful year, with numbers steadily growing, although we were extremely sad to lose two loved and respected members in December and January. We now cater for between 36 and 40 people, consisting of 25-30 guests and about 10 helpers, although at our Christmas lunch, we numbered 48. We also had the pleasure of having carols sung to us by some of the children of Itchen Abbas School. We celebrated our fiftieth CAMEO lunch in June. CAMEO is fully self-supporting with donations from our guests, and we are extremely grateful to the Ministry Team, whose input at our services, and the lunch, is invaluable. The CAMEO Committee have, as always, been outstanding, and deserve so much praise for the support they give to this project.

*Lavinia Owen*

*Little Rainbows*

Over the course of 2015 we have continued Little Rainbows our Monday morning group for toddlers and their parents or carers. This is held at St John’s Itchen Abbas taking advantage of the reordering of the church and open space in which the children can play thanks to the verger of St John’s, Vernon Tottle, who is willing every week to move the chairs to and fro. After playing for about an hour, with toys or puzzles and doing a craft organised by Sally Parker, the children have a snack and either Revd Rebecca Fardell or Revd Alex Pease lead the children in dancing followed by a Bible Story presented in a way designed to appeal to the children. We end with a prayer. A rota of kind ladies provides coffee and cake for the adults. Little Rainbows is open to all comers whether or not they attend church in the parish or attend another church; indeed it is a good example of our cooperation with local Roman Catholic families. Numbers range from about five or six children to as many as 10 or 12.

*Revd Alex Pease and Claire Hunt*

*Free to Be*

Free to Be is a group that was set up for people who live with the challenges of emotional health issues, such as depression or anxiety, to meet and share their experiences. It was inaugurated in January 2015 with three people and there are now eight regular members. The group meets every Thursday during term time from 10 am at St John's Church, Itchen Abbas. From time to time during the year the group has invited members of the community to come and talk about their lives, experiences or areas of expertise. We have had visits from a recovered alcoholic, someone managing their depression, the Coordinator of Home-Start Winchester and a clinical psychologist amongst others. The group meets in the church and as a result is fully supported in prayer from within the group and also by the Clergy of the parish.

*Lucy Pease and Susie Brine*

*UTX and The Ark*

We are blessed to have families as part of our community and are delighted to welcome children and young people to activities in our church. The Ark and UTX aim to support our children and young people as they grow as disciples of Jesus. The Ark continues to meet in term time so children can learn more about Christianity whilst we are worshipping God in church. UTX has been meeting for social activities and we have added an exciting new monthly meeting for our young people. This is enabling them to explore some common questions so that they can be more confident in their faith. On other weeks, our young people take it in turns to help children in The Ark; it is a real blessing to see them willing to serve God and his church in this way. All this work is possible because of the people who support this important ministry; we would like to say an enormous thank you to all who help with The Ark and UTX. We are praying for more people who feel called to this vital and rewarding ministry.

*Revd Rebecca Fardell*

*All Age Service*

During the Autumn 2015 we consulted directly or indirectly with over 20 families about the future of our All Age Family Service. We have a large number of children and teenagers in the Parish (extrapolating 2011 census data) it seems that there are about **80** 12-16 year olds; **48** 9-11 year olds; **65** 5-8 year olds; **28** 3-5 year olds living in the parish.  Given that about 40% of the population attend church services at Christmas, we should (in theory) be able to expect to attract as many as **80** children and teenagers to our All Age Services. However, before the consultation we found that very few children were actually attending (sometimes as few as two or three). Since then we have re-launched the All Age Service. We are involving many more families in the constituent parts of the service: reading, worship, prayers and in dramas illustrating the talk and this seems to be working well. We have also greatly increased the level of publicity, using the excellent graphic designers in our parish (Beccy Clark and Penny Russell) to produce good quality flyers which get distributed on-line and in the book-bags for the children at Itchen Abbas Primary School. We are also holding a termly planning meeting for parents at which we work out how to do our services for the following term. Our most recent All Age Service attracted over 20 children and their families. Whilst we have a long way to go to reach our target of 80 children and teenagers, this has been a good start. We are also planning a four times a year afternoon service entitled Families at Five on Sundays for those families whose children are occupied in sport on Sunday mornings – as a result of our consultation. We hope to hold the first of these events in the Spring or early Summer.

*Revd Alex Pease*

**9. Churchwardens’ report**

We are happy to report that 2015 has again been a successful and busy year in the life of our parish. We were delighted to welcome the Reverend Amanda Denniss who took up her position as our new incumbent in April. She and her husband Oliver have settled into the valley and are now actively involved in the life of the parish, deanery and the wider community. We would like to pay tribute to our strong ministry team, now led by Amanda, comprising our curates Rebecca Fardell and Alex Pease, supported by our licensed lay ministers Tony Gaster and Gerry Stacey, who between them cover so many aspects of parish life and who continued to lead our services during the vacancy up to and including the busy Easter period. Our thanks also go to David Truslove our Director of Music and the many people who volunteered to:

* serve on the Parish Church Council and its committees and our District Church Councils
* act as vergers, sacristans and treasurers
* help at services whether as sidesmen, lesson readers, chalice or eucharistic assistants and those who make and serve coffee
* guide us on important administrative items such as health & safety and finance
* help with church cleaning, flower arranging and opening and locking up the churches
* keep our churches and churchyards in good condition
* help with parish events and organise fund raising and other events.

It has always been and remains one big team effort and we are truly appreciative.

We are pleased to be able to sustain a minimum of three church services each Sunday during 2015 spread across our four churches in a regular pattern of worship which our congregation appreciates. As set out in our parish profile and in recognition that the Church of England is a broad church, with a balance of traditional and more family-orientated services, we aim to offer worship across a broad spectrum and so maintain a wide appeal that is so important in a rural parish.

We are blessed with beautiful and well-maintained churches and are pleased that we are able to keep them open daily and to use them for regular and festive worship and other events. It is gratifying to see from the visitors’ books how many people visit and appreciate our churches. This is in large part due to the four District Church Councils, who have delegated responsibility for the upkeep and general maintenance of the churches and churchyards, together with the large number of people who provide additional support. During the year we had a number of formal church inspections including electrical and asbestos surveys, and revaluations for insurance purposes. Whilst these inevitably involved extra effort, they demonstrated how well our churches are cared for and were useful in highlighting a few areas of potential improvement which have subsequently been acted upon. Sadly, we have to report several acts of vandalism at St Mary’s, Avington which have led to the temporary closure of the church outside of services whilst CCTV is installed (see Fabric Report). We hope to be able to reopen the church all day soon.

We have assisted the Rector and her ministry team with producing a Parish Mission Action Plan as part of Bishop Tim’s Strategic Priorities for Mission. This has led to various initiatives including a renewed focus on attracting more families and younger parishioners to our churches. These initiatives are more fully detailed in the Rector’s report.

We are very grateful to Lucy Pease for becoming Parish Administrator, and acting as Secretary while the post remains vacant. We also give thanks to her for establishing the parish ‘Hub’ at St John’s Itchen Abbas and to Madeline Quest-Ritson for succeeding Tony Gastor, to whom we also owe our thanks, as parish Bookkeeper. We would also like to thank Alex Pease again for his work in ensuring that the parish website is kept up to date. The website continues to become an increasingly important way of communicating our message to the wider public, showcasing our events and activities as well as hosting the Itchen Valley diary. We encourage you to use it.

The work of the Parish is reflected in the wide range of activities which take place. Notable events included our Patronal Evensongs and parties, the annual Way of the Cross service and a weekend visit by representatives from St James, Benwell. The many regular Parish activities are mentioned in the Rector’s Report.

With a focus on mission and outreach, and mindful of the importance of public benefit in the work of a charity, many of the activities of the parish continue to be directed towards the wider community and beyond:

* we supported a number of charities, including Winchester Night Shelter, Sunshine School in Jerusalem (where Rebecca Fardell spent time in the summer as part of her training) and the Winchester Basics Bank, both through monetary donations from special collections, through donations in kind and by active involvement
* we fostered our link with St James, Benwell in our partner diocese of Newcastle, which we have been supporting in prayer and through financial donations
* our pastoral visitors and the Friendship Club support those in need, whether members of our congregation or not
* we continued to foster our links with local schools and playgroups
* we installed an ‘all weather’ car park at St John’s, Itchen Abbas which is shared with the Village Hall.

2015 was again an excellent year for fund raising, as is reported in detail in the Financial Statement. Such events not only make a significant contribution to our financial position but also provide a social dimension to our life as a parish and demonstrate that the congregation is active in the local community. Some are put on jointly with other organisations and may raise money for several charities as well as church funds. We are once again grateful for the energy and enthusiasm of fund-raising teams which makes this possible.

The churchwardens thank all those who contribute in many different ways to the work and smooth running of the parish. Three of the churchwardens, Anna Burness, Charlotte Appleby and Tony Gaster, are retiring at the 2016 Annual Meeting of Parishioners and the parish is grateful for their service.

Looking forward, we anticipate another vibrant year in which we aim to build on the successes of the last and to pursue new initiatives. However, we wish to sound a note of caution about the future. Following the APCM we will have five important posts vacant, those of PCC Secretary and four Churchwardens (out of eight). If we are to continue to operate in the manner in which our Parish Scheme and Guidance Policy provide, we shall have to find volunteers for these positions soon.

**10. Deanery Synod report**

Synod met three times in February (Alresford), June (Beauworth) and October (Itchen Abbas). During the year much focus has been on Mission Action Plans which were completed during the year. The deanery link with Lango has also caused debate and concern, so that money given for this project has been held, waiting on better communication. Later in the year the Lango committee felt it could now release funds and these would primarily be for “rooted in Jesus” course. It was hoped some representatives from the deanery would visit Lango in 2016. Earlier in the year there was concern expressed about Ropley, both for the loss of their church and the need to find a new incumbent. At the June meeting, our rector was introduced in her new deanery role as discipleship adviser. The treasurer reported on a new scheme for parish share proposed by the diocese and it was hoped that the deanery would hit target this year which it has failed to do before.

In October Archdeacon Paul Moore gave a presentation on “Mission and the people of God”.  Synod also discussed staffing plans for the future across the Deanery and noted that there was likely to be a fall in stipendiary clergy in the next ten years.  IVPCC has currently three clergy and four lay members on synod.

**11. Health and Safety report**

During the year a major review of the H&S policy, procedures and activities was carried out. The policies, both at the Parish and Church level have been updated. The PCC and the H&S team are committed to keeping all our Churches as safe as realistically possible for all our worship and non-worship activities.

The fundamental principles of “management responsibility” and “closed loop process” are now embraced not only in the policy documents but in the activities. The Rector, PCC, PCC-H&S representatives and DCC-H&S representatives have all received training in this regard and have been fully appraised of the roles and responsibilities.

All Risk Assessments have been updated. Key actions identified during this process and two audits carried out at each Church during the year have been addressed.

We are pleased to say we have had no reportable incidents.

**12. Safeguarding report**

We have 17 volunteers who have had Disclosure and Barring Service checks (formerly CRB) and six who are in the process of being checked. All activities likely to raise concerns are carried out in accordance with the PCC's Child Protection and Vulnerable Adults policies, copies of which are available from the Safeguarding Officer. The PCC reaffirms its position to follow the guidelines of the Diocese.