

BROCKENHURST Parish Church

St. Nicholas' with St. Saviour's

REVIEW OF 2020



"Belonging to God
Growing as a Christ Centred Community
Living the Mission of Jesus"

ANNUAL CHURCH MEETING

Wednesday 21st April 2021

**7:30pm
at St Saviour's Church
and via Zoom**

www.brockenhurstchurch.com

THE PARISH OF BROCKENHURST

Minutes of the Annual Meeting of Parishioners and Annual Parochial Church

**Meeting held on Thursday 22nd October 2020 at 7.30pm
in St Saviour's Church and online**

Simon Newham welcomed everyone and opened the meeting with prayer.

32 church members attended in St Saviour's and 28 attended online.

Apologies were received from: Pete and Vicky Wales, Sue Griffiths, Nathan Parnaby, Janet Blizzard, Jan Campbell, Sarah Foulger, Nicola Rowntree, Tim and Liz Dodwell.

Annual Meeting of Parishioners

1. Election of Church Wardens - The candidates were:

Rosalind Dennison - proposed by Delphine Matthews seconded by Sharon Dibden
Jeremy Moss - proposed by Lesley Munt seconded by Ros Dennison

No other nominations having been received, both candidates were elected unanimously.

Simon thanked Ros and Jeremy for offering their time and talents to this considerable role.

Annual Parochial Church Meeting

1. Minutes of previous meeting

The minutes of the meeting held on 24th April 2019 were approved and signed.

2. Matters Arising

There were no matters arising.

3. Warden's Report

Ros referred to her more comprehensive report in the Review of 2019 previously circulated and asked everyone to cast their minds back to January 2019 when St Nicholas' was full of scaffolding and we held interviews for a new vicar. We were managing but the future felt uncertain. Then in March St Nicholas' was fully restored and we knew that Simon was coming to be our vicar. On Easter Sunday we said farewell to Mary Nicholson and wished her well in her new ministry. In April our ANZAC Service was beautifully led by

Francis, and at Pentecost Diane led us in a service to celebrate the restoration of the St Nicholas' ceiling. A team led by Alan and Jean prepared the rectory garden for the arrival of the Newham family and there was a certainty about our future. During the interregnum the contribution made by our honorary assistant clergy: Alan Graham, Diane Webster and Francis Cumberlege supported by Tina, John Pearson, Tony Foulger and Martyn Taylor was hugely appreciated and we thank them sincerely for all they did and still do to support our churches and worship in the community. During this time the energy and talents of so many people came to the fore. In August fifteen children enjoyed Reuben's Lion King Summer Holiday Club and the Mothers' Union scarecrows depicting 20th Century characters thankfully survived the storms. Many other successful events and activities were dependent on the enthusiasm of our congregation and the work of our teams.

Above all, thanks must go to Alan, who has been a constant steadying presence for five-and-a-half years during crucial changes, notably the extension of the church rooms, ceiling fall, interregnum, preparation of the Parish Profile and planning of all the important occasions of 2019. We are grateful to him for the wisdom, skill and charm with which he has led and listened. Thanks must also go to Jean who, as PCC secretary, has been his constant support and now produces Spotlight, an unending task of gathering facts to be clearly and accurately presented each week. Alan has been a brilliant Churchwarden and so much more. Jean was presented with a basket of flowers to express our gratitude.

Ros then welcomed Jeremy Moss as our new Churchwarden who will bring his considerable technical knowledge to the broadcasting of services, talks, etc. as we live through the pandemic.

4. Treasurer's Report - including the Year's Accounts

The full Annual Report and Financial Statements for the year ended 31 December 2019 had been previously circulated. The Treasurer, Peter Lay, gave a brief explanation:

- The net deficit of £4,300 includes depreciation charges on St Saviour's sound system and the hall and kitchen carpet of £13,250, therefore net income was £8,950. This includes two extraordinary appeals:
- A very generous £21,400 was raised for the ceiling repair at St Nicholas' of which £5,200 was spent in 2019 added to £6,500 spent in 2018 = £11,700. The surplus of £9,700 went into the General Fund in accordance with the terms of the appeal.
- A donation of £700 was received for repair of the carved stone heads at St Nicholas'.
- £7,250 was received in legacies.
- Underlying deficit = £7,100 (£14,350 excluding legacies) which is similar to the last seven years.

- We are fortunate to benefit from generous donations which in 2019 amounted to 83% of all income, 42% of which was from regular planned donations, i.e. Parish Giving Scheme, standing orders and CAF.
- Other income is from investments, parish magazine advertising, hire of hall, wedding and funeral fees. Some of this has been impacted by cancellations due to the pandemic but is still in surplus.
- The PCC looked at the unrestricted reserves policy and decided to keep this at three times the average cash expenditure to cover sudden loss of income or urgent repairs. This fund now incorporates what was previously the Fabric Fund.
- The PCC is addressing the shortfall in day to day running costs by setting a more balanced budget; finding alternative ways to raise money for charities and encouraging members to review their giving through stewardship campaigns.

SN thanked Peter for all his hard work in compiling these accounts and thanked our church community for the generous responses to appeals and the stewardship campaign.

5. Electoral Roll Report

Simon reported 214 on the Electoral Roll as at 22nd October 2020 including 28 non-resident.

6. Other Reports

All reports are printed from page 12 onwards in the Review of 2019 and on the church website. Simon commented on these reports and thanked the following leaders and teams for their involvement covering all aspects of church life:

Diane Webster - Home Groups: These are very important to our life of faith and fellowship. This year those hosting and leading groups have found some creative ways to keep them going during the pandemic and new members are always welcome.

Tim Dodwell - Fabric Team: This hard-working skilled team continue to respond with good spirit to anything that has occurred from flooded cellars to dripping roofs.

Reuben Humphries - Children & Youth: Since Reuben left in September 2020, we have not appointed a Youth Worker under the present circumstances but Simon is doing weekly video assemblies at the school and Jo Plummer is working on Reuben's brief to engage our young people as much as possible which includes a Christian Union at Brock College.

Liz Dodwell - Mission Team: Details of fundraising for charities and the Mission of the Month charity can be found on Spotlight and in the Parish Magazine.

John Pearson - Prayer Ministry Team: This small team offers prayer ministry after services and has done a huge amount of work to put prayer resources on our website.

Joyce Kolaczowski - Pastoral Team: Brockcare and Cameo is very well regarded throughout the whole village community and brought many people together in 2019.

Keith Nolan - Social Team: Our social life is as important as our spiritual life and 2019 was a busy year for the team. In 2020 Zoom quizzes have been enthusiastically attended.

Simon Newham - Worship Team: Simon thanked Francis, Tina, Diane, Alan, Tony, John and Reuben and said he is blessed to have their support and encouragement and also that of the "army" of people who help put all aspects of the services together.

Cynthia Wilson - Music: Simon thanked Cynthia, Mike Kelly, Andrew Parrish and Miriam Newton for so skilfully providing this very important part of church life.

Brenda Horner - Baptism preparation: Brenda and Phil wish to thank those who participated in these sessions in 2019. For 2020, resources have been sent out and contact kept until those baptisms postponed can take place.

Lesley Munt - Marriage Preparation: During the interregnum, clergy did their own marriage preparation with the couples. A marriage preparation afternoon was run by Simon shortly after he arrived.

Sue Hendry - Brockenhurst Care Cars: Thanks go to all the volunteers who covered 570 appointments in 2019.

Gerry Radjen - Church Hall: Martin Fletcher has temporarily taken on the role of chairman since Gerry retired. A huge thank you to both. There was much to do in tightening up procedures in 2019 and much to do now to look at protocols for re-opening.

Martyn Taylor - Lyndhurst Deanery Synod: There is to be reorganisation in the Deanery which will lead to some changes. Please pray for our Deanery.

Wendy Lay - Mothers' Union: The MU also contribute to the pastoral care and life in this village and do a valuable job in fundraising and bringing people together.

Jane Forrest - Street Pastors: A Christian presence on our streets is very important and all the volunteers do an amazing job, which sadly is not happening now due to the virus.

Ros Dennison - St Nicholas' Visitor 'Guardians': The warm and informative welcome from the Guardians is widely praised. This is an important ministry.

Suzanne Sewell and Sue Park - Flower Guilds: The Flower Guild ladies happily continue to make our churches look beautiful and inviting.

Lindy Waight - Sanctuary Guild: Simon said this is the most organised Sanctuary Guild he has ever worked with.

Lesley Munt - Wednesday Lunches: Since these were first prepared in the church hall in 1988 we have served 39,846 lunches! It is wonderful to see the joy and sense of fellowship the guests enjoy and the life they represent in this church.

7. Election of PCC Members - The following were standing for election:

Deanery Synod:

Martyn Taylor	proposed Alan Wright	seconded Peter Lay
Peter Lay	proposed Wendy Lay	seconded Jean Taylor
John Pearson	proposed Sharon Dibden	seconded Lesley Munt

PCC 2nd Term:

Joyce Kolaczowski	proposed Ros Dennison	seconded Diana Fletcher
Joanna Plummer	proposed Philip Horner	seconded Brenda Horner

PCC 1st Term:

Tony Foulger	proposed Sharon Dibden	seconded Sue Moss
Pauline Brown	proposed Sue Moss	seconded Ros Dennison

All of the above were approved by the meeting and Simon thanked them for being willing to commit their time to the life of the church.

Tina Cumberlege, David Heslop, Cynthia Wilson, Geoffrey Jennings have retired and they were thanked for the considerable gifts and skills they have brought to serve this Parish.

8. Appointment of Independent Examiner

Simon proposed that Lewis Ball is re-appointed and thanked him for giving his expertise.

All in favour.

9. Date of next APCM

Wednesday 21st April 2021

10. Open Forum

Wendy Lay invited everyone to join the members of the MU after the service on Sunday 25th October when they will be planting a hawthorn tree in the grounds of St Saviour's to commemorate 35 years of the MU being reinstated in Brockenhurst Parish.

11. Vicar's Report and Vision Going Forward

The full vicar's report is on page 8 of the Review of 2019 where Simon thanks the church and wider community for the wonderful way in which he and his family were welcomed in June 2019 and have been supported and encouraged since. Our goals going forward emerged from our Parish Vision Day in September 2019 at Pilley:

1. To develop a new service that engages more effectively with young families.
2. To deepen our prayer lives that we might better become the people God wants us to be and to be better engaged in the things He would have us do. Digital and live events have helped us study 2020 as the Year of Prayer. 2021 will be the Year of the Bible and 2022 the Year of Vocation. Details will be in Spotlight, the Parish Magazine and online.
3. To re-launch Alpha.
4. To be more deeply engaged in the life of Brock College.

5. To go away on a Church Weekend of teaching and fellowship.
6. An annual stewardship campaign.
7. A raising of our eco-awareness and engagement.
8. Our exploring of other ways of raising funds for mission giving and engaging with the wider community.

Work has been developing on all of these goals from 2019 and through 2020 but obviously Covid-19 has caused us to adapt in these ever-changing times. We need to put more effort and resources into going digital and we are considering how best to do this.

So many people have contributed to church life in 2019 but in particular Simon and the wardens would like to thank: Cynthia Wilson for her music and her authentic joyful Christian presence; Marion Burden for support as PCC secretary; Di Fletcher for her work on local history, social occasions and "lending her husband" who is always doing things around the place; Keith and Ann Nolan for playing the trumpet and enthusiastically organising our social life; Luke Chambers our wonderful caretaker and carer of lost souls; Joyce Kolaczowski for leading Brockcare in such an outward-looking and big hearted way; Mary Robinson for all her work in the office and putting together the Parish Profile; Peter Lay for being the most organised and helpful Treasurer and Alan Wright who always gives of his best in a wise thoughtful and loving way and has been a colleague to trust and rely on for the last 16 months. Alan was called to say a few words on his retirement as Churchwarden since 2014:

" That was an interesting five-and-a-half years! The first three were very easy - once a week meeting with Neil for an hour, after which he took all the actions to the office... not much else for me to do. Then, on starting my fourth, and what should have been my final year, we were "gifted" an interregnum... swiftly followed by St Nicholas' ceiling falling down. That started a hectic year during which we had to arrange the Parish Profile; have meetings with the Archdeacon; select our Parish representatives; advertise for and short-list our candidates; arrange tours, interviews and supper and arrange Simon's induction (or as I like to say - we arranged for him to be induced and institutionalised). Then, just as we started to knock Simon into shape, along came Coronavirus. So, all in all, quite an eventful time.

"I can say with complete honesty that I couldn't have got through it without the help of so many of you, and especially for your prayers for Ros and me and the presence of the Holy Spirit. Thank you all.

"While it may seem invidious to mention particular people who have helped along the way, I do wish to thank our lovely Parish Administrators, Lesley, Sharon and Mary, who kept me on the straight and narrow during the interregnum, Marion who took on the role of PCC secretary just as I took the PCC chair and our clergy and LLMs who took care of the worship side so well without my interference. And not forgetting everyone else who helped us maintain "business as usual". I also want to thank Ros who has been a

wonderful ally through everything, someone with whom I have been able to share problems and confidences and receive much support. Thank you, Ros. And of course, and most especially, Jean, always full of patience and understanding.

"But times change, things move on and it's right that Simon is supported by someone younger and with more energy; someone who has the skills and a vision more appropriate for the times in which we are now living and I am confident that Jeremy and Ros are the right people to be at Simon's side as we move forward. Jeremy - I wish you a smoother and more peaceful ride than I have had and, however it works out, I can promise you that you will find the role both rewarding and fulfilling, if at times a little frustrating.

"For me, it will be strange coming to church on Thursdays and Sundays and finding that things just seem to happen. I know that things do not just happen without the hard work and input of so many of you. When I spoke at the APCM at the end of my first year, I reckoned that more than 100 people did something to make our church work... I don't think I was wrong, so a big thank you to you all. And thank you too for your love and support; it has been a real privilege to be one of your churchwardens."

Ros then presented Alan with a patio pot of flowers, a book of pictures of his time as Churchwarden with messages from his many friends here and vouchers for him and Jean to spend on their planned garden design. Simon reminded everyone that a lot of thought and care is given by the Churchwardens in their work for our church and wider community.

Simon said that the West Africans have an expression: 'God is in his heaven and all shall be well'. Our aim as Christians is to serve and never give up. He thanked everyone for attending, thanked Jeremy for the technology that brought us all together and closed the meeting in prayer.

Martin Fletcher thanked Simon for all that has been achieved in the sixteen months he has been here and proposed a vote of thanks to him and Gina. Simon replied that it has been a joy to serve.

The meeting closed at 9.35pm

VICAR'S REPORT for 2020

'May you live in interesting times' is apparently an English translation of a Chinese curse. 2020 has certainly been one of 'interesting times' - and from China too!

For us, and the life of our parish throughout this year, we have been influenced by two key parameters.

Firstly, the goals set at our Parish Vision Day held on 14th September 2019.

These goals were:-

1. To develop a new service that engages more effectively with the young families of the village.
This hasn't developed as we had hoped (due to the second parameter – see later) even though we had developed an agreement with our local primary school that we would be able to run something there. We have however launched a new informal service 'Open' (see Worship report).
2. To deepen our prayer lives that we might better become the people God wants us to be and to be better engaged in the things He would have us do.
We undertook the Year of Prayer with many events ran (see Worship Report) – although not as many as we had hoped due to parameter 2!
3. To re-launch Alpha.
We advertised in early 2020 but had little take-up. We re-advertised in late 2020 and have had 13 people sign up for a course that began in January 2021 (more on that in next year's report!).
4. To be more deeply engaged in the life of Brock College.
Throughout 2020 we have had various meeting with the key leaders of Brock College with the aim of renewing our relationship and work there. At the end of 2020 Jo Plummer has been given permission to start a Christian Union at the college – something to pray about in 2021 and will be reported on further in next year's report.
5. To go away on a Church Weekend of teaching and fellowship.
Not much has happened here as parameter 2 made planning for this extremely difficult - although it remains something we will deliver going forward.

Before getting on to parameter 2 there are a couple of other points that were mentioned in this report last year that I would like to highlight.

In this report last year we stated that we would be undertaking a Stewardship Campaign which we did in February. There was a generous response to that campaign which resulted in an increase of regular income by about 11% or £1,400 per month (£16,800 per annum). Thank you so much to all of you who responded.

I also stated in this report last year that we would be working throughout the year to raise our eco-awareness and engagement. This too happened with Camilla taking a Bishop's Certificate in Mission Eco course and creating a team that has led to us being awarded a bronze award under the Eco-Church Scheme. We now have a regular report at PCC on eco matters and an eco page in the Parish Magazine. More is to follow in the coming year as we seek to better honour one aspect of our original vocation – to be good stewards of creation.

A mention was also made in last year's report of our exploring of other ways of raising funds for mission-giving and engaging with the wider community. None of this went quite as hoped – again due to parameter 2 – although we did have a virtual open gardens.

This second parameter that has been of significant influence is of course the Covid-19 Pandemic.

We had Bishop Debbie join us on 15th March at our Sunday morning services and then the world changed (I hasten to add that I am not assuming a link between the two events!). The next weekend churches were closed and we went into the first National Lockdown.

To read about the profound affect that the Covid-19 pandemic had on our pattern of worship throughout the year do please see my Worship Report included within this document.

Other affects were numerous, but not, as one might assume, all negative – I have been so impressed at the creative, imaginative and generous ways that Brokenhurst has responded to the Covid-19 pandemic. They include:-

1. The beginning of our own weekly 'Cobra Meetings' to organise and coordinate our response to Covid and in particular the wonderful work of Brockcare that supported so many through the initial shock of Lockdown. Joyce and her team were, and are, amazing. Thank you!
2. The postponement of our APCM from April until October – the good news being that Alan had to soldier on fantastically as one of our wonderful Churchwardens. We finally held a mixed economy APCM via Zoom and live attendance in church – who would have thought that possible a few months earlier?
3. In April/May we had an emergency appeal for Kigeme which raised just over £6000 in just a few weeks to help meet the needs of those who were struggling to simply feed themselves as a result of Covid. Thank you to all who gave so generously.
4. We held our first ever Zoom PCC meeting on 30th July and it was so encouraging to see how all involved had embraced the new technology. Well done to all of us who struggled to learn new things this year so that we could continue to meet with, support and encourage others.
5. In a similar vein we held a couple of Zoom quizzes – enjoyed by all who took part.
6. Reuben left us for pastures new on 13th September.

7. We had a homeless man – Paul – sleep in our porch for several weeks. He became a friend of many and eventually ended up with a job and accommodation at Bucklers Hard. Thank you to all of you who helped to make him feel valued and included.
8. We had a field full of crocheted and knitted poppies for Remembrance and a tree full of angels at Christmas that helped to lift spirits – thank you to all of you who made them, planted them and hung them.
9. We found new ways of having tea-time together on a Wednesday afternoon and delivering Christmas lunches as we weren't allowed to come together to eat them.

Thank you to all of you who made all of the above, and other creative responses to a very challenging time, possible – it meant that although our buildings may have been closed the church remained very much open. In addition to all these things that we did do we also had to cancel and rearrange lots of other events as well, including Holy Week services and events; the ANZACs service; the commemoration of the end of World War II; Christian Aid week and other charity fund-raising events; Summer Holiday Club (for our older and younger guests); and most of our other social events. Where possible we put on virtual events instead, but however good these were, they are not the same as actually coming together to be with one another.

And so as I look forward I very much welcome the lifting of restrictions and the beginning of our being together in reality rather than only virtually. I cannot yet say what this might look like and I anticipate it will not be the same as it was before – some things will have permanently changed, and some of what we have learned through the last year we will hopefully continue to make use of. What I do hope is that we continue in the spirit of good naturedness, flexibility, willingness to embrace change, creativity, prayerfulness, kindness, and community spiritedness that has marked this last year.

So many of you have been such a help and support over this challenging year and, as ever, it seems unfair to focus on some for a particular thank you. However that is now what I would like to do.

Joyce and her Brockcare team (of which so many of you are a part) have been amazing. Thank you for your caring, loving and serving of others that has helped us to remain a community.

Our going 'virtual' would not have been possible without the hard, continuous and dedicated work of Jeremy and his digital team – they too have been amazing at keeping us together as a community.

So much work behind the scenes organising us all, is down to Sharon, Lesley and Mary in the church office. They have repeatedly had to change plans at the last minute and reorganise us according to the latest restrictions imposed upon us - and this has always been done without complaint. Thank you for being the 'glue' that's kept us all going in the same direction.

Our worship team (Diane, John, Tony and Alan) have been such a support and wise colleagues as we have together tried to discern the best way forward through ever-changing times. Thank you for your patient guidance and willingness to be involved where and when you can.

And finally thank you to three very hardworking, caring, wise, and self-sacrificing Churchwardens. Ros, Alan and Jeremy have been with me every step of the way through this year and I know that I couldn't have got through it without them. Thank you so much for being there.

Let's all hope and pray that 2021 is a less interesting year!

Reverend Simon Newham

A WARDEN'S REPORT FOR 2020

Belonging, Growing, Living in the Light and Life and Love of Jesus
2019 had been a good year, worship continued at St Saviour's and St Nicholas Churches, the Interregnum had ended and Simon had been here six months. At the Watch Night service in St Nicholas Church at the start of 2020 life in Brockenhurst felt very normal. That is until an almighty BANG! It felt as though the whole gallery would come crashing down onto our heads, with Cynthia still sitting at the organ. Thankfully no lasting damage was done.

A busy schedule throughout the months of January and February meant that no two weeks were the same. Reuben's 'Reverse Advent Calendar' had yielded heaped boxes of provisions for the New Forest Basics Bank. One Sunday we enjoyed a cooked breakfast before a packed Café Church, Wednesday Holy Communion was changed to a Thursday to be before CAMEO which had become so popular we needed extra tables. Wednesday Lunches and various clubs and activities continued in the Church Hall. The Citizen of Brockenhurst Awards Evening recognised Cynthia's contribution to the musical life of the village.

At the crowded Newcomer's Party in March people new to the area introduced themselves and made arrangements to meet up later. Sally Dakin, the wife of the Bishop of Winchester, led us in a spiritually up-lifting quiet day at Minstead Lodge and the new Bishop of Southampton, the Rt Revd Debbie Sellin came to preach at a 9.30 Family Service. Mothering Sunday seems a very long time ago now for on the very next day, 23rd March, the Prime Minister informed the country that everyone must stay at home and businesses must close. The words lockdown, coronavirus and Covid 19 entered our language. There was widespread concern for the NHS, fear and panic buying, and we wondered at the effect it would have on all people throughout the world. Gatherings were suspended, there was much heartache as weddings were postponed and attendance at funerals limited. Were we in Brockenhurst prepared for these restrictions? By the end of the first week a Brockcare team and other volunteers, led mainly by Joyce, had organised 100 local people to support the community, to befriend and deliver food and shopping to all who

were isolating. Two metre distancing, washing and hand sanitizing became routine and the wearing face masks was to become normal. Those the church employed were temporarily furloughed and, we prayed.

In April Worship was videoed. Psalm Sunday with palms and donkeys was viewed across the world, we marvelled at the technical skill that John, Simon and Zac revealed. Viewing familiar faces, familiar places and bluebells lifted the spirits of all in isolation and we thank the Newham family for this. Throughout April the weather was beautiful, gardens flourished. Sue provided me with seeds and many bought plants from Furzey Gardens. Simon continued to video Sunday worship, including the Anzac Commemoration. Did we all realise what a time-consuming commitment this had become?

In May the village celebrated VE Day, not in the way planned with an exhibition in St Saviours, but with flags and Jane's rainbow coloured floral NHS arch over the porch at St Nicholas. This creation made the national news, it lifted the spirits of all who saw it. Lesley and others created NHS rainbows for window display - and we clapped for the NHS. Many people were learning new skills and crafts and the May Parish News described how to knit and crochet poppies for Remembrance in November. It was a glorious, productive summer; to record the hard work, gardens were filmed by Alan and we enjoyed seeing, hearing and being impressed by the variety of what we viewed all available on the Church website.

On 13th June we were mindful of the fact that Simon had been in the Parish for one rather memorable year. Lockdown was easing, we resumed Church Services with no singing, spaced seating and masks. Each day St Nicholas Church was opened by Guardians for private prayer. Live services in Church could be viewed at home using Zoom, or later on YouTube, or heard on the telephone; Jeremy with Peter and Paul enabled this streaming into our homes. Taking their own mug, groups of 6 were meeting in gardens for tea or coffee, - even in the rain - and Brockcare organised 'Tea for 2, or 3 or 4 including transport. We were being urged to support local shops.

By that time, and ever since, many have felt the strain and distress at not being able to meet beloved family and those isolated in Residential and Care Homes. In September the schools returned and life felt almost normal for many. Reuben completed his two years with us and moved on to St Marks, Shirley. In a year when the Churches have barely been open and almost all organised events have ceased the 4 books of Brockenhurst history compiled by John Purkess are a source of interesting reading and an income for which our church is extremely grateful.

On 4th October we held the Harvest Festival and Camilla launched Eco-Church which addresses the environmental issues facing us all. Members from two local churches joined in a Covid-safe Creation Prayer Walk on 10th October. The belated APCM was held and Jeremy was appointed the new Churchwarden replacing Alan. Tributes were paid to Alan who had been Churchwarden for five and a half years and presentations were made to Alan and Jean.

In November the Service to Remember Loved Ones Departed was well attended and the following week - Lockdown again. The hastily filmed Remembrance Day Service used a variety of locations and photographs of young Brockenhurst men who died in WWI. Wonderfully, people had made 3000 poppies, Pauline had crocheted well over a 1000. Sharon with others arranged them on sticks, red and rainbow-coloured were massed at the east end of St Saviour's Church. People came, stopped and stood in the rain to remember.

Toys covered the two chancel steps, all generously given by the congregation and after the Toy Service on 13th December they were collected by Scratch; it had been a difficult year for many Southampton families. The two Covid Carol Services were landmark occasions, we had glorious live singing from the Friday Girls, it filled the church and reached our souls. Outside Bryan created the stable and Martin prepared the ground for the Nativity on Christmas Eve. Jo narrated and families came, all safely checked in by the sides people at the gates. One mother said that it was the first time in a long time that had felt any joy. On Christmas Day the crowds came again and the Carol singing could be heard all over the village. Trays of Christmas goodies were delivered prior to the day and chef Roger cooked the Christmas Lunch and prepared it for delivery by a team of drivers. How lovely for people who were otherwise alone to receive a hot, freshly cooked meal and greetings at the door on Christmas Day.

It has been a tough year and I would like to thank the Office Staff of Sharon, Mary and Lesley who with Joyce have calmly steered us all through a time we never could have imagined. Simon and Jeremy have with determination introduced, and patiently brought us all here tonight on a cloud platform. It sounds close to heaven, and we are, for it is an iCloud platform that we now know as Zoom. We are a fortunate Church family. God Bless and thank you.

Report submitted by Ros Dennison, Church Warden

HOME GROUPS

Our 11 Home Groups have been a very effective way to keep in touch while we have been unable to meet for worship in church. Two have evolved into prayer groups and all maintain regular contact by phone or other means, some sending out regular material for reflection. Five of them have met weekly and one fortnightly on Zoom. When permitted gatherings in gardens took place and the monthly Saturday group organised walks with a topic for discussion in twos. Each group decides its own subject and they have included The Beatitudes, Apostles' Creed, 1 Peter and the Minor Prophets.

Report submitted by Revd. Canon Diane Webster

Financial Review

Overall Summary

Overall there was a net surplus of £13,204 before the unrealised investment gains are taken into account. However, this includes the following exceptional items and depreciation charges

- Legacies of £18,500
- Donation of £5,000
- Depreciation charges of £13,253

If depreciation charges are excluded the surplus before depreciation was £26,457 and £2,957 if the exceptional income from legacies and donations is excluded.

Impact of Covid-19 Pandemic

The pandemic resulted in an estimated loss of income of about £15,800 compared to 2019 from

- letting the hall
- wedding and funeral fees
- collections

However, this was partially offset by Job Retention Scheme grants of £7,800 received from HMRC resulting in an overall loss of income due to the pandemic of about £7,960 compared to 2019.

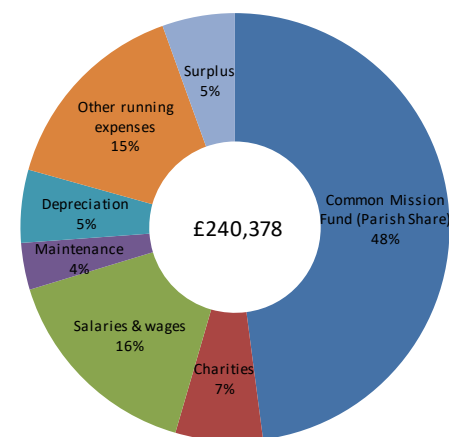
The loss of income was also further offset by a reduction in gas consumption resulting in a reduction in Gas, Electric and Water charges of £7,900 in 2019 to £3,500 in 2020.

Overall Expenditure

Overall expenditure was £227,174 against income of £240,378 resulting in an overall surplus of £13,204 compared to a deficit in 2019 of £4,262 from expenditure of £260,912 against income of £256,650.

Contributions to the Diocesan Common Mission Fund (Parish Share) amounted to £115,152 (or 48% of overall income) in 2020 compared with £110,330 in 2019. Other major categories of expenditure were

	2020	2019
• Donations to charities	£15,813	£19,038
• Staff salaries (including the employment costs of the Youth Worker)	£37,997	£47,235
• Total expenditure on youth work	£16,693	£22,786
• Maintenance of both churches and the hall	£8,496	£12,550
• Other running costs (electricity, gas, clergy expenses, insurance etc.)	£36,463	£58,508
• Depreciation charges	£13,253	£13,251
• Overall surplus/(deficit)	£13,204	(£4,262)



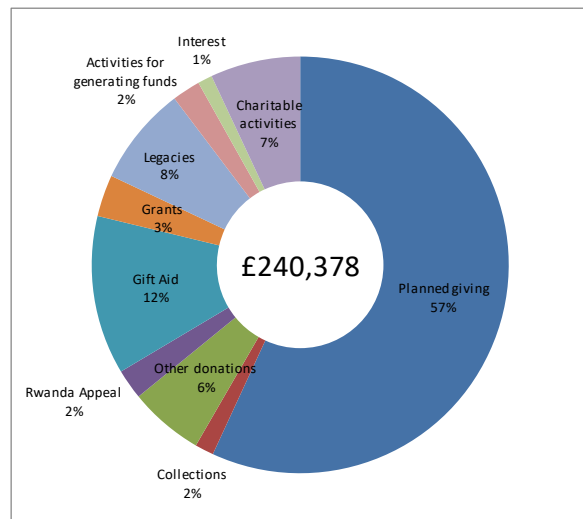
Overall Income

Income comes mainly from donations and the associated Gift Aid claimed from HMRC. Income was boosted in 2020 by:

- Legacies of £18,500 (8% of overall income)
- Job Retention Scheme (JRS) grants from HMRC of £7,771 (3% of overall income)
- Covid-19 appeal for Kigeme diocese, Rwanda

The graph below shows the proportion of income coming from the main accounting categories. This shows that

- 79% of income came from donations including Gift Aid claimed on donations
- 57% of income came from planned, regular donations given through
 - Parish Giving Scheme
 - Standing Orders
 - Charities Aid Foundation (CAF)
 - Other regular donations
- 12% of income comes from Gift Aid claimed on donations
- 11% came from Legacies and the Covid-19 JRS grants
- 10% came from normal activities. This includes things like fees received for weddings and funerals, trading activities and the parish magazine.



Appeals

During 2020 an appeal was held to help support the diocese of Kigeme in Rwanda from the impact of the Covi-19 Pandemic. This raised £5,610.

Ordinary Activities

The church spends the money at its disposal on the following main items:

- The Common Mission Fund (Parish Share)
- Youth Work
- Maintenance on the two church buildings (St Saviour's and St Nicholas') the church hall, and the churchyards
- Charitable giving from general income
- Other running expenses e.g. gas, electricity, insurance and salaries.
- Mission to the parish e.g. Brockcare activities

Money to support these is available from a number of Funds, primarily:

- The General Fund
- The Hall Management Fund
- The Youth Work Fund
- The St Nicholas Fund
- The St Nicholas Churchyard Income Fund
- The St Saviour's Fund
- The Brockcare funds

In addition money is also available from:

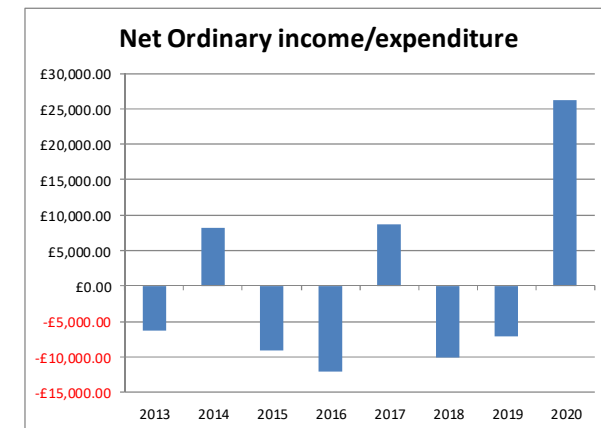
- The flower funds which are used to fund the provision of flowers in the two churches
- The Walker Munro Income Fund

Comparison with Previous Years

Excluding depreciation charges and appeal income there was a large surplus of £26,160 as shown in the graph below which shows the overall surplus or deficit for the years 2013 to 2020. This was boosted by extraordinary income from:

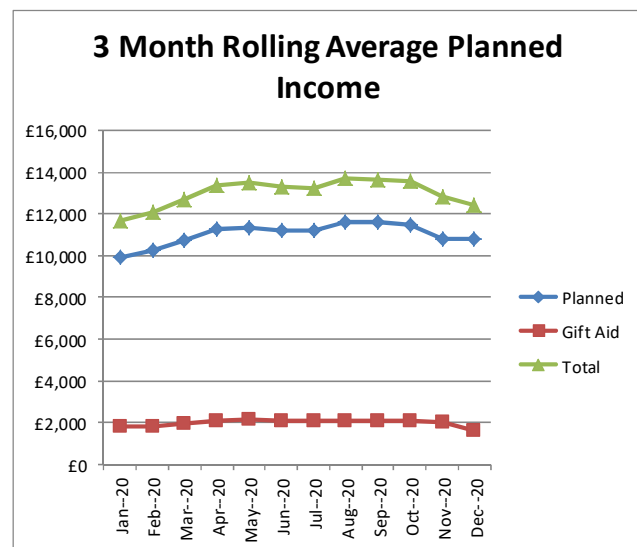
- Legacies £18,500
- One-off donations £5,000

If these are excluded the overall surplus before depreciation is £2,660.



Stewardship Campaign

A Stewardship Campaign was held in February 2020 resulting in an increase in planned donations from about £10,000 per month to about £11,500 per month in May an increase of 15%. However, recently a number of regular donations have been lost and monthly donations have dropped by about £700 to £10,800 in December.



Reserves

The PCC reviewed the reserves policy and decided that it was sufficient to keep a cash (or cash equivalent) reserve of three times the average monthly cash expenditure. The PCC considers this is sufficient to cover against

- A sudden loss of income
- Any major repairs that need to be funded urgently

The reserves comprise the cash held in unrestricted funds and at present exclude the cash held in the unrestricted flower funds. The cash reserves held on 31 December 2020 were £93,021 with an additional £2,393 held in the flower funds. The average monthly cash expenditure in 2020 was £20,500 for which the reserves policy requires a reserve of £61,500. The PCC decided that £30,000 of unrestricted funds should be designated as a Fabric Fund to pay for the repairs and maintenance work on the two churches, recommended by the Quinquennial Inspection carried out in 2020, over the next five years. Consequently, the undersigned reserves at 31 December 2020 are £63,021 which is £1,500 more than required by the reserves policy. However, the PCC believes to be reasonable because cash expenditure in 2020 has been lower than normal due to the Covid-19 Pandemic

Conclusions

2020 was an extraordinary year due to the Covid-19 Pandemic. Although income was reduced due to the churches being closed, the lack of fees from cancelled or postponed weddings, the reduction of income from collections and lack of income from hiring the church hall expenditure was less than normal and donations increased due to the response to the Stewardship Campaign. The overall outcome was a surplus even before income from legacies and extra-ordinary donations is taken into account. This positive outcome has allowed the PCC to set aside funds to cover the costs of the repairs identified

by the Quinquennial Inspection which are estimated to cost around £30,000 over the next five years.

Although there was a large surplus in 2020 the church is reliant on income from regular donations, which account for 79% of all income. There was a good response to the Stewardship Campaign in February, increasing regular donations by 15%. However, some of these gains have recently been lost so that the monthly regular income is now about 9% higher than in December 2019.

Report prepared by Peter Lay, Team Chairman and Treasurer

FABRIC TEAM REPORT

Both churches had their Quinquennial Inspections in July. In general they were found to be in good condition with no urgent action called for. At both churches isolated repairs to stonework, removal of moss and repointing and attention to rainwater downpipes will be called for over the next two to three years.

At St Saviour's the mortar infill to the stone roof tiles has largely failed and it is intended to attend to this, the removal of moss and vegetation growth, as well as the replacement of broken stone tiles, in the next few months. Our surveyor, Ryan Bunce, has been tasked with recommending a contractor and preparing a specification for this work.

The work required to obtain a satisfactory report on the electrical installation at St Nicholas' was completed early in the year. Replacement of defective high-level lights at St Saviour's and the conversion, so far as possible, of all lighting to LEDs was authorised at the December meeting of the PCC and should be completed by the time of the APCM.

The doors to the Church Hall were damaged beyond repair by an intruder last April following repair after previous damage. Stronger doors have since been fitted and were the subject of an insurance claim.

The potholes in Wilverley Road continue to be a problem. Due to the Coronavirus pandemic and first lockdown it did not prove possible to agree a course of action with the adjoining householders in time for work on the road surface to be undertaken in 2020. However amicable relations have been established leading to the fencing at the entrance which was installed in January 2021 with a view to discouraging unauthorised parking. The PCC have contributed 50% of the cost of this. It is hoped to attend to the potholes and resurface the road with appropriate material during 2021.

Several socially distanced working parties have taken place to maintain and improve the condition of the churchyard at St Saviour's and we were particularly pleased to welcome the help of a group of school-age volunteers from NCS (National Citizen Service) who made a great impression over the autumn half-term. A hawthorn tree to commemorate the 35th anniversary of the re-opening of the Brockenhurst Mothers Union was planted in October as a replacement for the diseased oak tree felled in 2019. The churchyard at St Nicholas' has for many years been maintained by Kevin Baker, who was

employed by the Parish Council in connection with the public cemetery. Kevin has now moved on and we are in discussion with the Parish Council about arrangements for the future.

Thanks are due to the whole of the Fabric Team for their support during the year, to those who joined in the working parties, in particular Martin Fletcher for his work in organising them and undertaking many other tasks, and to Paul Pearce for the organising and supervision of building maintenance work.

Report prepared by Tim Dodwell, Fabric Team Leader

CHILDREN'S & YOUTH WORK TEAM

2020 was a year of transition for the work with Children and Youth in the parish. It was the year when Reuben moved on after 2 years working in the Parish. We are very grateful for the enthusiasm and commitment that he brought to the role of Children and Youth worker and it was good to be able to celebrate this with him in church in September. Soon after Reuben became engaged to Becca. We wish Reuben well in his new role in Southampton and we wish them both a long and happy marriage.

The numbers in Bright Sparks and Pathfinders has really fallen and the 2 groups were combined. Some online material was put on the website when Reuben was furloughed. The Blaze group have also moved on – some to University and others into gap years. However, the group continued to meet virtually until August 2020. It has been a very difficult time for this group but they remain well connected to each other.

So please pray for our young people of the village that they will hear the message of Jesus through school assemblies and university groups and they will encourage each other. Pray that as a church we will find a way to connect with families and restart regular groups. Please also pray for Jo Plummer who has taken on the role of C and YW team leader (on a temporary basis) and give thanks for the very successful outdoor nativity service that she organised and helped lead.

Report prepared by Sue Moss

MISSION TEAM

This year some aspects of our church giving activities have been affected by Covid, in particular charities have suffered from losing collections and special appeals in church. Where possible we have substituted online appeals and people have responded very generously to those made through the church. In 2020 we supported only nine outreach/mission agencies from central funds but at least five more through special appeals, often linked to their special Sundays or seasons of the year. Our Christmas collections were shared between our own church funds, Oakhaven and JMECA. The money collected in our Lent/Advent boxes was given to help the training of clergy in Rwanda. We no longer have a contingency fund but make a special appeal to church members when there is some critical emergency. These have been very generously supported, especially the one for Rwanda. Where we can we also continue to support the Children's Society, Christian Aid and Traidcraft. Thanks to Covid 19, we had to cancel several fund-raising events

and the speakers for our March, May and August Mission Sundays, but in July and November we had excellent talks and appeals online from representatives of Mission to Seafarers and Tearfund. A new enterprise is the introduction of a very successful 'treasure trail' for visitors as they walk round the village which is bringing in a modest amount for mission funds.

Report prepared by Liz Dodwell

PRAYER MINISTRY TEAM

The team offers to pray with others that God may show His grace and love in people's lives through healing and by restoring wholeness. This ministry remains important but, sadly, became an early casualty of the pandemic due to the lack of social distance between those praying together. We do remain committed to re-instating this ministry when possible. In the meantime, situations for prayer can be sent by email to

prayer@brockenhurstchurch.com: all requests will be treated confidentially.

In response to the pandemic, team members - with greatly appreciated support from Debbie Smith, Sue Moss and Jeremy Moss – have created reflections and prayer tools accessible through our website. Our plan is to further develop these materials so that there are both materials for regular use and the particular circumstances that people experience in life.

If you discern that God may be calling you to join the team and pray with others, do talk to Simon Newham or John Pearson. Please pray that God will continue to support the team to fulfil His purposes through the guidance of the Holy Spirit.

Report prepared by John Pearson

PASTORAL CARE TEAM – 'BROCKCARE' and 'CAMEO'

Despite the Coronavirus pandemic having put many of our activities (Wednesday Lunches, CAMEO, All-4-One, Film Afternoons, 'Holidays@Home') on hold during 2020, the pastoral team continued to be very busy.

In early March the Brockcare Coronavirus Team arranged for every household in the village to have a list of phone numbers through which individuals who required help could access shoppers and/or other support. We had been inundated with volunteers coming forward from across the village who all wanted to be useful, and we were soon able to 'marry up' volunteers with those needing help. Many new (& lasting) friendships and bonds have been formed across our village as a result.

Pastoral visiting in the real sense was not possible during 2020. However, our wonderful pastoral visitors (and many others as well) have maintained telephone contact with the elderly and vulnerable throughout the pandemic.

Their ongoing attentiveness and concern have been much appreciated by those who have, for the best part of a year, endured isolation.

In the summer months when lockdown rules were relaxed, 'Brockcare' arranged for afternoon teas to be held in gardens and these were enjoyed by many. Our thanks go to the hosts and to the drivers who enabled the elderly and vulnerable to enjoy these teas.

At the end of September, Lesley Munt and I arranged for Afternoon Teas to take place in the Hall for 12 invited guests each week. These ran until mid-December (except in the November lockdown period). Again, thanks go to so many volunteers: kitchen staff; greeters and servers; drivers; cake bakers.

Not everything was cancelled. The '**Service of Remembering Loved Ones**' was held in early November, albeit under strict Covid rules. It was well attended and proved to be a great source of comfort to those mourning the loss of loved ones. There was an opportunity for pastoral visitors (and other church members) to speak with those who had been bereaved following the service. Tea and cakes were served in Church to those who wanted them.

The **Christmas Day Lunch** could not take place in the Hall in the usual way this year due to the pandemic. Roger Drake, our Chef, agreed to cook lunch again, however. Lunches were taken out by volunteers to the 15 guests who had ordered them. Guests were also provided with 'goodies boxes' prior to Christmas Day and these were much appreciated. Special thanks go to Di Fletcher who did much of the organization, and to Ros Dennison and Lindy Waight who packed up the meals ready for delivery on Christmas Day.

I would like to say a heartfelt 'thank-you' to all those involved in any of our pastoral care activities during 2020. Our volunteers have willingly given of their time and talents to show Jesus' love and friendship, comfort and compassion, in very challenging times this year, and have done so with imagination, ingenuity and good humour. Please contact me or the Church Office if you would like to join our team.

As I write, Sharon Dibden, who has acted as coordinator for 'Brockcare' since its inception in 2009, is preparing to leave her role with us and her Parish Administrator position. As a Church we owe her a huge debt of gratitude.

Report prepared by Joyce Kolaczowski

SOCIAL TEAM

The Social Committee's activities were largely eliminated by the Government's requirement that we must not socialise. However, thanks to the efforts of committee members Camilla Pearse and Liz Dodwell, the technical wizardry of Jeremy Moss and Paul Pearse, and Questionmaster Alan Wright, two very successful Zoom quizzes were held in November and December 2020. As

nominal Chairman I did what chairmen normally do, delegated to those with real ability!

Report prepared by Keith Nolan, Chairman

WORSHIP TEAM

2020 began with an ominous event at the New Year's Eve Watch service – the loudest noise I have ever heard in a church as a bell ringer dislodged two organ pipes that came crashing down onto the balcony. Those of us there thought that the balcony itself was about to collapse – apart from Tony – who, after a calm glance upwards from his leading of prayer, carried on as if nothing had happened! We should have known then that 2020 was going to be a year like no other!

In January we launched our *Year of Prayer* – the idea of which came from our Parish Away Day in September 2019 and the desire of those present to deepen their relationship with God. We begin with *intercession training* and *starting again with prayer* and a workshop on *personality and prayer* in February, before moving onto our programme for Lent with Sunday sermons on different aspects of prayer and Wednesday services of Night Prayer that included a talk from individuals on their own personal experience of the praying life.

We had a Lent Quiet Day led by Sally Dakin at the beautiful setting of Minstead on the theme of *who am I to God?* - a wonderful way to begin the reflective season of Lent together.

We even had Bishop Debbie join us on 15th March at our Sunday morning services to share something of her own prayer life – and then the world changed. The next weekend churches were closed and we went into the first National Lockdown.

Coronavirus was here and we had to learn a whole new way of being church. Worship went online. We begin on 29th March (Lent 5) with a service filmed and edited by my son Zac and uploaded to Youtube - and so it continued for a few months. It was very different to how it had been, but this opportunity forced upon us new and creative ways of worshipping that I hope we will continue to make use of in the future. There were real life donkeys on Palm Sunday and lots of human palms waving at each other from the screen by people who hadn't seen each other for weeks. There were new songs and poems and pictures (particularly of the beauty of creation around us) and stories shared – all speaking about God's goodness even in the most difficult of times.

Thursday morning communion services were filmed live from St Nicholas' using just a phone (who would have thought it possible just a few months before?), and through the power of Zoom and Lesley's amazing rota-organizing skills we found ways of involving others in saying the responses, doing the readings and praying the prayers so that what was produced never simply became a religious 'show', but rather remained a community at worship. Once we were able to, and following the ever-changing restrictions and the hard work of many, we opened St Saviour's to live worship and, again through the sterling effort of many, kept St Nicholas' open as a house of quiet, private

prayer. It has been much used - as evidenced by the constant stream of prayers left on the 'prayer net'.

And then Jeremy and his wonderful digital team (John, Peter and Paul) began to get involved and we ended up Zooming live services into people's homes - including our Nursing Homes - while some were at church. Gradually this system was developed to include a telephone service for those who couldn't use the modern tech - and so we have continued, at all times trying to include as many as possible in our new ways of worshipping whether we were in Lockdown or not.

This use of technology meant that we could continue daily Morning and Evening Prayer - a pattern of worship that gave rhythm and structure to the timeless days of Lockdown; had guest speakers joining us from afar; ran a *Thy Kingdom Come* prayer event with members of the other churches in this community; continued housegroups; organised creative prayer trails and Advent Calendars across the village; continued our Night Prayer series of services during Advent with parishioners (and a nun) sharing their life of prayer; held a virtual Remembrance Sunday; began a new informal service (Open); produced weekly assemblies for local schools that were shared not just in school, but also in people's living rooms - the church, school and home working together in new ways.

When we could we even had 'live' services in church. I particularly remember Harvest, the Remembering of Loved Ones Departed service at the beginning of November (St Saviour's was as full as it could be - perhaps not surprising in a year when so many had lost someone), the Toy Service and of course the Covid Carol Services - the first time in 9 months that we heard live singing in church. Thank you Friday Girls!

We may not have had 'live' singing for most of the year but we have had Cynthia and Mike playing the piano and organ for us in ways that have helped us reflect anew upon much loved hymns and songs which we had perhaps grown to take for granted. Thank you both.

We managed to open St Nicholas' for the Patronal Festival on 6th December - it was so good to be back in that beautiful church and to see so many in attendance - the church was as full as it could be (particularly the balcony!).

And finally we ended the year with the outside Christmas family services to which so many came to sing, and to hear, and to be part of the good news of our Saviour's birth (thank God for the two glorious days of weather we had on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day!). The year ended as it began - well kind of - the difference being that this time the New Year's Eve Watch service was live-streamed and there was no almighty crash!

Worship is at the core of who we are and what we do and this year has been very different. We have mourned the loss of some things; singing; coffee after the service; families in church and face to face youth work; healing services; social events built around our times of worship; more traditional forms of worship; and the forced 'closure' of churches (the last time this happened was 1208-1214).

But there have also been some blessings including more time to reflect on what church and life should really be about; two people being willing to take a Bishop's Certificate in Mission (Sue Moss - Worship and Camilla Pearce - Eco) - the future of the Church lies in more lay people like Sue and Camilla being willing to respond to God's calling on their lives; Jo Plummer beginning to make links with Brock College; new creative forms of worship; the 'upgrading' of our technical abilities both personally and as a church; and the increased accessibility of worship particularly for those who couldn't come to church for whatever reason.

That last point has meant that throughout this year-like-no-other we have engaged with some people who have seldom if ever come to church, and that is something I hope we continue to do. We have continued to serve the wider community as evidenced by the 3 weddings, 10 baptisms and 25 funerals we have taken. The weddings in particular are noticeably down on numbers from previous years, but each one of those three somehow felt particularly special - a joyous, simple celebration of love in dark days.

I have been particularly impressed and moved by you, the wider congregation, for the constant support, encouragement and participation in very different forms of worship. So much change has happened in such a short space of time with barely a whisper of complaint - who could have thought that possible in the Church of England! May this spirit continue.

Thank you for being there, and continuing to be there, as a worshipping community in these changing times and for your willingness to embrace new technology and new forms of worship. It has been so encouraging. None of the above would have been possible without those who so generously give of their time and talents in preparing and leading our worship, and so my final word is to express my thanks to Diane, Alan, John and Tony. I know that some of them feel that they haven't *done* as much as they could - but involvement in the leadership of a church is not just about *doing*, it's also about *being*, and each one of you has been a support and encouragement to me and others in these challenging times. Thank you!

Report prepared by Revd. Simon Newham

MUSIC

This is possibly one of the shortest & saddest report I have written in 25 years. Suddenly in April 2020 there was silence.....and for a while there was the total absence of any living music both within and without the Church.

The 2020 Lockdowns have struck an extraordinary blow to Church gatherings and inevitably undermined the way that we have previously worshipped together. That doesn't mean that we haven't shared some lovely gatherings in the Church building and indeed some excellent Zoom services but the sound of voices being raised together has been notably absent.

It would be disingenuous to suggest that everyone likes to sing ... (far from it!) but when we worship together we are fortunately not singing to please ourselves but, far more importantly, to offer God our collective praise and

thanksgiving. Although it is lovely to listen to well-presented video music with beautiful visuals ... yet as a way of worshipping together it side-steps our joint involvement.

This has led some to ask deep questions as to how, as a UK Church, we've allowed the Christian voice to become so limited and unheard?

However, there was a ray of sunshine in this otherwise silent year at the Christmas Services where families & friends gathered outside St Saviours to sing carols with cheerful goodwill, huffing & puffing out clouds of hot air into the chilly atmosphere and rejoicing in the freedom to raise our voices in well-known Carols!

Another special moment was the Carol Service which, mercifully, was slipped into the schedule during the December reprieve. Old and new styles were combined in the retelling of the Christmas story and this proved to be a truly moving service. The Friday Girls sang some exquisite, gentle carols from the chancel & gallery which beautifully expressed what was in this modern retelling, and we thank them for their contribution.

During this past year Andrew Parrish (Organist) was seriously ill and has since resigned his position. However, it is good to know he has made a recovery and is soon to be married: many congratulations to him and Diana. And our sincere & grateful thanks go to Andrew for his many years of really excellent organ playing and his service to St. Nicholas.

Maybe life will 'return to normal' in 2021 we wait to see but in the interim, hopefully, we will have learnt to cherish Eph 5.19 just a little bit more!

Report prepared by Cynthia Wilson

OTHER ACTIVITIES IN THE LIFE OF THE CHURCH

BAPTISM PREPARATION

Baptism preparation meetings and Baptisms have been held whenever Covid restrictions have allowed. The preparations were held in the youth room at St. Saviour's Church. Sadly, there were fewer Baptisms in 2020 because of the Covid constraints.

We will continue to hold these meetings and the Baptism services when the restrictions are lifted.

Report prepared by Brenda Horner, Co-ordinator

MARRIAGE PREPARATION

Seven engaged couples attended the Marriage Preparation session held in the church hall at the beginning of February 2020. After a fun introductory session based on which road sign most described their relationships and thoughts of marriage, Simon explained the Christian understanding of marriage and why we feel marriage preparation is so important. Simon then talked on various topics and aspects of marriage (barriers to talking; conflict resolution; financial management; personal style and habits; children and parenting; spiritual beliefs etc) and couples were given worksheets to discuss with each other. After a break for tea and cake provided by members of the Mothers' Union,

Simon went through the Marriage service itself and the couples were introduced to those who would be involved with their wedding - the clergy taking the ceremony, Andrew Parrish the organist, Jane Thatcher, the florist, Sue Lynes the Verger, and Sharon Dibden, the administrator who would be sorting the forms and formalities. Before leaving, as a gift from the Mothers' Union, each couple was presented with the book 'Growing Together' - a marriage preparation book written by Andrew Body.

Sadly, as lockdown restrictions from Covid 19 took hold, many of our couples had to postpone their weddings until 2021 or even 2022, and just a very few were able to hold small ceremonies.

Report prepared by Lesley Munt

BROCKENHURST CARE CARS

Once again a very big "thank you" to our drivers. A very different year, obviously.

As most of our drivers are over 70 or have underlying health conditions, our numbers have dropped considerably, but we were helped immensely at the beginning of the pandemic by a number of new volunteers coming forward. They, together with our existing drivers, have been able to continue driving and have done a great job. There were a lot fewer requests, naturally, as so many appointments were cancelled but the numbers started creeping up from June onwards and every request was met with a cheerful 'yes, of course, happy to'. We thought we might have some difficulty finding enough drivers to transport folk to their vaccinations but offers of help just kept on coming, and even more for the 2nd wave. So thank you for all your very generous offers of help.

If anyone is interested in becoming a driver once normal life resumes, we would be very happy to hear from you. Please contact Sue Hendry tel: 623543.

Report prepared by Sue Hendry, Temporary Organiser

CHURCH HALL

Firstly, let me say how much we miss the chairmanship of Gerry Radjen, who resigned that post last autumn and the committee wish to express their thanks for all she did.

Of the year under review, nearly all the time the church hall has been under lockdown rules. Despite this there were some activities that could take place with the requisite social distancing; I should particularly like to mention Joyce Kolaczowski and Brockcare for organising a rotation of the Wednesday Lunch participants to attend twelve at a time for afternoon teas. This was very successful from the end of September to early November and again in December for a couple of weeks.

Music and Movement was suspended for most of the year; however, with appropriate Risk Assessments in place, this was enthusiastically run by Cynthia Wilson starting again on Monday 7th December. It was run with a maximum of 12 parents and 20 toddlers. Suitably spaced on the floor with

some ventilation, four sessions were held before Christmas, with an average attendance of nine parents and youngsters. Sadly, at the start of 2021 all activities have had to cease.

I should like to extend my thanks to Mary for doing all the day to day administration to keep the hall running, dealing with bookings and enquiries; Lindy Waight has kept a finger on the pulse with the kitchen and undertaken the in-depth cleaning in the summer.

Sean Harris, our decorator for the past 20 years, was booked to come early in lockdown, whilst the hall was out of use and did a sterling job redecorating the offices.

Martin Fletcher Interim Chairman Church Hall Committee

LYNDHURST DEANERY SYNOD

The Synod encourages and supports the Mission of the Parishes (including Brockenhurst) in the Lyndhurst Deanery and provides a link between the parishes themselves and between them and the Diocese of Winchester. During 2020 it met three times, either conventionally or by Zoom, in March, June and October.

In March we received a presentation from Andy Saunders on Lighthouse Ministries, a children and family training and mentoring consultancy, available to Deaneries and Parishes. We also received a presentation from Andy Clarke on the Crossings Project at the Waterside, which provides ministry to the homeless. Jane Mitchell, the new Vicar of Sway, reported on her work with secondary schools. There has been a change of Deanery Treasurer. Having held that role for some 35 years, I resigned from it at this meeting for reasons of poor health. I was replaced by David Telling from Holbury. Peter Salisbury, the Area Dean, spoke about proposed changes in the parish ministry at Totton and on the Waterside. It was reported too that Simon Newham is handing over as Chair of the Rwanda Committee to Dr Sally James of Boldre.

In June there was a general discussion about how parishes are dealing with the changes brought about by the pandemic and the lockdown. It was reported that there will be no New Forest Show in 2021 and therefore no Church Tent. This is disappointing as it would have been Revd Barry Kent's last year of involvement with the Tent.

In October John Armitage of Dibden presented a video on God working in the workplace. Jo Elvidge, the Assistant Area Dean and Vicar of Hythe, has stood down from her Deanery responsibilities. The Area Dean reported further on changes at the Waterside.

Our current representatives on the Synod are Revd Simon Newham, Peter Lay, John Pearson and myself, who will be glad to give you further information.

Report prepared by Martyn Taylor

MOTHERS' UNION

Our 2020 theme: "Building Hope and Confidence" turned out to be especially resonant in the year of pandemic.

Meetings

Our meeting in January was our annual Wave of Prayer service, where we prayed for the MU in Winchester Diocese and overseas linked dioceses, followed by a talk by Tina Cumberlege about her work as a Surgery Chaplain. Our second, and final, meeting was in February, when Lynda Pink spoke about "Hope". After that we cancelled our monthly meetings, due to Covid regulations.

Our Diocesan Information Days, where Branch leaders and Trustees come together to share news, were cancelled, and replaced by regular emails from the Diocesan Secretary.

Fundraising

In January we held our popular "GiftSwap4Coffee". The charities supported with gifts from the public were as in the past: Basics Bank, Tools for Self Reliance, the Women's Refuge and the MU AFIA holiday. A raffle and the sale of donated goods which were not suitable for the charities raised over £200 for MU projects. As the donations for the holiday were no longer required they were eventually donated to a women's refuge instead. As with many other international charities, MU needed funds to support overseas Dioceses, and our members, as individuals, made donations to enable our fellow members abroad to continue their work.

We have also managed to raise some funds by filling Smartie tubes again in Advent.

Services

Branch members have continued to take part in our monthly Communion service, either by Zoom, or in person, as appropriate. Our Deanery Lady Day service was organized by Gill Coombs, who emailed each branch the service details that had been previously using prayers and readings prepared by the three Deanery Branches, and members came together in their own homes to pray at 11am on 25th March. This was very much appreciated by members, and Gill continued to organise prayers and readings for the same time every 25th of the month, until June. Gill Coombs also organised a digital "Advent Calendar" of Christmas prayers and readings provided by members of the Lyndhurst Deanery. Our monthly "Cathedral Prayers", provided by different Deaneries, were moved on line, too.

Other activities

Members have utilised their craft abilities, knitting and crocheting prayer squares for our two local care homes, poppies for the display in St. Saviour's garden for Remembrance Sunday, Christmas tree angels for our outdoor

Christmas Eve and Christmas morning services, seamen's hats and items for premature babies.

Commemorative tree

At the suggestion of Maureen Cooke, we asked the PCC whether we could plant a tree in the grounds of St Saviour's, to commemorate our 35th Anniversary of the re-opening of the Branch. An oak tree had been felled, and the NFNP required a replacement native species. The Committee decided on a hawthorn, and after several socially distanced visits to local nurseries a tree was chosen, and planted on 25th October, with a short service prepared by Simon. Thank you to Martin Fletcher for his help, and to members, who paid for the tree.

The Committee is planning to start online meetings in 2021, when our theme will be:

"Rebuilding Hope and Confidence".

Report prepared by Wendy Lay

STREET PASTORS

During 2020 we only patrolled for 2 weeks. There have been talks of returning during the year, but sadly this has not been possible.

However, at a recent zoom management meeting it was decided that we try to start patrols in May/June 2021. Prior to this, we are to do a Refresher Course. This is, of course, dependant on Government guidelines, and personal choice. Many of us hope this will be possible, as we miss being out on the streets demonstrating God's Love and Care

Report prepared by Jane Forrest

ST. NICHOLAS' VISITOR 'GUARDIANS'

This is an appreciation for those who open and close the Parish Church each day..

Twelve dedicated Guardians have enabled St Nicholas to remain open through most of 2020. Beginning in June each morning the church has been opened between 9 and 10am, and this has continued throughout the cold winter months. Other volunteer Guardians close the church at about 4 or 5pm depending on darkness and the weather. We have arranged to sanitise all accessible surfaces for only certain pews are available.

Jeremy and I removed all the embroidered kneelers, seat pads, the Bibles and hymn books leaving the church looking very bare. But happily throughout lockdown Jane and Sally have relieved the starkness of the stripped back church by arranging fresh flowers on the windowsills and in the porch. Crowds came in May to admire and photograph the rainbow coloured floral arch over the porch created by Jane and her husband as a tribute to the NHS and to celebrate VE Day.

Each week Simon has collected the fish on which people have written the names of those for whom they would like prayer. Visitors have been surprised

to find the church open and for many it has been a peaceful sanctuary for private prayer.

Thank you Guardians.

Report prepared by Ros Dennison

ST. NICHOLAS' with ST. SAVIOUR'S FLOWER GUILD

In 2020 St Saviours and St Nicholas Flower Guilds became one when Sue Park, Suzanne Sewell and Sandra Randall retired. We thank them all for their skill with arranging church flowers and for the friendship and commitment shown to the parish for many years.

This year has been a difficult one for everyone, but the joy and beauty flowers bring to us all has been even more important to worshippers and visitors to the churches. Either as a backdrop to the virtual services or to those visiting St Nicholas for private prayer. We have done our very best to keep fresh flowers in both churches at all times and the donations given to the flower guild have been so very welcome to help us with this. Thank you. During the year we arranged special flowers for funerals, only two weddings last year, with so many engaged couples postponing until this year. Our fabulous team of ladies created many flower designs, A rainbow arch at St Nicholas in May, Harvest beauty, Remembrance poppies and Christmas windows. Without our kind "flower lady" volunteers we would struggle, we are so grateful you all, especially Marion Burden who has been a great support to us both.

If you enjoy working with flowers and fancy joining the Guild you would be made very welcome. Please get in touch via the church office.

Thank you

Report by Jane Thatcher and Sally Hoy

THE SANCTUARY GUILD

This past year has seen the demands made on the Sanctuary Guild slacken off considerably due to the closure of the Churches and then reduced Services. For us this has been good as we have had a reduced number of helpers. Both Sian Husband and Rita Elson left us at the beginning of the year due to various reasons. We are most grateful for their help over the time they have given to us. So, we were down to five. They were Marion Burden, Lizzie Tindle, Ros Dennison and myself, Lindy Waight doing the weekly setting up and clearing up. Tricia Hilborn still did the Altar cloths but again due to the restrictions we have not had to use her services.

Our duties were basically still the same but on a much-reduced demand. We still managed to wash and look after all the linen used for Communion; wash and prepare for Communion at St. Saviour's, and change the Altar Frontal as and when required.

Tony Foulger has still been around and has been able to help out at St Nicholas' as and when we have had a service up there. We are most grateful for this.

On behalf of us all I wish to say it is a privilege to be able to help out in these difficult times. I thank each and every one who has played their part in being there to set up and clear away after each service.
Once we are up and running at both churches we will be seeking to recruit more ladies to help out!

Report prepared by Lindy Waight

WEDNESDAY LUNCHESES

2020, our 32nd year, was our quietest yet; due to the coronavirus pandemic we were only able to hold lunches until 11 March because the country went into lockdown. This obviously meant that our guests missed the weekly opportunity to meet with friends, but a host of Brockcare volunteers swung into action to help with shopping etc. and we keep in regular phone contact with guests for a chat and to check how they are and if they need anything.

As restrictions eased towards the end of the summer, we began to plan for a safe way to enable a maximum of 12 invited guests, socially distanced, to come for tea and cake on a Wednesday afternoon to break the monotony for them. Risk assessments and a safe code of practice for the volunteer helpers were carried out and we managed to hold a few afternoon sessions which were very much appreciated, before a further lockdown in November. We were able to hold two more teas in December, but not able to resume in the New Year as we went into lockdown 3.

We are unsure how and when we will be able to resume the lunches and with our team of volunteers themselves ageing and possibly looking to 'retire', we are not sure what resources we will have available in the future. We are taking the opportunity to review the whole situation and perhaps come up with alternative ways of offering the elderly of our village a way to socialise together.

Report submitted by Lesley Munt, Wednesday Lunch Co-ordinator

CHURCH ELECTORAL ROLL

The Electoral Roll as at Annual Meeting in 2020	214
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The new Electoral Roll as at Annual Meeting in 2021	212
(Resident: 184 Non-resident: 28)	