



**BROCKENHURST**  
**PARISH CHURCHES**  
*Sharing the love and life of Jesus*

St. Nicholas' with St. Saviour's

# REVIEW OF 2021

**ANNUAL CHURCH MEETING**

**Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> April 2022**

**7:30pm**

**at St Saviour's Church Hall**

[www.brockenhurstchurch.com](http://www.brockenhurstchurch.com)

## **THE PARISH OF BROCKENHURST**

### **The Parish of Brockenhurst Minutes of the Annual Meeting of Parishioners and Annual Parochial Church Meeting held on Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> April 2021 at 7.30pm in St Saviour's Church and on Zoom**

Simon Newham welcomed everyone and opened the meeting with prayer.

36 church members attended in St Saviour's Church and 26 online.

Apologies were received from John Pearson, Camilla and Paul Pearse, Sarah Foulger, Alan and Jean Wright.

### **Annual Meeting of Parishioners**

#### **1. Election of Church Wardens:**

Rosalind Dennison - proposed Jeremy Moss, seconded Jean Wright

Jeremy Moss - proposed Rosalind Dennison, seconded Joyce Kolaczowski

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. He said that 2020 has been a challenging year and he could not have got through it without the help and support of his three Church Wardens during this time.

### **Annual Parochial Church Meeting**

#### **1. Minutes of Previous Meeting**

The minutes of the meeting held on 22<sup>nd</sup> October 2020 were approved and signed by SN.

#### **2. Matters Arising**

There were no matters arising.

#### **3. Vicar's Report**

Simon's comprehensive Report for 2020 is on page 9 of the Review of 2020 which has been previously circulated. No questions. He will outline plans for the future under **Open Forum**, item 11.

#### **4. A Warden's Report**

Ros Dennison referred to her Report on page 12 of the Review. No questions. She will also speak later under **Open Forum**.

## **5. Treasurer's Report - including the Year's Accounts**

The full Annual Report and Financial Statements for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> December 2020 have been previously circulated as a separate booklet and an overall summary with charts is on pages 15 - 20 of the Review of 2020. These have been approved by the PCC and our Independent Auditor. No questions. SN proposed a vote of thanks to Peter Lay, "the best Treasurer I have worked with", for his excellent and clear financial statements and reports and the considerable time and commitment that has gone into this work.

## **6. Electoral Roll Report**

Alan Wright, our Electoral Roll Officer, was thanked for continuing in this role. There are 212 recorded on the Electoral Roll as at 21<sup>st</sup> April 2021, including 28 non-resident.

## **7. Other Reports**

All reports are printed on pages 20-33 in the Review of 2020 and are on the church website. Simon commented on each report and requested questions. He thanked the following leaders and each team for their dedicated involvement covering all aspects of church life:

**Diane Webster - Homegroups:** These are a vital part of a healthy church and as well as being an opportunity to study together, they are a friendship and support group. More members are always welcome and a new Homegroup is being set up following the recent Alpha Course and online study courses.

**Tim Dodwell - Fabric Team:** We are well served by this team. They do a huge amount of work and are quick to respond to any problem or incident for which we are extremely grateful.

**Sue Moss - Children's & Youth Work Team:** It has been a difficult year for working with children and families but this will be a focus for the coming year. Jo Plummer has taken over from Reuben and is keeping in touch with children and families and Brockenhurst College. Simon is holding assemblies with the three schools in the Benefice and he and Jo are organising outdoor family services at Easter and Christmas.

**Liz Dodwell - Mission Team:** The team has done an amazing job of co-ordinating monthly speakers, despite the difficulties. In many ways, because of technology, a wider audience has been reached. Particular thanks to this church for responding so generously to appeals for Rwanda and for the care and support given to our homeless visitor: this is Mission at home.

**John Pearson - Prayer Ministry Team:** We are exploring how we can encourage a life of prayer and bring back the prayer and healing ministry under present restrictions. Morning and evening prayer has been a success online and the prayer fishing net in St Nicholas' is used by many visitors who are comforted to know their loved ones will be prayed for.

**Joyce Kolaczowski - Pastoral Care Team (Brockcare and Cameo):** As soon as the pandemic hit, Joyce and her team organised a group of volunteers to keep in touch and offer help to anyone in the community who was alone or vulnerable and although Wednesday lunches and Cameo were cancelled, this and other outreach activities were a lifeline to many who had lost their social life. A wonderful contribution to village life.

**Keith Nolan - Social Team:** Although socialising was not allowed, two Zoom quizzes were enjoyed and hopefully more social occasions can be planned for the coming year.

**Simon Newham - Worship Team:** Diane Webster, John Pearson, Tony Foulger, Alan Graham, Mary Nicholson and Francis and Tina Cumberlege have been a huge source of ideas and encouragement to Simon and he thanks them for their love, care and support. The pattern of worship proposed for the future will be discussed under Open Forum.

**Cynthia Wilson - Music:** "The Day the Music Died" is Cynthia's conclusion on the past year! However, we are extremely grateful to her, Mike Kelly, Andrew Parrish (now retired) and The Friday Girls for keeping the music alive as best they could under covid rules. Music did continue solely in digital format earlier on with some beautiful visuals.

**Brenda Horner - Baptism Preparation:** Fewer baptisms actually took place. Families have been prepared mostly by post with letters and booklets.

**Lesley Munt - Marriage Preparation:** This worked reasonably well online as young people are used to this medium and in many cases it saved journeys. As a result of postponements, we have many weddings booked for 2022.

**Sue Hendry - Brockenhurst Care Cars:** This service is much valued and continued through lockdowns thanks to willing volunteers.

**Martin Fletcher - Church Hall Committee:** Martin, Mary Robinson and Lindy Waight do a fantastic job looking after the premises and managing the bookings which has not been easy with risk assessments and restrictions changing at short notice.

**Martyn Taylor - Lyndhurst Deanery Synod:** Thank you Martyn for your comprehensive report and continued service together with new lay members Peter Lay and John Pearson.

**Wendy Lay - Mothers' Union:** The MU has very much been the 'glue' that has held many of the church activities together during the pandemic and Lesley Munt's famous newsletters have kept members in touch socially despite the challenges.

**Jane Forrest - Street Pastors:** Sadly, the team only had two weeks of patrolling before restrictions came in but hopefully their wonderful work will be able to continue soon.

**Ros Dennison - St Nicholas' Visitor 'Guardians' -** A huge thank you to Ros and the dedicated volunteer Guardians who have enabled the church to be open each day from June 2020, including the cold winter months, for private prayer. It has been much used and much loved by the local community and visitors. Alan Mutter notably has been missed but hopefully Guardians will soon be back welcoming people from all over the world.

### **Jane Thatcher & Sally Hoy - St Nicholas' with St Saviour's Flower Guild:**

Flower arrangements have been kept going in both churches throughout lockdowns by the 'Flower Ladies' under the organisation of Jane and Sally. Some beautiful displays have been created to lift the spirits - notably the rainbow arch at St Nicholas'. They work with such joy and we are very grateful for their time and artistry.

**Lindy Waight - Sanctuary Guild:** The members of the Guild are greatly appreciated for the way everything is looked after which shows care and value in all they do.

**Lesley Munt - Wednesday Lunches:** Lunches were cancelled but to enable our guests to meet with friends, afternoon teas were introduced with all the necessary precautions when restrictions eased between the three lockdowns. Gratitude was expressed to all the teams for the organisation and time involved which gives so much pleasure to our guests. Hopefully we will be able to resume the lunches soon but more volunteers are needed.

### **8. Election of PCC Members** - The following were standing for election:

Bob Coombs - proposed Richard Jeans, seconded Mike Dow  
Martin Fletcher - proposed Alan Wright, seconded Mary Robinson  
Jane Forrest - proposed Diana Fletcher, seconded Elizabeth Dodwell  
Janet McDonald - proposed Jan Campbell, seconded Elaine Nichol

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

Tim and Liz Dodwell and Diana Fletcher have retired after serving two three-year terms with the PCC. They have each brought considerable gifts and skills to serve this Parish.

### **9. Appointment of Independent Examiner**

Simon proposed that Lewis Ball is re-appointed and thanked him for the prompt and excellent service he is giving to our church. Seconded Peter Lay. All in favour.

### **10. Date of next APCM**

Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> April 2022.

### **11. Open Forum**

Simon outlined plans that would take us forward, following suggestions from the Parish Vision Day in September 2019 :

Brockenhurst College - Jo Plummer is now well known at the College and has established a weekly meeting time and place to get to know the students and set up a Christian Union. This is very encouraging.

Alpha Course - Thirteen people joined this first course and there is a follow-up programme leading to the formation of a new homegroup.

Digital presence - We are looking at updating the website and making it easier to use; also to provide a modern audio visual system. We have seen the benefit of this over the last year with the system Jeremy has set up. This is the way forward where we can connect with people from all over the world and have a roll-down screen which can be used for worship and at weddings and funerals. This will probably require an appeal for funds when quotes are obtained.

Group Vision Team - This Group has been formed from several people from Brockenhurst, Boldre and South Baddesley to explore ways in which we can share resources and work better as a team. One of our aims is to employ a Children's and Families' Worker. We have no young people coming to church but we have three C of E schools. This person would join assemblies, RE and nurture lessons and establish lunchtime and after school clubs, leading on to events such as summer holiday clubs, light parties and inviting the families to our big Easter and Christmas services. The cost would be shared across the Group.

Pattern of Worship - Our strengths could be shared within the Group - i.e. choral evensong at Boldre where they have a large choir and perhaps at St Saviour's a less formal service.

Admin - Better communication between Brockenhurst admin staff and the Boldre and South Baddesley administrator leading to greater efficiency.

Evangelism - Attending Alpha, bible courses and these themed years within the Group.

Music - The potential for music for worship here is huge but we do not have a Music Director. We would like to develop this once we can sing again.

Ros Dennison thanked everyone for attending the meeting and wished to round off the evening with more 'thank yous' :

First to Simon for bringing his considerable knowledge and management skills to the role of Vicar in the Benefice of Brockenhurst, Boldre and South Baddesley which includes five places of worship and three C of E schools; also working with the Deanery and Diocese of Winchester and local authorities. And bringing unity in a wonderfully cheerful way. Does anyone know just how much a Vicar does .... Does anyone know just how much a Church Warden does ... Ros thanked Alan Wright for his support and kindness to her during the years he was Church Warden with her and his amazing ability and attention to detail during the challenge of an interregnum.

Since succeeding Alan, Jeremy has been a blessing to us, giving much time and expertise using his technical skills to enable our worship to be seen and shared across the world for which we are all so very grateful. Acknowledgement of Marion's achievement of 'learning on the job' as PCC Secretary and thanks to all who have kept our Church Family fed, entertained, educated, inspired, connected with each other and with God. What a family!

So many people have contributed to church life in 2020 but in particular, Simon and the Wardens would like to thank:

Zak Newham for his technical knowledge in establishing our now famous first online services with wonderful forest scenes, bluebells and donkeys.

Esther Browne who has done a wonderful job as Safeguarding Officer from which she is now retiring and is handing over to Karina Curson. There is a joy about her which she radiates to others and for which we love her.

Liz and Tim Dodwell who are both standing down from the PCC after six years service but will be continuing as team leaders of the Mission Team and Fabric Team respectively. Simon thanks Tim especially for his quiet wisdom and advice so graciously given and both for their considerable involvement in church life. They are a blessing to us all.

Diana Fletcher who is also standing down after six years service on the PCC during which time she has been so generous with her time and talents and we know will continue to do so for which we thank her.

Wendy Lay asked on behalf of the Mothers' Union if anyone is going to come forward to organise the Women's World Day of Prayer which is to be run by the UK in 2021. Can we look into this please.

Jane Forrest expressed what an amazing year it has been and what has been achieved regardless of everything that has happened.

Martin Fletcher made a plea for help with putting together a gazebo which has been donated and also a heavy-duty strimmer which needs to be serviced before use if there is anyone who can do that.

#### **AOB: Terrier & Inventory 2020-2021**

Simon entered into the log for St Saviour's: 1 pyx and 2 'A' frame notice boards. There were no additions to the log for St Nicholas'.

These were agreed by the meeting and signed by SN and the Wardens.

Simon closed the meeting with a prayer followed by The Grace.

The meeting closed at 9.35pm

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## VICAR'S REPORT for 2021

2021 continued to prove to be a challenging year of managing change – rather like the Hokey Cokey we had one foot in and one foot out of our churches at various times of the year depending on what the situation was regarding Lock Down restrictions! Throughout this constant change and challenge I have been deeply impressed and encouraged by the leadership, hard work and creativity of so many of you that enabled us to continue to do so much. Some of this 'much' included:-

- Nikki joining us in February as Parish Administrator.
- 2021 being our Year of The Bible which included The Bible Series videos shown on Sundays; A Lent programme including speakers from the congregation talking about the Bible and me; The Bible Course; and workshops on How to Study the Bible, How to Read the Bible Devotionally, Is the Bible Literally True, The Bible and Art and The Bible and Archaeology.
- An on-line Alpha Course with 13 people attending.
- The Living in Love and Faith Course.
- A creation walk.
- Gaining our silver Eco-Church award from A Rocha.
- An AV appeal which raised the funds for improvements to the AV system (we are nearing the completion of gaining the permissions we need to begin this work – at last!)
- A summer evening newcomers party.
- A Generous June Stewardship Campaign.
- Youth work in Brock College.
- A Holidays@Home tea dance.
- The return of afternoon teas and lunches.
- Christmas lunch donated by Forest Park Hotel and delivered to those who requested it.
- The gradual lifting of restrictions and the changes that brought.

2021 also marked change in the diocese with our diocesan bishop standing aside and changes in the deanery with me becoming first Assistant Area Dean and then Area Dean – I do not believe the two events were related!

At the Group level we formed a Benefice Vision Team to explore ways in which we could better work together across the group - with one of the anticipated benefits being a greater resilience in times of change.

After several meetings we identified and agreed that we should, across the group, work on:-

1. A Children and Families worker focused on our three church schools. Funding and a common vision for this has been agreed and a job description and advert is in the process of being produced.



2. A collaborative approach to our admin processes and people. We are now meeting across the group as one admin team and Safeguarding team and seek to ensure that communication, resources, and technical skills are shared across the group.
3. A combining of skills across the group. We have begun to run joint marriage preparation and baptism preparation courses which have proved popular with those taking part and we will continue to advertise courses such as Alpha and Bible Studies across the group.
4. A conscious planned working to get to know one another better across the group. Currently we better advertise social events and services across the group but this is an area of our common life that we could work harder on to improve.

I do hope that our working together across the Group will continue to naturally develop as the years go by, for such working together is good for us – it gives us a bigger vision of the Church; enables us to do together what we could not do alone; and is a source of joy and encouragement.

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 on-going 'virtual' output would not have been possible without the hard, continuous and dedicated work of Jeremy and his digital team.

Jo and all she is doing at Brock College and at St Saviour's to challenge us to think about, and reach out to, youngsters.

Camilla and her team in their Eco work.

So much work behind the scenes organising us all, is down to Nikki, 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 or lifted - 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, Mary, Tony and Alan – supported by Sue and Camilla) 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.

The PCC and associated teams have been a joy to work with on a wide range of challenges – thank you all for your commitment, patience and generous giving of your time and talents.

And finally thank you to two very hardworking, caring, wise, and generous Churchwardens. Ros 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.

As I reflect on a year of change and challenge I am reminded of a prayer that is placed on my desk – one I have mused over often during the last couple of years. As we prepare to continue to journey into the unknown with hope, I share it with you:

Jesus, where are you taking me?

Into Joy?

Into pain?

I am afraid,

but to do anything other than go with you

would be to die inwardly,

and to look for wholeness apart from you

would be to lose my true self.

So I come to you,

protesting and confused,

but loving you all the same.

You will have to hold on to me

as we walk together

through this compelling and frightening landscape of the kingdom of God.

Thank you for being on the journey through 2021 with all its challenges and change....

*Revd Simon Newham*

## A CHURCHWARDEN'S REPORT

We started in 2021 full of hope, we yearned to get back to familiar times, but on 6 January we entered another lockdown! Track and trace, social distancing and hand cleansing remained; many were finding this restricted life increasingly difficult.

In January we faced challenging times, variants of the Covid virus were spreading. Should Church be closed for services, or should we let people decide? We closed; however the congregation had become adept at watching, even participating in services using Zoom or later by accessing it on YouTube. Those without broadband were able to listen to services via the telephone, all thanks to Jeremy and at this time the amazing treasurer Peter L introduced contactless Credit and Debit Card donations. Mary Nicholson decided to rejoin us and was warmly welcomed. This gave her opportunity to explain the need for her newly formed charity, the Acorn Chaplaincy.

In February Sharon retired as Parish Administrator; presentations were made by Simon in an empty Church, but watched on screens by a congregation at home who applauded enthusiastically. All certainly appreciate her 14-year commitment to our community. We looked forward to being vaccinated; some who had been struggling with isolation welcomed the trip to Milford on Sea. St Nicholas Church remained a sanctuary, thankfully the team of daily 'openers and closers' enabled access for worshippers and walkers alike throughout the pandemic.

Nikki C joined us in March as the new Parish Administrator. Citizen of the Year Awards for service to the village were given to Joyce K, Elaine C and Jane O. Esther received one to mark the many achievements of her husband, the much missed Derek Browne. Many individuals worked hard creating delightful Mothering Sunday posies; no one should ever feel forgotten, so some were given to men, for indeed they can do some excellent mothering. A Lent collection was organised to help the situation for clergy and families in Rwanda. 'Live Lent – Let your light shine' brought many together thanks to Diane W and John P. Sadly Joyce and Lesley had to announce that there would be no Wednesday get-together afternoon teas.

In April the Good Friday walk linked services in the Group. On Easter Sunday we were outside; St Nicholas bells rang out as dawn arrived and Simon's fire lit up the darkness. Distanced from each other, it was cold, but there was a warmth between all present, it was just great to see each other. Sadly, bacon butties were banned, but the bubbles and hot coffee livened us up! Later on joyful singing on a sunny morning at the Family Service at St Saviour's was heard in much of the village. Using litter collected in the forest, Milla constructed an impressive 12 foot high Rubbish Cross. Diane W had coordinated the making of 170 mini Easter baskets to a pretty design from Janet B, these were filled with mini chocolate eggs and distributed to people in the village. And in that month Jane F arranged socially distanced forest walks and raised a good amount of money for Mother's Union projects. The scaled down ANZAC service was held in the St Nicholas graveyard.

May saw a welcome easing of restrictions. Services resumed with masked congregations seated 2 metres apart; we entered via the Hall Foyer, names were registered, hand sanitiser dispensed and we were urged to socialise outside. Christian Aid Week raised £1,870; a difficult exercise as envelopes could not be hand delivered. A 'Walk for Creation' held in the Puttles Bridge area attracted a good crowd who paused, prayed and reflected on the beauty around us - and we finished with great cake! CAMEO restarted and Joyce K and Lesley M were pleased to announce that the Wednesday get-together afternoon teas would begin – cautiously.

On 6<sup>th</sup> June Bishop Debbie was the guest preacher via Zoom. Later in that month Revd Rachel Noel of Pennington, with high energy, enthusiasm and love of colour (especially pink!), spoke about her life and faith at an MU meeting. 'Rugby for Heroes', a group of ex-international Rugby players who raise money through sponsorship for injured soldiers, camped at Tile Barn and early one Saturday held a service in the CWGs, they laid wreathes and after echoing the 1935 All-Blacks visiting St Nicholas Church, set off to walk to the WWII memorial at Lepe. In June the Appeal for funds to install a new Audio-Visual System in St Saviour's Church was launched.

On a damp Saturday in July Greener Brockenhurst held the first Eco Fayre. There were stalls selling locally made gifts, advice from a range of experts, eg beekeeping and gardening and the Mothers' Union served lunch and afternoon teas in the Church Hall. One Wednesday evening the much delayed 'Newcomer's Party' was organised by Martin and Di F and the St Nicholas Church Guardians resumed for the visitors each afternoon.

In August Reuben and Becca got splendidly married in St Saviour's Church.

One afternoon in September St Saviour's was the venue for Puttin' on the Ritz. it was attended by 60 Holiday@Home guests who for an afternoon enjoyed high-class food and entertainment. Later in the month a splendid Harvest Quiz with fish and chip supper was held in St Saviour's not the Hall this time, we needed to safely accommodate everyone. The Brownies came to the Harvest Festival and later planted spring-flowering bulbs in St Saviour's grass close to the MU tree. An ecumenical service organised by the Joint Churches Eco Team was held in the grounds of St Saviour's. Crucially the theme was Climate Change and the speaker was Dr Daleep Mukarji OBE, a former Director of Christian Aid.

Many of the regular activities both in the Churches and the Church Hall resumed in October. The candle lit cross was filled by the many people who came to the Service Remembering Loved Ones; it was a healing time especially as people recalled memories over tea in the Hall. Thank you Brockcare and the Pastoral Visitors for your work throughout the year, not forgetting the Care Car drivers and their conversations in the car.

Who can forget the stream of poppies pouring from the east window of St Saviours? It was a morning's task for the team led by Bob C who, with Simon organised the fixing of the wires and the planting of almost 4,500 knitted and crocheted poppies, a large proportion of which were made by Pauline C. People came with cameras, others came quietly to look, and all were reminded of the sacrifices made for our peace. There was no parade from church to the War Memorial on 14 November, people gathered in Sway Road, the Cadets read the names, it was a sombre Act of Remembrance.

The Patronal Festival of St Nicholas in December was celebrated after 9am Holy Communion with mulled wine and hot croissants, the bell ringers who, without fail, ring every Sunday joined us. Later in December the Omicron variant became a threat and naturally everyone, though vaccinated, was cautious. The Carol Service at St Nicholas was ticketed, people travelled less and the Christmas services felt somewhat restricted. Generously, thanks to Nikki, Christmas Day lunch for the housebound was given by the Forest Park Hotel and festive extras were added.

Finally we have to make sure that we do not take for granted the many people who volunteer. Weekdays there are the office volunteers readily helping those who call or visit and Mary Robinson producing the correct Order of Service for the various and differing services. The Mother's Union led by Wendy L support so many Church activities. Each month in 2021 the Brockenhurst Parish News editors Steve Curson and Rob Morgan who, with Bryan Russell managing the advertising, have worked to deadlines with Hobbs the printers producing the monthly magazine – improved by the colour. We have John Purkess' books distributed by Jane F and Janet Mc with all proceeds generously donated to church funds and there is queen of the rotas, Lesley M. We have wonderful volunteers working hard unseen, we are blessed in so many ways.

*Report submitted by Ros Dennison, Church Warden*

## **FINANCIAL REVIEW**

### Overall Summary

Total income was £264,272 (before unrealised investment gains) while total expenditure was £220,487 resulting in an overall surplus of £43,785. However, this includes the following exceptional items and depreciation charges

- Legacies of £3,500
- Income raised by the St Saviours AV appeal of £30,531
- Depreciation charges of £7,345

If these are excluded the underlying surplus was £17,099 compared to an underlying surplus of £2,957 in 2020.

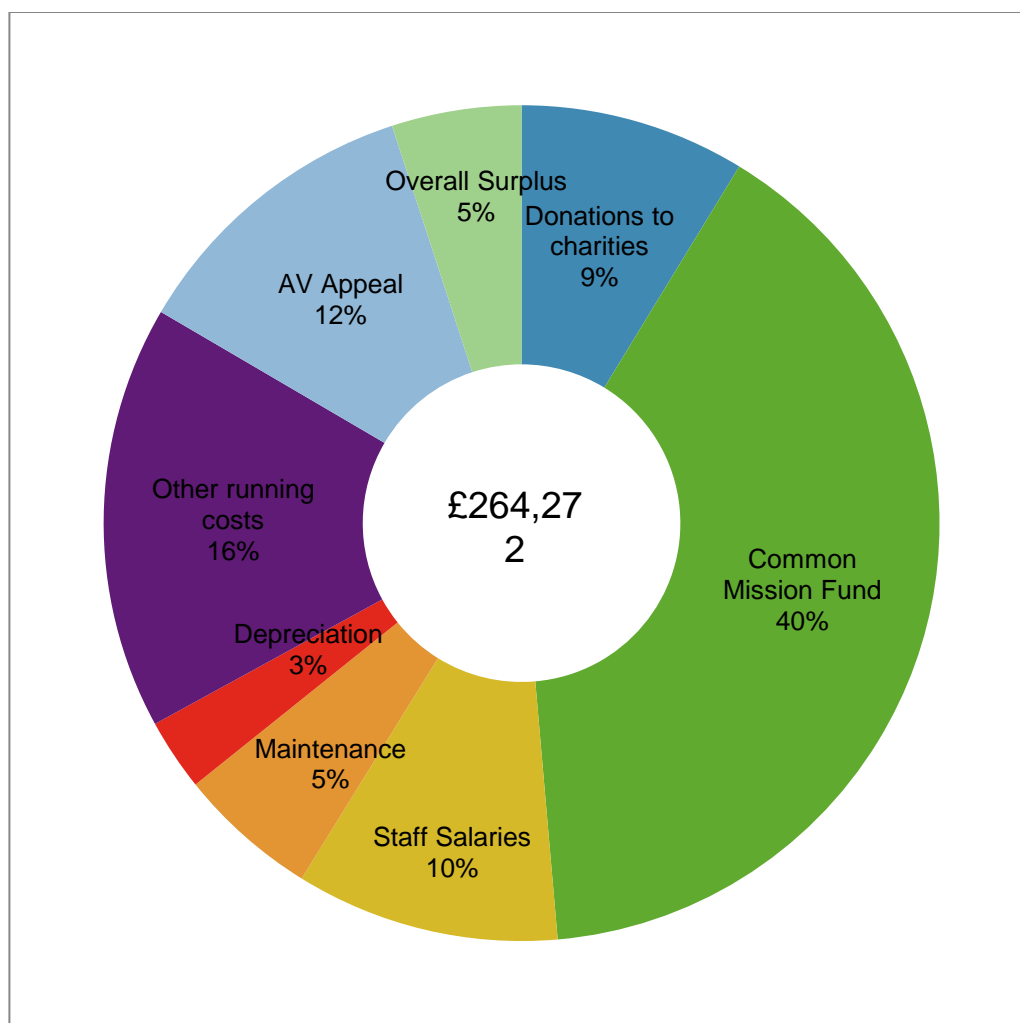
These figures also include money raised for charities. If these are excluded the net surplus in 2021 was £4,050 compared to a deficit of £4,356 in 2020.

### Overall Expenditure

Overall expenditure was £220,487 against total income of £264,272 or £220,212 if money raised by the St Saviour's AV appeal and money raised for charities is excluded.

Total income accounts for the following major categories of expenditure, costs and funds carried forward to 2022 were

	<b>2021</b>	<b>2020</b>
• Donations to charities	£23,049	£15,813
• Common Mission Fund	£105,442	£115,152
• Staff salaries (including the employment costs of the Youth Worker)	£22,976	£37,997
• Maintenance of both churches and the hall	£14,339	£8,496
• Other running costs (electricity, gas, clergy expenses, insurance etc.)	£43,359	£36,463
• Depreciation charges	£7,345	£13,253
• St Saviour's AV Appeal income	£30,531	£0
• Overall surplus/(deficit)	£13,254	£13,204



## Donations to Charities

Total donations amounted to £23,049 (£10,000 from General Funds and £13,049 from money raised for specific charities). In particular, the diocese of Kigeme in Rwanda was supported by donations of £13,008; £2,500 from general funds and £10,508 raised by an appeal.

## Common Mission Fund

The contribution to the Common Mission Fund was £105,422 compared to £115,152 in 2020. This represents 40% of the total income.

## Staff Salaries

Staff salaries were £26,953 compared to £37,997 in 2020. The reduction of £11,044 is because there was no Youth Worker employed in 2020. However, the PCC plans to employ a family worker to be shared with the parishes of Boldre and South Baddesley for which the Brockenhurst share is expected to cost about £18,000 per year.

The caretaker's contract was extended to include extra work in the churchyard on behalf of the Parish Council. The cost of this is reported in the staff costs and is paid for by grants received from the Parish Council.

## Maintenance

Total maintenance costs were £14,339 compared to 8,496 in 2020.

	<b>2021</b>	<b>2020</b>
• Ordinary maintenance costs (churches)	£6,554	£3,314
• Ordinary maintenance costs (hall)	£1,706	£5,182
• Installation of LED lighting in St Saviour's church	£4,099	£0
• St Saviour's roof survey	£1,980	£1,980

## Other running costs

These are the ordinary running expenses (such as the cost of gas, electricity, insurance etc.). They amount to £43,359 (16% of total income) compared to £36,463 in 2020 an increase of 19%. In particular:

	<b>2021</b>	<b>2020</b>	<b>Increase</b>
• Bookstall	£3,484	£2,268	54%
• Wedding flowers	£2,043	£396	416%
• Parish Magazine	£7,603	£5,520	38%

The increase in bookstall costs is mainly due to the cost of printing additional copies of John Purkess' books By-Gone Brockenhurst. The increase in wedding flowers is due to the increased number of weddings in 2021 compared to 2020 as we come out of the Covid-19 Pandemic (these costs are covered by the income generated of £2,520).

## St Saviour's AV Appeal

The AV appeal raised £30,531 which represents 12% of total income. There was no expenditure on the AV system because the PCC is waiting for the appropriate permission from the diocese. Consequently, the entire sum raised is carried forward to 2022.

## Overall Surplus

The overall surplus, carried forward to 2022, was £13,254 which represents 5% of total income.

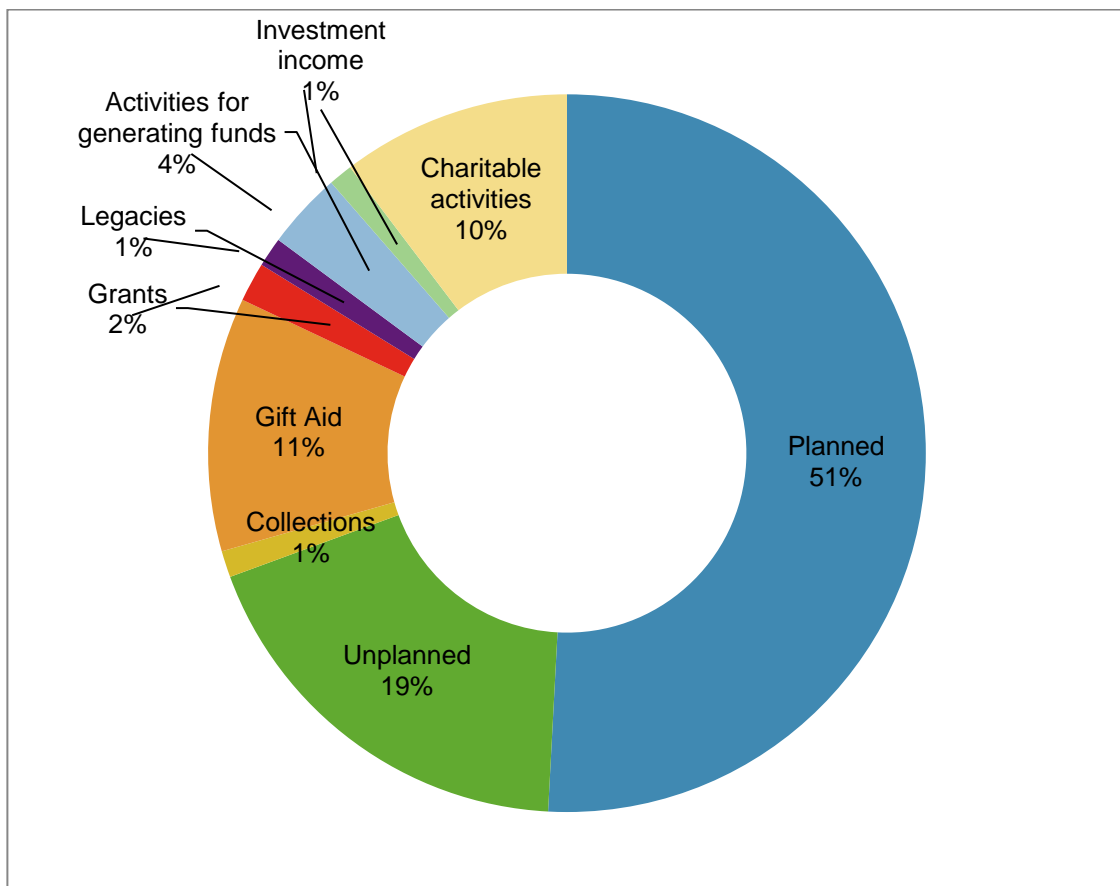
## Overall Income

Income comes mainly from donations and the associated Gift Aid claimed from HMRC. Income was boosted in 2021 by:

- Legacies of £3,500
- Covid-19 appeal for Kigeme diocese, Rwanda which raised £10,508
- St Saviour's AV appeal which raised £30,531

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

- 82% of income came from donations including Gift Aid claimed on donations
- 51% of income came from planned, regular donations given through
  - Parish Giving Scheme
  - Standing Orders
  - Charities Aid Foundation (CAF)
  - Other regular donations
- 11% of income comes from Gift Aid claimed on donations
- 3% came from Legacies and grants (Covid-19 JRS and Parish Council)
- 10% came from charitable activities. This includes things such as fees received for weddings and funerals, trading activities and the parish magazine sales.





The broad categories of income were:

	<b>2021</b>	<b>2020</b>	<b>Change</b>
• Planned	£133,437	£136,729	-2%
• Unplanned	£48,718	£19,490	150%
• Collections	£3,128	£3,475	-10%
• Gift Aid	£30,020	£29,645	1%
• Grants	£4,642	£7,771	-40%
• Legacies	£3,500	£18,500	-81%
• Activities for generating funds	£9,088	£5,196	75%
• Investment income	£2,826	£2,744	3%
• Charitable activities	£27,118	£16,769	62%
• Other income	£1,795	£59	

Unplanned income includes money raised by the Rwanda and St Saviour's AV appeals (a total of £41,039). If this is excluded the total income is £221,438 compared to £234,709 received in 2020, a reduction of 6%.

### *Appeals*

During 2021 two appeals were held to

- Help support the diocese of Kigeme in Rwanda from the impact of the Covi-19 Pandemic. This raised £10,508.
- Raise funds to enhance the Audio Video system in St Saviour's church by installing projectors and screens, and cameras to support online streaming of services. This raised £30,531

### *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:

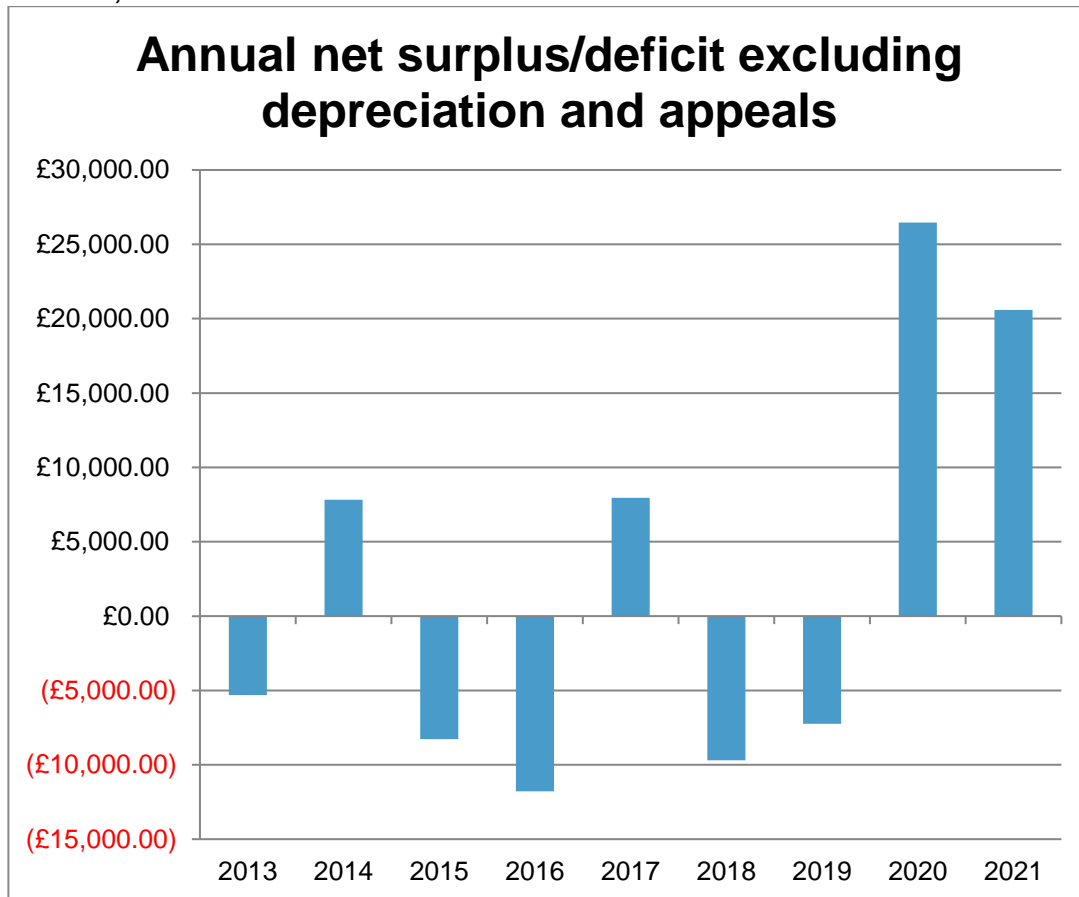
- The flower funds which are used to fund the provision of flowers in the two churches
- The Walker Munro Income Fund

*Comparison with Previous Years*

Excluding depreciation charges and appeal income there was a surplus of £20,029 in 2021 compared to £26,160 in 2020 as shown in the graph below which shows the overall surplus or deficit for the years 2013 to 2021. This was boosted by extraordinary income in 2020 from:

	<b>2021</b>	<b>2020</b>
• Legacies	£3,500	£18,500
• One-off donations	£0	£5,000

If these are excluded the overall surplus before depreciation is £16,529 in 2021 compared to £2,660 in 2020.



*Looking Forward*

The PCC has agreed to increase its expenditure to:

- Pay for a Family Worker shared with the parishes of Boldre and South Baddesley for a period of three years. The Brockenhurst share of this will be about £18,000 per year.

- Pay for the repairs to St Saviour's roof identified in the Quinquennial survey. This is expected to cost in the region of £45,000
- Pay for other repairs identified by the Quinquennial survey

In the short term these will be funded from:

- The Quinquennial Fabric Fund which is £30,000 put aside to pay for Quinquennial repairs
- Funds accumulated from previous surpluses
- The reserves

#### *Reserves*

The reserves policy is 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 total cash reserves held on 31 December 2021 were £90,668 (£29,182 plus £61,486 deposited in the Diocesan Loans Fund) with an additional £2,849 held in the flower funds. The average monthly cash expenditure in 2021 was £18,791 for which the reserves policy requires a reserve of £56,373. Consequently, the surplus reserves at 31 December 2021 available to spend while maintaining the reserve required by the policy is £34,295.

#### *Conclusions*

Although the continuation of the Covid-19 Pandemic meant the churches were only partially open the year ended in a surplus. Two appeals were held. One to support the diocese of Kigeme in Rwanda and one to raise funds to enhance and extend the capabilities of the Audio Video (AV) system in St Saviour's church. Both of these met with a generous response, as reported in these accounts, and the AV appeal exceeded its target.

After a number of years during which net ordinary income was on average zero we have now had two years with a surplus. However, the PCC is embarking on a period of extra expenditure in order to employ a Family Worker and to pay for the repairs identified by the quinquennial survey. In addition ordinary expenditure is likely to rise as a result of inflation. Cost pressures will require careful monitoring of expenditure and income will need to grow with inflation.

*Report prepared by Peter Lay, Team Chairman and Treasurer*

### **FABRIC AND GROUNDS TEAM**

The failing mortar infill for the stone roof tiles at St Saviour's identified in the Quinquennial Inspection report was the main concern during the year and the PCC commissioned a survey to determine the best way forward in view of the expected cost. This resulted in a recommendation to remove the infill entirely to avoid damp-traps. The need for stonework repairs to one of the turrets and the chancel parapet were also identified by the survey and these, along with refurbishing the

weathervane and other matters identified in the report are planned to be dealt with in 2022.

At St Nicholas' plans to extend the handrails at the main gate to improve ease of access were approved and the work was completed in February 2022. Plans for work recommended in the Quinquennial Inspection report were put on hold pending a decision on the work required to the St Saviour's roof and will be followed up in 2022.

In St Saviour's churchyard two mature Norway spruces were felled to allow space for a neighbouring beech tree to develop and to allow more light into the neighbour's garden. We are most grateful to this neighbour for meeting the cost. Trees to replace those felled are to be planted in 2022. The yew trees alongside the church hall have been reduced in height and trimmed back. This has significantly improved daylighting for the church hall.

Sadly the roots of the silver birch planted to commemorate the Queen's Silver Jubilee rotted to the extent that it became unsafe and was felled in January 2022. A new silver birch to commemorate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee is to be planted in June 2022.

In May the section of Wilverley Road below the gate by the top end of the churchyard was reshaped to provide better drainage and resurfaced. 50% of the cost was covered by the adjoining residents and we are most grateful for their co-operation in this.

Volunteers have again done sterling work in St Saviour's churchyard and a substantial part of the cutting back of the yew hedge and other work was undertaken by a team of young volunteers from Best Personal Education in August under Martin Fletcher's supervision.

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 Pearse for the organising and supervision of building maintenance work.

*Tim Dodwell, Fabric and Grounds Team Leader*

## **DIGITAL TEAM**

### **Website**

The church website was upgraded to a new look which was launched at the end of May. Bronya Szatkowska from Bronze Design helped create a new logo and a cleaner feel to the website.

The website material was reviewed and updated to provide a valuable 'front window' into the church and our activities. In the autumn further facilities were added to allow regular email of Spotlight and Prayer Blogs to those who choose to subscribe. The website includes links to enable people to join our services remotely through Zoom or YouTube. This capability has allowed those who are housebound to 'attend' our services and for us all to revisit special services we may have missed. Almost 2000 website visits are recorded each month, including visitors from many countries around the world.

## **Services Online**

During 2021 we continued to provide online access and recordings of all our services at St Saviour's using our temporary facilities and the assistance in particular of Paul Pearse and Peter Lay to operate the equipment.

Online attendance at the broadcast Sunday 1030 worship service remained at around 10+ attendees most weeks (some of whom are housebound). In addition to the 'live' (at the time) Zoom attendees around 20 further views are made of the YouTube recording with some services (such as Open and Compline) attracting a larger following.

## **St Saviour's Audio-Visual Upgrade Project**

Following the success of the temporary visual projection and camera system during the first phase of the pandemic, in March the PCC decided to progress a project to install a permanent replacement.

Proposals were sought and a potential supplier identified following which an appeal was launched to raise the necessary £22,000 funding. This appeal was very successful and the target was reached in June – following which the PCC agreed to submit the required Diocese Faculty application.

The Faculty process progressed slowly with several rounds of questions raised and answered culminating in a site visit by members of the Advisory Committee scheduled for January 2022. At the time of this report the Faculty permission has been received and the installation is due for May 2022.

*Report by Jeremy Moss*

## **CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE TEAM**

This important ministry currently has three strands and for reporting purposes they are thus divided.

### **Brockenhurst CofE Primary School:**

Throughout the pandemic and even during the school closure our vicar Simon has continued to deliver regular assemblies. He receives feedback from pupils as the SIAMS report recommended that all worship in the school was more interactive. There are three members of church (including Simon) who are also school governors, and they all visit the school regularly, not only in their official capacity but also as readers/helpers and accompanying children on school trips.

### **Brockenhurst College Christian Union:**

As of Easter 2021 there has been Christian Union as an enrichment subject on the timetable at the college. Initially it was slow to start, however this allowed for lots of prayer, planning and forethought. Since September it has seen a rise in numbers, which is very pleasing, and excitingly they are currently planning an outreach event and also to run 'Christianity Explored' in college.

### **Families and young people in church:**

The much hoped for return, once we were more open (from September), of our church families is sporadic, with only one family attending regularly.

A small team continue to offer a creche type facility for the two youngest members of our congregation. This started from the beginning of September. The creche is available on the first and third Sundays of each month, the goodie play bags are left out on the second and fourth Sundays and the table and chairs have been added at

the back of the church. It was felt strongly that this was as a supportive facility for the children and should not be seen as an area to which they must stay (seated). Additionally, the folder (updated regularly) contains a selection of resources which are linked to the service and are suitable for older children (including some colouring in). The contents were reviewed and added to at the start of the New Year.

We welcomed quite a few families to the Crib and Christmas services, but this momentum has not been sustained.

All church families continue to be contacted (in person, via email or on WhatsApp) - for news, their well-being and to keep them informed of the resources currently available.

The main concerns remain:

1. Supporting the young people as and when they return to church.
2. Utilising the teams for children's work here and CU in college.
3. All those unchurched children and young people in our village and how we reach them – hopefully this situation will be ameliorated by the appointment of a new Family worker.

Please keep all of the children and young people in your prayers and look forward to the future with this vital ministry and our eagerly anticipated new worker.

*Report by Jo Plummer*

## **LYNDHURST DEANERY SYNOD**

The Synod encourages and supports the Mission of the Parishes (including Brockenhurst) that comprise the Deanery and provides a link between the parishes themselves and between them and the Diocese of Winchester. During 2021 it met three times, either conventionally or by Zoom. The event of the year that directly affects us as a parish is that our vicar, Simon Newham has been appointed Area Dean, succeeding the Revd Peter Salisbury (Lymington) and will thus chair and guide the future Synod meetings. Please pray for him as he combines this new role with his responsibilities within our parish.

As well as Simon, our current representatives on the Synod are Peter Lay, John Pearson and myself, who will be glad to give you further information.

*Report by Martyn Taylor*

## **MISSION TEAM**

Once again Covid has affected our church activities, in particular any fundraising we might have done. However, since we were back worshipping in Church our plate collections and special appeals have been able to take place. This year there has been a concentration on encouraging church members individually to support charities, especially where we have learnt of special needs and in response to emergencies, in particular Rwanda.

In 2021, as a church, we have supported the Church Mission Society, Tearfund, the Bible Society, Jerusalem and the Middle East Church Association, Gateway Club, Rwanda (Kigeme), Christians against Poverty, SAT-7 and the Universities' and Colleges' Christian Fellowship. On our Mission Sundays and on other occasions we have had special collections Christian Aid, Mission to Seafarers and Basics Bank. Our Christmas giving was shared between our church, the Children's Society (at our

Christingle service), Oakhaven Hospice and Embrace the Middle East. Our 'treasure trail' round the village continues to contribute to our mission fund. In October we enjoyed a farewell visit from the Bennetts, our CMS linked mission partners and started to support Lea and Petra Williams in Brno, Czech Republic.

### **PRAYER MINISTRY TEAM**

Prayer Ministry was re-instated at St. Saviour's in September 2021 and is now offered on the first and third Sunday of each month in a COVID-secure manner. The team prays with others that God may show His grace and love in people's lives through healing and by restoring wholeness in any aspect of lives. Prayer can be sought for yourself or anyone known to you. This ministry is now located beside the font in an attempt to provide greater privacy and a reflective environment for those seeking prayer. I am grateful to the small team of individuals who volunteer to minister in this way - we could not provide this service to others without their support. At times when the team are not available, situations for prayer can be sent by email to [prayer@brockenhurstchurch.com](mailto:prayer@brockenhurstchurch.com): all requests will be treated confidentially.

Additionally, the church website provides regularly updated ideas and approaches to prayer to support your prayer pattern and provide ideas on how to pray in a wide range of circumstances that people experience in life: we thank Sue Moss for her tireless work to co-ordinate prayers on the website.

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 by John Pearson*

### **PASTORAL CARE TEAM – 'BROCKCARE'**

Despite the continuing and various disruptions caused by Coronavirus during 2021, some of our activities were able to run and the pastoral team continued to be very busy.

**Pastoral visiting**, in the main, returned to something resembling 'normal' service. Having said that, some PVs and some of those being visited remained wary, and meet-ups were arranged outside when the weather allowed. When meeting inside, masks were worn and social distancing observed. After months of little contact, the elderly and vulnerable much appreciated face-to-face contact once more. The Care Homes, understandably, have been more cautious – and remain so, despite the fact that all restrictions have now been lifted.

From May 2021 we were able to provide **Afternoon Teas** in the Hall to 16 invited guests. Strict rules and protocols were observed to ensure the safety of guests and volunteers. These continued until July and were much appreciated by the elderly who had endured seriously curtailed social lives.

Thankfully, by September the usual **Wednesday Lunches** (see report elsewhere on these) could be resumed though numbers were limited to 30 to allow guests more space.

**CAMEO** returned in May 2021 and proved to be popular with a hardy band of supporters. Not everyone felt able to join group get-togethers straight away and numbers have fluctuated since according to perceived risk.

**All-4-One** activities over the past year were seriously curtailed due to the on-going pandemic and its associated restrictions. However, Liz Dodwell maintained contact with many of those on her list via the telephone or by email.

In August, the inaugural meeting of a new group, **The Sunday Club** – for those who are widowed – took place. This group, organised by Diane Webster, has gathered for afternoon teas, a Sunday Lunch in the Hall and on a couple of other occasions too. It is very well attended and is seen as a self-help group going forward.

Instead of our usual 3-day **'Holidays@ Home'** event which could not be organised again in 2021, we arranged a stylish 'Putting on The Ritz' extravaganza in the Church on 1<sup>st</sup> September. Over 50 guests attended the event and they were treated to a sumptuous tea and entertainment by the 'Scarlet Swing' duo who sang well-loved songs from the past. Some of these were accompanied by dancers.

The **'Service of Remembering Loved Ones Departed'** was held at the end of October, albeit still under strict Covid rules. It was well attended and proved once again to be a great source of comfort to those mourning the loss of loved ones. Following the service there was an opportunity for pastoral visitors (and other church members) to speak with those who had been bereaved. Tea and cakes, provided by the Social Team were served in the Church Hall.

The **Christmas Day Lunch** event was different again this year. Our usual chef, Roger Drake, was indisposed, so we approached The Forest Park Hotel for help and they came up trumps! 20 guests were provided with lunches – most of these were delivered by volunteers to be enjoyed in guests' homes. A small number of guests who would otherwise have been at home alone, joined the Fletchers in the Hall for a lunch to be taken in company. Guests at home were also provided with 'goodies boxes' prior to Christmas Day and these were much appreciated. Special thanks go to Di & Martin Fletcher, and to Ros Dennison for hosting in the Church Hall. We are indebted to The Forest Park Hotel and wish to record our thanks here for their generosity and genuine community spirit.

The **Film & Tea Afternoons** in the Autumn and Spring terms proved as popular as ever.

In March, Pete Wales kindly led a discussion about the rising number of Scams which so often target the elderly and vulnerable. This was much appreciated.



I would like to say a heartfelt 'thank-you' to all those involved in any of our pastoral care activities during 2021. Our volunteers, as ever, have willingly given of their time and talents to show Jesus' love and friendship, comfort and compassion, and have done so with imagination, ingenuity and good humour. Many thanks also to Nikki Cullingford who has acted as coordinator for 'Brockcare' since her arrival as the Parish Administrator in March 2021. Please contact me or the Church Office if you would like to join our team.

*Report by Joyce Kolaczowski*

## **CHURCH HALL TEAM**

It has been a hectic year in the running of the church hall since the gradual lifting of government Covid 19 restrictions last April. It was a help that this was done in a phased way over three months.

We were delighted to see some of the regular booking's re-start in May, with limited numbers Busy Badgers, Music and Movement and Singing for Fun all in a well-ventilated hall; this included at the end of May until the end of July, Wednesday Afternoon teas for 12, these were joined by more activities in June and finally Wednesday Lunches and Brownies commenced at the start of the academic year in September. All this required production of spreadsheets and Risk Assessments for PCC approval. Now in early 2022, we are free of restrictions and have welcomed a Pilates class on a Wednesday afternoon. The Youth Room is having more use, since Covid, for home group meetings and other casual ad hoc church meetings.

In August we tendered the washroom services contract, PHS having run this service for 13 years. Rentokil Initial were successful in the tender and have the contract until September 2024. Also, in the August quiet time, Luke Chambers redecorated the Store Room and varnished the cupboard doors, the latter look so much better, this was done for the first time since 1988. With so little use of the hall in 2020, we did not engage our long-standing decorator Sean Harris for his usual three day's work, but will need him in 2022.

Several meetings were held with the Brockenhurst Music Society and Brockenhurst Choir to agree a new structure hire fees for the church and hall. Simultaneously requirements for the serving of alcohol, which might need a Temporary Event Notice, were simplified by having a flow chart and a list of examples.

Whilst on legislation the main hall Risk Assessment initially done in 1999, had its second revision in late 2021; this was particularly important to include the 2016 hall extension. A review of licences has just been completed, particularly Performing Rights Society and Filmbank for music and film showing respectively. The two-yearly review and implementation of new church and hall hire rates from 1<sup>st</sup> January was approved by the PCC. Most recently the hire application form has been updated to include Safeguarding compliance. Finally, the PCC have approved the service of an Independent Catering Equipment Consultant to try and get to a

satisfactory conclusion on the intermittent fiendish fault of the 'Falcon' cooker gas hobs failing to ignite, this is currently being implemented.

Lastly my thanks to Mary for handling the management of the hall bookings so competently and the support I have from Lindy and Lesley, with running the hall kitchen so efficiently. I should add here when the NFDC inspector calls, which he or she does unannounced, they give the hall kitchen the highest rating, with an added comment of it being one of the best in the NFDC area. I value Keith on the committee for his support and comments.

*Report by Martin Fletcher, Chairman Church Hall Committee*

## **SOCIAL TEAM**

The main Covid limitation on our efforts was the decision not to provide refreshments at the Carol Services. Otherwise we managed to work around it.

We moved the Newcomers' Evening to July, allowing the food and drink to be outside in the sunshine, with Sue's talk in the Church to give more space. It worked so well that we are having the 2022 event in July.

We returned to a live Harvest Quiz again this year, but in the Church for social distance reasons. Alan's quiz was its usual success, but the Church venue also proved successful. People who would not normally come into the Church commented how welcoming it was, and how surprised they were to be allowed fish and chips and wine there!

We also helped at the Green Brock Day and other events.

This year Liz Dodwell has represented the Church on the Village Events Committee where large plans are being made for the Queen's Jubilee.

This will be my last Chairman's report for the Social Team, as after (too many) years I am stepping down as Chairman. Unfortunately, no-one on our Team is able to take over so we need a volunteer from the Church please, or an appointment from the PCC.

*Report by Keith Nolan*

## **WORSHIP TEAM**

2021 continued to be a year dominated by Covid and the management of change dependant on what restrictions were in place.

The year began with Mary Nicholson joyfully returning to Brockenhurst and being licensed to work here.

Also in January we launched our *Year of the Bible* – 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 began with a launch service led by Gareth Davies from the Bible Society and continued with The Bible Series (videos shown on Sundays); the Bible Course; various Bible related workshops (see Vicar's report for more detail) and a programme for Lent with Sunday sermons on different aspects of the Bible and Wednesday services of Night Prayer that included a talk from

individuals on their own personal experience of the importance of scripture in their lives.

Various speakers joined us through the year – either live or via Zoom – including Dave Mann from SAT 7, Jonathan de Sausmarez from the Children's Society, Chris Collinson from UCCF in Southampton, and our new CMF Mission Partners, Lea and Petra Williams working in the Czech Republic.

Worship continued throughout the year both live and online and we raised the funding necessary to make vital improvements to our AV system – as I write it looks like we are nearer obtaining the final permissions we require to proceed with this work.

Our growing confidence with the use of the tech led to the Open Service moving from an afternoon slot to a Sunday morning one – an opportunity for us to explore together some key issues in a more informal way.

Despite the uncertainties of Covid we managed a full suite of Holy Week and Easter services including a pilgrimage to South Baddesley via Boldre on Good Friday and a dawn Easter Day service with bonfire and bubbly at St Nicholas'. The grounds of St Saviour's was adorned by a moving and thought-provoking rubbish cross – made from rubbish collect from the Forest along with knitted Easter Eggs fabricated by the WI.

Daily Morning and Evening Prayer continued online including throughout *Thy Kingdom Come* when we prayed with members of the other churches in this community; housegroups continued; I led my first ANZAC service; throughout June our worship focussed on Stewardship as we followed the diocesan Generous June resource; Remembrance was held at the War Memorial with St Saviour's grounds once again being festooned with crocheted poppies; there was another moving and well attended service of Remembering Loved Ones Departed; worship continued in the schools with assemblies being led in-person or via YouTube depending on the Covid state of play; we worshipped together across the Group at Choral Evensongs and at an Advent Carol Service.

We began to sing again in services although with face-masks still in place and live music returned (thank you Mike and Cynthia!) on a more permanent basis to our services.

And finally, we ended the year with a range of Christmas services which were not as well attended as one might have hoped – many were living in fear of their Christmases being ruined by the newly rampant Omicron strain of Covid.

Throughout the year we have continued to serve the wider community as evidenced by the 11 weddings, 3 baptisms and 26 funerals we have taken – it was particularly good to see the wedding numbers begin to rise again after the low of 3 in 2020.

Once again I have been particularly impressed and encouraged by you, the wider congregation, for the constant support and participation in very different forms and patterns 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, Mary, John and Tony – supported of course by our wonderful Admin Team (particularly the Rota Queen, Lesley), Sacristy Team, readers, intercessors, welcomers, flower team, bell-ringers and all of you who contribute to our worship. I know that some of you feel that you haven't *done* as much as you could – but involvement in the running of worship in 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!

*Simon Newham, Vicar*

## **HOME GROUPS TEAM**

We now have 9 Home Groups plus the Brockenhurst Fellowship Group and a new group is being formed. They are gradually getting back to gathering normally, meeting at different days and times, some weekly and some less often. Total membership is slightly down. Each group follows its own topic, some doing bible study and others looking at a particular subject. Several of them followed the Church of England "Living in Love and Faith" course on gender and sexuality. The groups include members who worship at other churches which is to be welcomed.

Membership of home groups is a real encouragement to faith and discipleship as well as giving prayer and pastoral support. If you would like to know more, the Vicar or I can give more information and give guidance on a suitable group.

*Report by Diane Webster*

## **ECO CHURCH**

### Summary

As a church, we are committed to taking our environmental impact and use of resources fully into account in our work, worship, teaching, and programmes. We also seek to promote a spirit of Christian joy and fullness of life as we work to increase awareness of environmental issues in our church and village community, working towards us all enjoying simpler, greener lifestyles.

As a framework for this work, we joined the Eco Church movement back in Jan 2020. Towards the end of that year, we got our bronze award and started working towards our silver. In November 2021 we were awarded our Silver Eco Church Award and now we are working towards our Gold.

Activities and Progress over the past year:

- Easter 2021: The Rubbish Easter cross generated much interest and hopefully some thought for those that passed by
- May 21: Organised an ecumenical Walk for Creation, run jointly with the Catholic Church and attended by members of all 3 local churches
- May 21: Helped plan and lead the open service on the theme 'How Green is our faith?'. We have also been working on trying to ensure the climate crisis is addressed in our intercessions on a regular basis.

- June 21: Input all our Carbon footprint data input into the Church of England Energy tool.
- July 21: Hosted the Greener Brockenhurst Eco Fair in the grounds of St Saviour's with over 500 people passing through. The social committee laid on children's games and activities and Mothers Union provided ploughman's lunches, followed by cream teas.
- July 21 We have successfully moved to green gas for both churches.
- Summer 21: We are taking part in a Slow Worm survey being run by Hampshire and Isle of Wight Amphibian and Reptile Group.
- September 21: We held an outdoor ecumenical Climate Sunday Service with a visiting speaker and participation by members of all 3 local churches.
- September 21: The Mission Team kindly agreed that it is appropriate to support A Rocha financially on a regular basis.
- February 22: Working with the Greener Brockenhurst nature friendly gardening team & the Church Grounds team to set aside areas for rewilding and encouragement of wildlife.
- Feb 22: Have approached the Diocese re doing a survey of the vicarage from an energy performance point of view
- March 22: Eco church team is trying to give up / minimise their own personal use of single use plastic and has publicised this within the St Saviour's congregation.
- Throughout the year: Ongoing environmental awareness raising articles in the monthly Parish Magazine and well as weekly "Eco tips" in spotlight.

Throughout the year: Close involvement with and support of the work of Greener Brockenhurst

*Report by Camilla Pearse*

## **BAPTISM PREPARATION**

During the last year Baptism preparations and Baptisms have been held whenever Covid restrictions have allowed. These sessions for parents and Godparents are held on five pre-set dates throughout the year in the youth room at St Saviour's Church. Baptism is given by the grace of God and everyone is made aware of the promises and commitments that they will make during the service. Over tea and coffee, there is an introductory talk, a video and time for discussion. Parents are encouraged to take an active part in our Sunday worship prior to the Baptism. Local parents are also encouraged to keep in touch through the 'Little Flames' services for the under-fives which are run by the Mothers' Union.

I wish to thank everyone who participates in these sessions.

*Report prepared by Brenda Horner, Co-ordinator*

## **MARRIAGE PREPARATION**

With the country in another lockdown at the beginning of the year, it was decided to hold the Marriage Preparation session at the end of January 2021 via Zoom and 11 engaged couples took part, along with those from the church who would be involved in the weddings. Although very different from the normal format, the usual topics were covered and Simon explained the Christian understanding of marriage and why we feel marriage preparation is so important. The Mothers' Union traditionally give a gift to each couple, the book 'Growing Together' - a marriage preparation book written by Andrew Body - and these were posted out as they couldn't be given in person.

Thankfully, the easing of Covid restrictions meant all the planned weddings for 2021 were able to take place (some postponed from 2020) and we look forward to a more 'normal' year in 2022.

*Report prepared by Lesley Munt*

## **BROCKENHURST CARE CARS**

Once again, a very big "Thank You" to our volunteer drivers for all the hard work they have put in so far this year and, of course, last year. Without these drivers many of our Brockenhurst residents would be unable to get to their medical appointments.

Our co-ordinators, also volunteers, take the calls from clients off our 0845 643 5808 number. We place the requests as quickly as possible and then call the client back with the drivers name and client pick-up time.

We are always in need of more volunteer drivers so if anyone feels they have a few hours to spare each month, it can be as little or as much as you wish, we would love to hear from you. If you no longer drive, or wish to, maybe you would consider being a co-ordinator. If so, please contact Sue Hendry 01590 623543.

*Report prepared by Sue Hendry, Temporary Organiser*

## **BROCKENHURST MOTHERS' UNION**

2021 was the year of Re-building Hope and Confidence

### **BRANCH MEETINGS**

Unfortunately, at the beginning of the year we could not hold Branch meetings, but we restarted in May, using St Saviour's church, with due respect for Covid restrictions, and Zooming for those who did not wish to be in church. In July we had an outing to the New Forest Fruit company, preceded by tea at Lesley's house. This was well attended – though I think several of us were not expecting the long walk and some difficult terrain! In August we had tea and a chat afternoon in the garden of St Saviour's. Our Christmas get together was a small gathering of 12; it appeared many people were being very cautious about mingling with others, in order to be able to celebrate Christmas with family and friends.

## MOTHERS' UNION SERVICES

Our Wave of Prayer service in January, led by the vicar and the Branch Leader, was Zoomed from St. Saviour's Church. As usual we remembered the Dioceses around the world with whom the MU Branches of the Diocese of Winchester are linked, with members at home doing the readings. Our Corporate Communion on the third Thursday of the month were also via Zoom for a while, but we eventually returned to St. Saviour's in person. Cathedral Prayers resumed at the Cathedral in July. Before that they were by Zoom. On 10<sup>th</sup> June some of us attended the uplifting Diocesan Festival Service, in the cathedral Quire. The Deanery Lady Day Service was planned by Gill Coombs, and the selection of readings and hymns was sent out so members could use it at home at 11am to be virtually together. 'Little Flames' Services for the under-fives, organised by Lesley Munt, did not restart until the autumn term, but the two services were well attended by the primary school reception class and the pre-school (which is now part of the school) and families from Busy Badgers and others.

## EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES

Three Information Days were held via Zoom (unfortunately they had IT issues). On 22 July we hosted the Information Evening at St Saviour's and 35 people came to hear about The Acorn Chaplaincy from Rev. Mary Nicholson. Several of us attended the Information Day at Chandlers Ford on 19 November. Two of our branch joined the Vigil for 16 Days of Activism against gender-based violence outside Winchester Cathedral on 25<sup>th</sup> November, and then on 27<sup>th</sup> we had our own vigil in the Brookley Road. Both days were extremely cold and there were few people about in the village. This was despite plenty of advertising in the Parish Council office window display, and posters around the village.

Members have again utilised their craft abilities, knitting and crocheting poppies for the display in St. Saviour's garden for Remembrance Sunday, and items for services. Members knitted and crocheted tiny Easter baskets which were filled with mini eggs and given to elderly people and residential homes locally. Members who did not knit donated the eggs. We also continued to send knitted hats to Mission to Seafarers.

The Marriage Preparation Afternoon took place on via Zoom in January. Eleven couples attended. As usual, MU supplied the booklets for them.

Sue Lynes delivered the "Little Bags of Love" to the school, for parents of Reception children. Sourced by Lesley and filled and decorated by members, they were again well received by the parents. MU members have resumed providing refreshments to the parents and toddlers at Busy Badgers.

## FUNDRAISING

Jane Forrest led a forest walk for the MU, raising a substantial amount of donations. In July members provided refreshments at the Greener Brockenhurst Eco Fair, ploughman's lunches and cream or savoury teas. We then welcomed a visit from Dilton Marsh MU later in the week, and the combined profit was sufficient to replace the money we weren't able to raise from the Gift Swap 4 Coffee Shop which we were unable to hold in January

## MEMBERSHIP

Sadly our membership has reduced in 2021, with the sudden death of Hilary Turner in December. She was a longstanding member of the Branch, former Committee member and a Diocesan Trustee. Her funeral in St Saviour's was Zoomed, so Stella, our Diocesan President, and other Trustees could join in. Gill Coombs gave a heartfelt eulogy as well as giving a bible reading. We managed to make sure the Branch Banner was visible to the Zoom viewers.

We also said a sad goodbye to Mary Freeman who has moved away to be nearer her family.

2022's Theme is TRANSFORMATION - NOW!

Let us keep in mind our Worldwide President's words: "This transformation begins with God's grace, so powerfully at work in us, making us aware of the needs of others and compelling us to bless people's lives as we live out our faith. May our journey in the new Triennium be enriched with God's love, reflecting the kingdom of God and making Mothers' Union relevant for life in the 21<sup>st</sup> century!"

We continue to pray for that transformation.

*Report by Wendy Lay, Branch Leader*

## **STREET PASTORS**

It is with sadness and regret that I report that Street Pastors here in the New Forest is closing at Easter. There has been much prayer and discussion by the Committee, and the decision has not been made lightly. Changing needs locally and fewer numbers of us available to go out have led to this decision.

Our thanks for all the support which has been given to us, and the many joys that our 8 years "on the streets" have given us, and those who we have met in the course of our evening walks.

*Report Jane Forrest*

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

We are so very grateful to all our flower arranging volunteers who kindly gave their time and expertise to decorate the churches so beautifully in 2021. May we take this opportunity to thank each and every one of you, it's been a difficult time and we have managed to keep the rota going with fresh flowers to brighten and enhance both St Saviours and St Nicholas. It was wonderful to be able to include colourful Spring flowers for the Easter services. A real lift from the dark days during Winter and the January, February lockdown.

We were so sad to lose Hilary Turner from the Flower Guild during the year and we donated flowers and arranged a large pedestal for her funeral. We fondly remember her last arrangement this Easter, a stunning basket of Spring flowers placed in the St Saviour's porch. We also sadly lost Ann Perry who arranged flowers at St Nicholas' Church for many years, retiring from this role a few years ago. Both will



be sadly missed. It was a pleasure to help bereaved families this year providing pedestals and floral tributes, hopefully giving a little comfort at a sad and difficult time.



We arranged flowers for 10 weddings in 2021, including Reuben, the previous youth worker and Becca his beautiful bride on 7th August, such a delightful and happy couple.

Sally Hoy practised a vertical arch at the St Saviours church for the first time, this was a huge success and we had many favourable comments, it looked really beautiful for a couple of weddings and also for the outside Remembrance Day Service. We also decorated the inside of the church with poppies and foliage and all linked in beautifully with the knitted poppies in the St Saviours church gardens. Both churches were decorated for harvest festival using sunflowers, dahlias, pumpkins, berries and gerbera, all things bright and beautiful.



Christmas arrangements were traditional and subtle this year, using everything natural, evergreen foliage, berries, fir cones, holly and pine branches picked from Doreen Risso's tree, we mixed a selection of white led candles through the designs. The pillars were decorated with ivy garlands and fairy lights. All looked perfect and appropriate for the carol services. So pleased to see the reindeer aka "Simon" made an appearance under the St Saviours Christmas Tree.

We welcomed five new ladies to the Flower Guild, Mary, Sue, Jane, Gill and Lynda and they've settled in really well with the team.

Thank you to everyone who contributes to the "Flower Pot" collections, we collected £230 towards fresh flowers in both churches. We also thank all those who donate money to help with flowers especially the wedding couples and bereaved families.

*Report by Jane Thatcher and Sally Hoy*

### **THE SANCTUARY GUILD**

Over the past year we have been managing very well on just 4 helpers with the help of Tricia to do the washing and ironing of the Altar cloths. They are Ros Dennison, Lizzie Tindell and Marion Burden with myself, Lindy Waight. As we are not using wine at Communion for the congregation it saves a lot of time come cleaning and setting up.

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

Once again, I would like thank Tony Foulgar who has often stepped in and helped us out at St Nicholas' especially around Christmas time.

*Report by Lindy Waight*

### **WEDNESDAY LUNCHESES**

2021 began with another national lockdown so we were yet again unable to hold our weekly lunches. In the autumn of 2020, we had begun hosting small tea afternoons for 12 invited guests on a rota basis to enable our elderly guests to still feel connected, but these too had to be halted until restrictions eased and we were able to resume in late May through to the summer break at the end of July.

During the summer, much thought and discussion was given to how we might safely resume the lunches. We had now lost 10 of our regular volunteers who had decided to 'retire' after many years' service, but thankfully, we were able to recruit some new helpers. It was decided, however, to only hold lunches on the first 4 Wednesday of the month, thereby being able to amalgamate helpers from the 5th Wednesday team into other teams.

After very careful risk assessments, we were delighted to be able to resume the lunches in September. All Covid recommendations are followed - mask wearing when people are moving around or being transported in cars; hand gel on arrival and departure; social distancing etc. It was decided to keep guest numbers to a maximum of 30 on tables of 6, socially distanced, and to run a reserve list of guests we could invite at short notice when cancellations occurred.

We are very grateful to all our wonderful volunteers who have nobly continued to support us through these difficult two years - I know how much these weekly lunches mean to our elderly guests. Special thanks, too, to Joyce Kolaczowski who has spent many hours sorting and arranging transport and keeping in touch

with everyone. We're very much hoping that 2022 will be a much more 'normal' year for us all.

*Report by Lesley Munt, Wednesday Lunch Co-ordinator*

**CHURCH ELECTORAL ROLL**

The Electoral Roll as at Annual Meeting in 2021	212
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<b>The new Electoral Roll as at Annual Meeting in 2022</b> ( <i>Resident: 183</i> <i>Non-resident: 25</i> )	<b>208</b>
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