



BROCKENHURST
PARISH CHURCHES
Sharing the love and life of Jesus

St. Nicholas' with St. Saviour's

REVIEW OF 2025

ANNUAL CHURCH MEETING

Monday 27th April 2026

7:30pm

St Saviour's Church, Wilverley Road

www.brockenhurstchurch.com

THE PARISH OF BROCKENHURST

Minutes of the Annual Meeting of Parishioners and Parochial Church Meeting held on Monday 28th April 2025 at 7.30pm in St Saviour's Church, Brockenhurst

Simon welcomed everyone and opened the meeting with a prayer

46 church members attended.

Apologies were received from Liz Dodwell, John Pearson. Lesley and Bill Munt, Diane Webster, Esther Browne, Jane Thatcher, Eileen and Deryck Arnold, Ros Dennison, Margaret Porteus, Jan Campbell, Mary Richardson, Wendy Wallace, Martyn Taylor, Sue Griffiths, Sarah Foulger, Karina and Stephen Curson, Sue and Jeremy Moss.

Annual Meeting of Parishioners

1. Election of Churchwardens

Joanna Plummer - proposed by Alan Wright, seconded Marion Burden
Rosalind Waight - proposed by Rosalind Dennison, seconded Karina Curson

No other nominations having been received, both candidates were elected unanimously. Simon thanked Jo and Lindy for continuing to offer their time and talents to this considerable role.

Annual Parochial Church Meeting

1. Approval of Minutes of Previous APCM

Minutes of the meeting held on 24 April 2024: proposed SN, seconded Martin Fletcher, all agreed.

2. Matters Arising

There were no matters arising; no actions required as a result of that meeting. SN to sign.

3. Vicar's Report

Simon's full Report is on page 6 of the Review of 2024 which has been previously circulated. He listed month by month the many events of a very active year, despite the fact that the theme for 2025 had been one of reflection and listening. In particular our well-attended Parish Away Day in October was truly enlightening in that it led us to outline what our priorities for the future should be. Four points in particular came out of this: 1) Over 50s Evangelism - We need to welcome and engage this group of mainly retired people. 2) Two Buildings Challenge - Our two churches cost a lot to maintain: could we manage them better? 3) How to deliver music going forward - this is the lifeblood of a service. 4) Mel's excellent work with children and families - this must be a priority. Simon thanked his hard-working churchwardens, Jo and Lindy, who have worked well together and complement each other, supporting and encouraging him.

4. Churchwardens' Report (page 8 Review of 2024)

Jo and Lindy shared memories of the year from their perspective and highlighted how the many events and special occasions can only happen through the dedication of so many people who gladly give up their time and energy. Also, those who volunteer so that services are organised and maintenance work is done. Where would we be without them? Sincere thanks to all and much gratitude to Jeremy Moss, who stepped down last April, for his support and wisdom. Jo thanked Lindy for her diligence and all she has brought to 'The Team' in her first year as churchwarden.

5. Treasurer's Report

The Annual Report and Financial Statements for the year ended 31 December 2025 is set out in a separate document accompanying this Review of 2025. These have been approved by the PCC and our Independent Examiner. No questions.

Peter Lay explained that this will now go to the Charity Commission and is used to demonstrate what we give for public benefit. He thanked everyone who has given so generously through stewardship and response to appeals, particularly for St Nicholas' path. We received a £4,800 VAT refund from the work on St Saviour's roof and a substantial donation and legacy. Our funds are reasonably healthy, although there is a risk of funds drying up in the future as our congregation ages.

Simon thanked Peter on everyone's behalf for the huge amount of work that has gone into preparing these reports and indeed his reports to the PCC every month which also take much of his time. Simon has never known a Treasurer who has consistently produced such clear and regular reports. Applause.

6. Electoral Roll Report

Jeremy Moss, who took over from Alan Wright as Electoral Roll Officer at last year's APCM, has asked church members to re-apply for inclusion in the new Electoral Roll that has been prepared. There are 149 on the Electoral Roll for the ecclesiastical parish of Brockenhurst as at 28 April 2025: 140 resident, 9 non-resident. This is a lower figure than in recent years which is why we have to engage in growing our church.

7. Other Reports

Reports from our many wonderful teams are on pages 9 - 24 of the Review of 2024. Simon thanked the team members, more than 100 all of whom are volunteers, for the caring and commitment they represent in the life of our church. The breadth of all they do is amazing. He thanked the team leaders for the considerable work they put into running their teams and for writing their reports:

Paul Pearse - Strategy Group: Their 10-15 year plan is an on-going exercise as we move towards a tipping point where the resources required cannot be covered by the church members.

Jo Plummer - Children & Young People: Brockenhurst College is very supportive of the Christian Union we have established there. Vicky Wales, Simon and Jo, the three Foundation Governors, are regularly at the school and the Little Flames services are looked forward to by the children.

Mel Osborne - Children and Families' Worker: Mel's work with the three schools in the benefice has expanded greatly since she joined us in 2022 and is much appreciated by teachers and parents and enjoyed by the children who love seeing her. Many thanks to our volunteers who help her.

Revd Canon Diane Webster, Revd Alan Graham, Revd Mary Nicholson, Revd Terence Handley MacMath, John Pearson LLM, Revd Stephen Bennett, Revd Sandra Hall, Mel Osborne - Worship Team led by Simon: They have been a constant support and give generously of their time in preparing and leading regular and special services, commemorations, Holy Communion in nursing homes, school services and serving the wider community in baptisms, weddings and funerals. Simon paid tribute to Tony Foulger LLM who sadly is no longer with us but who was at the heart of our worshipping community. He was a wonderful example of what it means to be a part of Christ's Church and we miss him. Thanks also to you, our congregation, for your constant participation and encouragement - for just 'being there' and welcoming others into this community.

John Pearson - Parish Prayer Activities: Thanks to John and **Lindy Waight** for the inspiration that goes into producing visual work to encourage interactive and creative prayer, e.g. the fishing net. John organises a prayer team which offers prayer, in confidence, to anyone for their own situation or for someone known to them. During Lent next year, John and Simon plan to run a course called 'Encounter' which will demonstrate ten different forms of prayer to help us in our prayer life.

Pauline Brown and Mike Kelly - Church Music: Thank you Pauline and Mike for your huge contribution to the life of St Saviour's by leading our singing on the piano at our Sunday services. Also, thanks to Stephen Bennett who sings and plays the guitar with our group of instrumental players. We do not have an organist for the St Nicholas' services and use digitally produced music there. We do, however, employ excellent organists for weddings, funerals and special services and are inspired by them to raise the roof at carol services.

Liz Dodwell - Mission: Liz is passionate about our mission work and is a great asset, organising our giving as set out on the Mission Board at the back of St Saviour's (listed on page 13 of the Review).

Joyce Kolaczowski - Pastoral: Brockcare covers a vast number of activities and needs. It is one of the strengths of our church of which we are justifiably proud thanks to Joyce who, with her large team of volunteers, do an amazing job. They are a wonderful example of how we reach out to the community (page 14 of the Review).

Tim Dodwell - Fabric and Grounds: This team looks after maintenance of both churches, their grounds and the hall. The largest project of dealing with St Saviour's church roof is still on hold while long-term planning for the future of the building is resolved. Particular thanks also to **Martin Fletcher** for undertaking endless tasks, **Paul Pearse** for supervising building maintenance and **Richard Elliot** for the management of the St Nicholas' path project.

Martin Fletcher - Church Hall: Many churches have a hall but the hardest task is to run it and keep it functioning. We thank this team for doing such a professional job. We must also thank **Mike Harvey** a loyal local contractor who will come in at short notice to do minor repairs.

Keith Nolan - Social Team: Keith runs his small happy band of helpers with humour and we are grateful to them for always being there helping greatly towards the success of many events.

Camilla Pearse - Eco Church: This team have had a brilliant year, being committed to taking our environmental impact and use of resources into account in their work and teaching awareness in the community. Their activities and progress are listed on page 17 of the Review.

Karina Curson - Safeguarding: Karina's workload has increased massively in recent years and is of the utmost importance. Please support her if she contacts you.

John Pearson - Deanery and Diocesan Synods: John represents our parish on the Lyndhurst Deanery Synod with **Peter and Wendy Lay** and **Simon** as Area Dean to share information on the running of the parishes within the Deanery. He also represents us on the Diocesan Synod which focuses on the initiatives and future of the diocese and sets budgets and operational parameters.

Diane Webster - Homegroups: These groups do a fantastic job in providing friendship, support and discussion and are not just a prayer group. Please contact Diane if you would like to join one.

Simon Newham - Baptism Preparation: There were 12 baptisms in 2025. Simon thanked the other clergy who also take baptisms and the Mothers' Union for crocheted pram blankets and providing tea and cake.

Lesley Munt - Marriage Preparation: This is a happy afternoon when couples preparing for marriage in the three parishes in our benefice meet those involved in organising their special day and interact with each other. Thanks to the clergy, **Sue Lynes** Verger, **Sally Hoy** Flower Guild, **Clare Robbins** Administrator and again the MU for tea and cake.

Ros Dennison - St Nicholas' Guardians: Ros, along with **Janet Courtice** and **Diana Fletcher**, look after the historical aspect of St Nicholas' Church and the 'Guardians' who greet those visiting. (page 20 of the Review). Grateful thanks to our famous **Alan Mutter** who is lauded on Trip Advisor but is now stepping down after being a presence there for many years at weekends. We need to recruit more volunteers - please consider - it is a very rewarding experience.

Sally Hoy and Jane Thatcher - St Nicholas' and St Saviour's Flower Guild: The Flower Guild is self-funding using wedding flower and other donations, including Flower Pot money from parishioners, with foliage and flowers from their own gardens. Thank you to all these ladies who joyfully give their time and creativity to produce beautiful flower arrangements for us to enjoy in our churches.

Lindy Waight - Sanctuary Guild: Thank you to the team for the immaculate way you keep the linen, vestments and silverware and prepare for communion services. This is a huge help to the clergy.

Adrian Butterworth - Brockenhurst Care Cars: This has been another busy year with over 200 clients on their books. This service makes a massive difference to the life of the village. Please consider if you can join this team as the pool of drivers and co-ordinators is dwindling.

Lesley Munt - Mothers' Union: Our Mothers' Union members led our recent Mission service, illustrating how this is a global organisation serving many communities (details of our involvement on pages 22-24 of the Review). Special thanks to all of you for everything the MU does.

Lesley Munt - Wednesday Lunches: We have 40 elderly people on our register who are served a two-course lunch on the first four Wednesdays of each month at a cost of £5. The companionship this brings is greatly appreciated by all and thanks go to the teams who prepare, cook and serve and keeps in touch with our guests.

8. Election of the PCC Members

Wendy Lay and Nathan Parnaby are standing down as PCC members having both served two three-year terms. Simon thanked them both for their commitment to the work of the PCC during this time - Wendy for also being a Deanery Synod member and Nathan as Gift Aid Secretary, a vital role that we are very pleased to hear he is to continue with.

The following are standing for election:

Angela Swann proposed Lindy Waight seconded Rosalind Dennison

Janet Ward proposed Jane Forrest seconded Lindy Waight

The above were approved by the meeting and Simon thanked them for being willing to serve.

9. Appointment of the Independent Examiner

Peter Lay proposed Brenda Peers-Ross is appointed Independent Examiner, seconded Jo Plummer. All in favour.

10. Date of next APCM

Monday 27th April 2026.

11. Open Forum

There are a few people each year we like to thank for the part they have played in our church life by presenting a small gift :-

Wendy Lay - you will be greatly missed.

Nathan Parnaby - for leading the Strategy Group in a clear and positive way as we set about our Two Building Challenge project.

Joyce Kolaczowski - for her efficiency and care in managing everything that Brockcare stands for.

Camilla Pearce - for her enthusiasm in leading Eco Church to obtain a gold award.

Anne and Keith Nolan - for being so much a part of our church life and looking after the hospitality side of that life so well, always with a smile.

Mel Osborne - she has brought joy to her role of Children & Families' Worker and achieved a wonderful relationship with our school children and their parents.

Peter Lay - he has worked incredibly hard not only as Treasurer of the PCC but of the Deanery Synod also. We thank him for his many hours of diligent work and for always answering questions promptly and understandably. He is a huge help to Simon and us all and has been doing this for more years than he cares to count!

Margaret Anderton - for planting and maintaining the beautiful flower bed outside the hall where there was once gravel and now welcomes everyone as they come in.

Marion Burden - for being our PCC secretary and all the hours she gives to this role.

12. AOB

We have received an invitation to join in the centenary celebrations of our link diocese in Rwanda at the end of August this year. The PCC is happy for Simon and Gina to attend and have agreed that Simon should put a proposal to the congregation and liaise with our Treasurer to open an account for donations towards the cost of the visit. All in favour.

Simon said that everyone in the Church is part of the body of Christ and has a role to play. Everyone is needed. Thank you all for attending. The meeting closed with The Grace.

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VICAR'S REPORT

2025 was yet another busy and full year at Brockenhurst!

In January we announced the wonderful news that we had achieved a Gold Eco Award from A Rocha – no mean feat and a huge well done and thank you to our hard working and passionate Eco Team.

In February we began a Christianity Explored Course for the whole benefice at Pilley.

In March we had the second of two Away Day Vision Days that helped us to set a focus on over 50s evangelization; worship and the two building challenge as key areas to work on over the next few years.

Bishop Philip joined us for Sunday worship and Sr Veronica from St Dominic's Priory led our Lenten Compline reflections.

In April we celebrated Easter and had the normal round of APCMs, ANZAC etc.

In May we joined with the village in celebrating VE Day.

In June Luke was ordained priest at the cathedral and our new wonderful curate Lisa was ordained deacon and joined us.

In July we had the ever-popular Newcomers Drinks party and Mel went to Lambeth Palace! We were also 'inspected' at the Parochial Visitation – that our Wardens (with the support of our admin team and others) sailed through.

In August the families of the wider community enjoyed some wonderful Summer Fun events led by Mel and her team and we had a wonderful Summer Breeze event led by Stephen at the Foresters Arms. Gina and I went off to Rwanda, generously funded by the parish, to see what difference our partnership has made in Kigeme.

In September I went on the annual school year 6 residential to Swanage and joined in with lots of outdoor pursuit activities – a wonderful way of building deeper relationships with both the staff and pupils and Holidays@Home went to Scandinavia!

In October we began our Death and Life Course, had the annual Harvest Quiz and were joined by Bishop Assiel (from Kigeme) and his wife who had us all dancing in the aisles!

In November we had a 'village' organised Christmas tree fayre.

In December Christmas went ahead with a very well attended range of services including a 'sold out' Christmas Songs down the pub.

This has all happened in addition to the more normal pattern of services, weddings, funerals, baptisms, community service, pastoral visits, building maintenance etc. that goes on - none of it would have happened without God's grace and the hard and generous work of so many of you - 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 apart) have been amazing. Thank you for your caring, loving and serving of others that has helped us to remain a community. So too have the Wednesday Lunch Club teams and the Holidays at Home Team.

Milla and her team in their Eco work – that gold award really was a highlight.

So much work behind the scenes organising us all, is down to Clare, Lesley, Kelly and Mary in the church office – along with all the other volunteers that support them. Thank you for being the 'glue' that's kept us all going in the same direction.

Mike and Pauline (and the band) in their support and leadership of our music and worship.

Our expanding worship team (Diane, John, Mary, Mel, Stephen and Sandra have been such supportive and wise colleagues - thank you for your patient guidance and willingness to be involved where and when you can.

Our new member of the team – Lisa – has been a delight to work with and has become a much valued colleague who has so much to offer.

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. Jo and Lindy have been with me every step of the way through different parts of this year, and I know that I couldn't have faced the various challenges that came up without them. Thank you so much for being there.

So, That Was the Year that Was, may this coming one be just as fruitful as we seek to discern what God wants us to be and do next.

Revd Canon Simon Newham

CHURCHWARDENS' REPORT

Introduction

I have been asked to keep this report brief, yet it is difficult considering how eventful our year has been. It has been a year filled with joy, laughter, challenges and, at times, frustrations. The achievements and progress made would not have been possible without the dedication of all PCC members, office staff, and volunteers. A heartfelt thank you from us both.

Visitation and Inventory Challenge

The greatest challenge for us wardens this year was the Visitation by the Archdeacon's representative. Every item in both churches needed to be accounted for, requiring a comprehensive inventory of the churches, hall, kitchen, offices, and meeting room. From silverware to teaspoons, everything was listed. We were then

tasked with locating a range of items including policies, insurance documents, robes, linens, and legal paperwork, some of which were stored at the Records Office in Winchester. All the necessary materials in the offices and churches had to be readily available for inspection day. Although this was a mammoth undertaking, it proved invaluable in helping us understand what items were held and where they were stored. We discovered that we had accumulated many outdated items, some over ten years old. The inspection went smoothly, with only a few outstanding items still being followed up. Enormous thanks to everyone who assisted us in completing this task.

Staff Changes and Support Roles

This year, we bid farewell to Stephen Bennett, who has moved on to South Baddesley as Associate Priest but remains connected with our church, occasionally officiating Thursday Communion in St Saviour's. We warmly welcomed Lisa Thomas, our new Curate, who has become an invaluable member of the team. Mel, our ordinand, continues to contribute to our services, while managing her role as Child and Family Support Worker.

Leadership and Ministry Activities

Simon has been fully engaged as Area Dean and leader of the benefice, consistently offering support with his smile and attentive ear. He is aided by a dedicated team of 'retired' clergy, lay ministers, office staff, and volunteers. In addition to regular weekly services at both churches, the team has organised Thursday Communion, daily and nightly prayers, weddings, funerals, a pet service, and a motorbike service, all of which have contributed greatly this year. Our Lent Compline services, led by Sister Veronica, were well attended. 'Retired' clergy also assist with Communion Services at both local nursing homes. Mel continues her energetic work in child and family support at local schools three days a week, frequently involving volunteers from the church.

Community Initiatives

Recently, a monthly dementia coffee morning was launched at Heartland Manor, providing a new opportunity for community engagement and support.

Celebrations and Special Events

This year saw several celebratory lunches, welcoming all congregations. Notable events included lunches for Simon's 60th birthday, Bishop Philip, Bishop of Winchester, who attended with his wife and dog, Bishop Assiel and his wife Valerie from Rwanda, and a farewell lunch for Stephen. The celebrations continued with a large picnic at St Saviour's to mark a significant anniversary, with families enjoying music and dancing in the well-kept grounds. We also celebrated Keith and Anne's 70th wedding anniversary, a truly special occasion.

Fundraising Efforts

The fundraising team organised two lunches: one supporting Christian Aid and another for the local Scouts group, who aimed to raise funds to replace worn-out tents. Both events were well supported by the community. On a lighter note, the safe at St Saviour's was entrusted to store a piece of lunar rock for a night, necessitating an inspection to confirm our premises were secure enough for such a precious item.

Outreach and Engagement

The church tent at the New Forest Show was consistently busy this year and proved to be an excellent means of engaging with the wider public.

Our Carols in the Pub event was a great success; the enthusiasm was such that we could have continued singing for much longer.

The church hall and meeting room are in constant use by both the outside community and church members.

Educational Programmes

A Life and Death course was held in the hall, offering informative guidance on preparing for bereavement in advance. Safeguarding courses were also delivered to ensure the safety and wellbeing of our community. Additionally, a 'Christianity Explored' course was offered to deepen understanding of the faith.

Ongoing Activities

Busy Badgers continues to run weekly during term time, with growing attendance. Our thanks go to Ella and Sam for their dedication to this initiative.

This year Holidays@Home went to Scandinavia with everyone enjoying wonderful food and music. CAMEO continues each Thursday morning and is well attended by visitors and regulars.

Looking Ahead

The PCC participated in an Away Day, during which we explored plans and visions for the next five years.

We wish to thank everyone for all their support and look forward to another year with more challenges, laughter and fun.

The Terrier report has been updated.

Lindy Waight and Jo Plummer, Church Wardens

TREASURER'S REPORT

The Annual Report and Financial Statements for the year ended 31 December 2025 with the Independent Examiner's Report to Brockenhurst PCC is in a separate document accompanying this review of 2025.

Peter Lay, Treasurer

STRATEGY GROUP (10-15 year plan)

As explained in last year's report, the change of use or modification of St Saviour's church building is a multi-year activity. However there has been a development with a possible occasional sharing of the existing church facilities with another local church group. These discussions are in the very early stages and the church leadership and PCC are being kept informed of developments.

We, as a church, are moving towards a tipping point where the resources required and costs of maintaining the church activities & buildings cannot be covered by the church members.

A professional report was commissioned by the PCC in 2024 to look at options for the site of St Saviour's in the centre of Brockenhurst. This report is currently being

evaluated with experts from the diocese of Winchester. This evaluation is on-going and it is likely to be a number of years before a detailed action plan is produced for further consideration by the PCC.

Report by Paul Pearse

CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S WORK

This report needs to be read in conjunction with Mel Osborne's exciting report as there is an element of crossover.

Brockenhurst C of E Primary School:

Simon continues to deliver occasional assemblies, but most Wednesdays Mel delivers these. The three foundation governors (Simon, Mark Curzon and I) continue to visit the school (and pre-school) regularly, not only in an official capacity but also as readers/helpers/volunteers. Several other members of the congregation volunteer on a regular basis: reading, gardening, accompanying trips, supporting Mel's initiatives (including very welcome cake making) and as midday lunch supervisors. Vicky Wales stepped down (in July 2025) as Chair of Governors after many years of outstanding service and she is sorely missed.

The Little Flames services were harder to organise this year but following conversations with the school it is planned to hold the July one and then get back on track for the Autumn term.

Brockenhurst College Christian Union:

The college is very supportive of this initiative. Unfortunately it is still just available for 40 minutes at lunch time instead of the original 90 enrichment session. This has inevitably curtailed what we can do in the time however it is exciting to see God working in the small spaces. There are ten regular attendees. We've answered big and small questions, been open to the varying needs of the group and eaten plenty of 'sugar'! The previous cohort advised that we needed more Bible study time, more craft and at least one outreach event. So we took the advice into the new (September) term.

This has proved fruitful. The Christmas event (in the very cold quad) resulted in us serving Hot Chocolate until it ran out and (about 400) candy canes with an attached Bible verse. The students were so encouraged by it that they resolved to run an Easter event.

I feel that I am now well recognised by staff in college and they are grateful for the chocolate/cake biscuits (that are left over from the sessions!)

Families and young people in church:

This has been a fluctuating picture this year. We had one family who attended very frequently and another who came less often.

Mel's events and children's Christmas services were really well attended; it was joyous to see so many small people and their families and their enthusiasm was evident.

The new 4th Sunday of the month service in the Church hall had a very varying attendance from one to four families, but even these numbers tailed off. There are currently no families with young children who attend regularly.

The main concerns remain all those unchurched children and young people in our village and how we reach them.

Please continue to pray for all our children and young people and for Mel's replacement, the process for which will begin in February.

Report by Jo Plummer

CHILDREN AND FAMILIES' WORK

I continue to work across the Parish in three schools, whilst engaging with the community through ad hoc church based events. There is ongoing work with groups of children within the schools who operate as 'worship ambassadors' and individually, to provide pastoral care. Likewise, the schools use me, the church and the wider team of volunteers/clergy to provide spiritual events, insight and support.

School Work

Brockenhurst: Work began last year in partnership with Christian Aid through the Creative for Climate Justice initiative, which saw a pupil selected as an ambassador to the Houses of Parliament, a significant achievement despite being unable to attend. Worship Ambassadors have co-led collective worship, created prayer cards for each classroom, and gathered a wide range of pupil prayer requests. They were also featured in a national Church of England Recognise video, offering a blessing for those working in children's and youth ministry. Collective worship continues to be well attended during key festivals such as Easter, Harvest, and Christmas, strengthening links between church, school, and families. Engagement has deepened through initiatives such as the Year R café, the Year 6 cathedral leavers' event, Little Flames, and weekly visits to the church by pre-school children at the school's request. This reflects the value placed on children experiencing church as a lived and welcoming space and has replaced Truth Be Told, which was previously run at Woodpeckers until May 2025. Preparation for SIAMS has further embedded Christian spirituality across the school, including the introduction of prayer pebbles. The school council has also contributed by writing a school prayer, working collaboratively with me during lunchtimes to develop and shape it.

William Gilpin: A pupil from the school was selected as an ambassador for Christian Aid's Creative for Climate Justice event at the Houses of Parliament and spoke confidently to over 22 MPs about climate justice, based on artwork created by young people across England and Wales. This was a significant and formative experience for an 11-year-old. The school has undergone several leadership changes following Mr Croutear's departure in July 2025, with a number of interim heads in place. During this period of transition, I have supported the school by continuing to establish and lead the Church School Vision group, delivering weekly collective worship, and providing pastoral care for pupils. I have also worked alongside the Forest School lead, including facilitating the donation of a shed from Boldre Church. Further involvement has included accompanying the school to the Year 6 cathedral leavers' event and supporting members of the Church School Vision group to lead prayers, readings, and biblical storytelling during Harvest and Christmas services in the church.

South Baddesley: Worship Ambassadors participated in the Creative for Climate Justice exhibition, with one pupil's artwork selected for display in the House of Commons. The artwork was also displayed within the school. The Worship Ambassadors have continued to maintain the prayer space and create prayer cards for each classroom. The Difference Course organisation invited primary schools across England to pilot a version adapted for younger children. I delivered the KS1 programme while Mrs Moir led KS2, and our participation and feedback resulted in an invitation for six pupils, Mrs Moir, and myself to attend an event at Lambeth Palace in September 2025 to celebrate the national launch of the project. Additional engagement has included hosting several tea parties at the church, a successful Easter egg hunt, and an increase in musical performances. Biblical storytelling sessions were co-led with Revd Stephen Bennett across all classes, enabling children

to explore specific stories in depth and understand how they link to the school's values. I continue to lead weekly KS1 worship in classrooms and supported Mrs Moir with the Year 6 cathedral leavers' event.

Attendance of the family events during the holidays has increased. Numbers have decreased with any activity we have tried on a Sunday morning. From Sept 2025, I have been running Squirrels – Scouts aged 4-6 with volunteers, and this is going well. Busy Badgers continues to thrive and be well attended. Future plans: run a biblical book club and to work with the forest school lead at William Gilpin.

Brockenhurst Worship Ambassadors will be raising money for Toilet Twinning.

Report by Mel Osborne

WORSHIP

Various speakers joined us through the year including from the MU, Friday Club, CAP and Rwanda. We had two bishops – Bishop Philip and Bishop Assiel.

Worship continued throughout the year using both live and digital formats - a huge thank goes to Pauline, Mike, John and the digital team led by Jeremy for making all this possible.

Compline in Lent was led by the wonderful Sr Veronica from St Dominic's Priory. We managed a full Holy Week and Easter programme including a pilgrimage to South Baddesley via Boldre on Good Friday and a dawn Easter Day service with bonfire, bubbly and bacon butties at St Nicholas'.

Daily Morning and Evening Prayer continued online; housegroups continued; we had a well attended ANZAC service and Remembrance Commemorations; there was another moving and well attended service of Remembering Loved Ones Departed; worship continued in the schools and Nursing Homes; we worshipped together across the Group at Choral Evensongs and at an Advent Carol Service.

We had a service of healing and a pet service – not at the same time!

And finally, we ended the year with a range of well-attended Christmas services including a packed out 'service' down the pub!

Worship has included our primary school with Mel or Simon going in weekly and the school coming to church for Easter, Harvest, Christmas and the Year 6 Leavers' Service. It's included our Nursing Homes with Communion Services; it's included our young families with Little Flames and the special holiday and festival events that Mel and her team put on; and it's included our pubs!

Throughout the year we have continued to serve the wider community as evidenced by the 6 weddings, 8 baptisms and 31 funerals we have taken.

As always, I have been particularly impressed and encouraged by you, the wider congregation, for the constant support and participation - thank you for being there, and continuing to be there, as a worshipping community and for welcoming others into that worshipping community (thank you to Jane and her Welcomers Team and to Keith and the Social Team for the hospitality they so ably supply).

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, Lisa, John, Mary, Stephen, Mel and Sandra – 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. Thank you!

Report by Simon Newham, Vicar

PARISH PRAYER ACTIVITIES

Prayer Ministry continues to be available for those who are finding it difficult to find the words to express their situation before God - whether that be to give thanks, articulate concerns for others or personally seek His intervention. In the first instance, please contact the person leading the service or myself, who will help you find the most appropriate person to support you. I am grateful to all our clergy and the other members of laity (Jo Plummer, Liz Dodwell, Mel Osbourne) who have expressed their ongoing willingness to participate in this work. If you feel you - with appropriate support - could be part of this work, please contact me. Prayer is also usually available for yourself or others during communion at Sunday Communion at St Saviour's. We are extremely grateful for the work of Lindy Waight who indefatigably provides interactive and creative prayer activities in the South aisle. These support both church family members and visitors to the building by providing inspiration and a focus for being with God at any time when the building is open. Similarly, we thank Sue Moss for providing an ongoing online seasonal prayer materials accessible through our website.

Report by John Pearson

CHURCH MUSIC

Music has always been an integral part of our worship in church and we are fortunate to have talented people to play and sing to support our congregation; St Saviour's is also a valued venue for many concerts throughout the year. At our Parish Church of St Nicholas we usually have digital organ music and at St Saviour's we have excellent piano accompaniment from Mike Kelly and Pauline Brown and a band. Both church organs are played regularly, mostly for festival and life event services or at concerts. Concerts have included our Brockenhurst Choral Society, Brockenhurst Music Society, Voices of the New Forest, The Friday Girls, and others from further afield, such as the Welsh Male Voice Choir and Lumos, which both filled the church to capacity. We are often reminded by music directors, singers and players, that the acoustics in St Saviour's are fantastic for orchestras and choirs - better than many cathedrals! Our Primary School children can raise the roof when in full voice at St Saviour's! Perhaps one day they will be our singers at Sunday services in the future. Our joint choral evensong, with a large combined choir from Brockenhurst and Boldre, continues in quiet tradition each month at St John's. Musicians are always welcome to join us - please contact the Church Office.

Report by various people

MISSION

Our giving to Mission from the church continues to be a mix of direct payments to ten charities; collections in church for special events or services (such as Christmas and Easter); appeals for emergencies or special items and personal giving. In 2025, as a church, we have supported the Church Mission Society, Tearfund, the Bible Society, Acorn, Gateway Club (Mencap), Friday Club, Rwanda (Kigeme), SAT-7, the Universities' & Colleges' Christian Fellowship and A Rocha (for the environment). On our Mission Sundays and on other occasions we have had special collections for Rwanda, the Mothers Union, Embrace the Middle East, Friday Club, Christians Against Poverty, Christian Aid and Basics Bank. Our Christmas giving was shared between our church, the Children's Society (at our Christingle service), Christians Against Poverty and Honeypot (for child carers). Our 'treasure trail' round the village continues to contribute to our mission fund.

Report by Liz Dodwell

PASTORAL TEAM REPORT – 'BROCKCARE'

As ever, 2025 was another busy year for pastoral activities in Brockenhurst Parish.

Pastoral Visiting: This activity represents a large and important part of our work in the Parish. Giving time to visit people and get alongside those who are in any sort of need, is close to the heart of our mission as Jesus' followers. Pastoral visitors make such a difference to the lives of those they visit – especially to those who are housebound or isolated. For some, a pastoral visitor truly is a 'lifeline'. Many visits have been made to those in Residential Homes, or to those in hospital and these are very important too, as such visits enable people to continue to feel part of our community here in Brockenhurst. Pastoral visiting is privileged work and is extremely rewarding. Our thanks go to all those who quietly go about this vital task, week in, week out.

Wednesday Lunches: Now 38 years old, Wednesday Lunches remain a vital and integral part of the pastoral/outreach work supporting the elderly and vulnerable in our village. (See Lesley Munt's separate report on Wednesday Lunches elsewhere).

CAMEO (Come-And-Meet-Each-Other): Throughout the year, a dedicated team of helpers made this weekly Thursday morning activity in the Church Hall a success. It is an excellent venue for 'church' and 'non-church' folks to meet together over a hot drink and (often) homemade biscuits. There is always a warm welcome for regulars and newcomers alike, and it provides an opportunity for chat, laughter and relaxation for all.

The Sunday Club: This self-help group, overseen by Diane Webster and others, continued to meet every few weeks during the year for shared Sunday Lunches in the Hall, and for other occasional get-togethers. The Club maintained a good number of attendees (20+) at these events and it has been much appreciated by all concerned. The newly bereaved are gently encouraged to think about joining this group when they feel the time is right. The group most definitely fulfils a pastoral need within the community.

Dementia Café: This group is now well-established and without doubt, serves a different pastoral need in the village. Carers of those who suffer from dementia can quite quickly begin to feel isolated and side-lined. The group has offered much-needed support and has met every 4th Wednesday morning each month. Heartland Manor has provided the venue and refreshments, and their staff have willingly shared their expertise too, when necessary. We are grateful for their input. Our thanks go to Diane Webster and Sandra Hall for organising and hosting these get-togethers.

All-4-One: For part of 2025 this group, aimed at enabling 'singles' to get-together for shared activities, was in 'abeyance'. Liz Dodwell, who oversees this group, was 'out of action' for a while. She has taken up the reins once again and contact via email with the members of this group has been made.

Film & Tea Afternoons: Two films were shown during 2025 - 'Mrs Harris Goes to Paris' in the Spring term and 'The Great Escaper' in the Autumn term. Both were very

well supported and well received. The films were followed by Afternoon Tea and by very animated conversation! Donations received were given to the Hall Fund.

'Holidays@Home': Our 2025 'virtual' holiday for the elderly was held during the first week of October. 25 invited guests joined us for our trip to Norway and Sweden. Themed talks, games/quizzes, dancing and singing followed, and were interlaced with delicious food and seemingly endless cups of tea and cake. As ever, having fun is the order of the day! Our thanks go to a dedicated team of organisers, cooks, drivers and other helpers/supporters. This event could not happen without this willing help. H@H remains very popular indeed and is a highlight of the year.

'Service to Remember Loved Ones Departed': This service, held in early November, provided much comfort to those mourning the loss of loved ones. Over 50 people attended this year. Pastoral visitors (and other church members) had an opportunity to get alongside attendees over tea and cakes which followed the service in the Church Hall. The Social Team provided this wonderful spread and our thanks go to them for their efforts.

Christmas Day Lunch: 26 guests attended the Christmas Day Lunch (2025) held in the Church Hall. This special feast, cooked by the inimitable Roger Drake, was much enjoyed by all those who attended. The event was kindly hosted by Di and Martin Fletcher and ably supported by Judy and Vanessa. The Brownies provided lovely table decorations. We wish to acknowledge generous donations from two anonymous villagers, which covered the costs of all the drinks provided on the day, and paid for small gifts for each of our guests as well as some other associated costs. Their generous financial support was very much appreciated.

It is a joy for me to pay tribute to all those involved in any of our pastoral care activities – there are too many to mention them all by name. Our many volunteers willingly give of their time and talents to reflect Jesus' love and friendship, comfort and compassion to all those with whom they come into contact. It is a huge privilege to work alongside them. Special thanks go to members of the Brockcare Committee who oversee all these activities, and who review the needs of individuals in our village on a bi-monthly basis, thereby ensuring that no-one 'slips through the net'. Thank you to Mary Robinson too, for helping with some of Brockcare's administrative tasks.

We would welcome some more Pastoral Visitors! Please contact me or the Church Office if you would like to join the Pastoral Team, or would like more information about what we do.

Report by Joyce Kolaczowski

FABRIC AND GROUNDS

No significant problems have arisen with the maintenance of the church building. Our initial proposal to install an infra-red heating system to replace the existing gas-fired system has not found favour with the Diocesan Advisory Committee and we are considering the best way forward. The gas-fired system failed in November but has since been repaired and appears to be working reliably. Long-term planning for the future of the building has made little progress.

Application has been made for a faculty to remove and dispose of the majority of the pews at the rear of the nave and replace them with chairs to enable a more flexible use of the space. Since the end of the year the faculty has been granted. In the churchyard three picnic benches have been installed for the use of students from Brockenhurst College and other visitors. A temporary coffee station for their use has been established in the south aisle of the church. Two swamp cypress trees in memory of the late Bryan Wilson have been planted near the Burley Road entrance to replace the two Norway spruces felled last year. A crab apple tree has been planted near the Wilverley Road fence to commemorate the 40th anniversary of the founding of the current branch of the Mothers Union. Much maintenance work in the churchyard has been done with the assistance of the local Community Payback group.

St Nicholas' Church

What began as a repair to the flaking render on the north side of the vicar's vestry has turned out to be substantially more complex. Part of the wooden plate on top of the masonry wall has rotted and its replacement will require the removal and replacement of part of the chancel roof before the repairs to the stonework and render can be undertaken. At the year-end tenders for this work were being sought. The leaded window above the west door has been repaired with fresh leading and a section of the west window of the north aisle has been repaired following being blown in strong winds.

Representatives of Hampshire & I.O.W. Wildlife Trust have undertaken a survey of the retained churchyard for which we have maintenance responsibility. This has revealed a remarkable variety of flora and fauna. Much work has been done to improve the appearance of the unmown areas of the Churchyard with the assistance of the local Community Payback group.

Quinquennial Inspections of both churches took place toward the end of the year. The reports are awaited.

Thanks are due to the whole of the Fabric and Grounds Team for their support during the year, in particular Martin Fletcher for his help in tree work applications, tree plantings and many other tasks.

Report by Tim Dodwell, Fabric & Grounds Team Leader, with Churchwardens

CHURCH HALL

It has been a busy but uneventful year. We have picked up the usual number of casual bookings and the Meeting Room in particular has had considerably more use. This has mainly been by church study groups or church committees / meetings; it has been very gratifying to me to see this room being used much more to its full potential.

The kitchen has completed another year retaining its five-star rating so congratulations to all the users and in particular to Lesley for keep us all to the mark. This is no mean feat as the NFDC inspections come without warning and things like the fridge and deep freeze are pulled out to check for a clean floor, as well as beneath the cooker.

It is worth reporting the management of the waste disposal two section bin in the kitchen. The problem is just how incredibly difficult it is to get users to **stop using the recycle compartment of this waste bin for general waste**. Classic

examples are crisp packets, the blue tissue towels, (always wet), raffle tickets, **items such as these clearly have absolutely no recycling value** into plastic bottle, metal or paper recycling.

Mandy Nurse has joined us on the Hall Management Committee; it has been particularly useful having her as she is on one of the Wednesday Lunch teams. Her speciality has been sorting out filters for the two Dyson hoovers, an area of expertise quite out with my understanding.

I am grateful to the hall committee for all they do to keep the premises going, Kelly Cooke for her continuous work on keeping bookings up to date, Lindy Waight with a dual role now of Churchwarden and keeping up all she does on the kitchen front to maintain our five-star NFDC rating, summertime deep cleaning and stock control of the kitchen contents. Keith being a wise counsellor, plus others who do so much to 'oil the wheels'.

The unseen personnel are Luke who is present on certain days ensuring tables and chairs are laid out and especially Bernadeta, who cleans in the hall five days a week between 05.45 and 06.30

Report by Martin Fletcher, Chairman

SOCIAL TEAM

Newcomers' Event 2 July,

We had 17 newcomers matched by about the same from PCC, Social Committee, and the other two churches. The wine and nibbles went well, but we noticed that some of the guests were more engrossed in their conversations than refreshments. Therefore we feel it is still worth doing even for such a small number.

Harvest Quiz , 4 Oct.

This was again successful with 80 people for Alan's quiz, fish and chips and ice cream.

This year Simon introduced it with a prayer to stress it was a church activity.

We made a few organisational changes which worked well.

Service to remember loved ones departed.

About 40 people came in for tea and cakes and the relaxed cheerful atmosphere, after the serious meaningful service, was excellent.

As some were not church goers , perhaps next year we should have a flier for the Christmas services.

Carol Services

The catering for both Carol Services went well.

After many years of excellent service Jackie Eley had to resign from the committee due to other commitments. We are grateful to Gina Newham who then joined our team.

Report by Keith Nolan

ECO CHURCH

Summary

As a church, we continue to be committed to taking our environmental impact and use of resources fully into account in our work, worship, teaching, and programmes. We also work to increase awareness of environmental issues in our church congregation and village community, working towards us all enjoying simpler, greener lifestyles.

As a framework for this work, St Saviours joined the Eco Church movement back in Jan 2020 and in February 2024, St Nicholas, too, was signed up. 2025 was exciting year for us in the January, St Saviour's achieved the Gold award, only the 3rd church in our diocese to reach this level.

A key strand of our work in 2025 has been around researching a proposing a new infra-red heating system for St Saviour's. The PCC has not yet been asked to decide on this, but, with their permission, a faculty has been applied for and we are in discussions with DAC. If and when the faculty is approved, the PCC will decide on whether or not to take it forward.

Activities and Progress over the past year:

- January 25: Brush door seals installed under the main hall doors, the main church doors, and the outside vestry door, as recommended by the Environmental audit undertaken in 2024.
- January 25: St Saviour's awarded Gold Eco Church award and a service was held to celebrate the achievement
- January 25: A community work party was organised to begin to tackle the encroaching bramble in St Nicolas Churchyard
- January 25: Agreement with Southampton Community Pay Back Team that a team of men on probation will come once a month to help with both of our church yards. Towards the end of the year, this was increased to twice a month, once for each church yard.
- February 25: Initial talks begun with DAC re the possibility of St Saviour's transitioning away from gas heating to infra-red heating.
- February 25: Input of church energy usage data to the Church Energy Footprint tool to enable us to look at our carbon footprint and compare to previous years, setting targets for reduction.
- Lent 25: As a lent initiative, the Eco Church team published small daily challenges to try at home.
- Feb 25: Lifestyle survey results published on the church website
- Arocha Eco Church moved to a new base questionnaire for the program, so that required redoing of the base survey for St Nicolas in order to determine next steps to work towards our silver award
- March 25: The De-Carbonizing church team created a mock-up of a potential radiant heating solution and several members of the DAC down to see the mock up and start talking about the process of getting DAC approval should the PCC / church decide at some point to go with this solution
- March 25: The Eco Church Team organised an "Afternoon in Nature", particularly aimed at those with mobility difficulties, who might otherwise find it hard to get out into the forest.

- May 25: Faculty application process started for proposed new infra-red heating system for St Saviours
- May 25: A larger section of grass left uncut at St Saviour's as specified in the Land Management Plan.
- June 25: held a Community Nature Surveying event in the Churchyard at St Nics, led by the Hampshire & Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust's Community Ecologist and supported by Greener Brockenhurst
- July 25: Follow up Community Nature Surveying event at St Nics
- October 25: The Eco Church Team helped plan and run both Harvest Festival Services with a theme of "Food Waste".
- October 25: Eco Church teamed with Greener Brockenhurst to put on a free community Apple Pressing event in the grounds of St Saviours. We plan to make this an annual event
- November 25: Annual lifestyle survey sent out to all on Electoral Role.
- November 25: With support from Hampshire and Isle of Whight Wildlife Trust, a Land management plan for the St Nicholas Church yard has been written.
- Throughout the year: Monthly Eco Church gardening Team helping to maintain the wild life area at St Saviour's.
- 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 Milla Pearse

PARISH SAFEGUARDING

The Parish Safeguarding Officer has a close ongoing working relationship with the Diocese Safeguarding Team. A Safeguarding Training Course was organised for 21 Church Volunteers at Brockenhurst in March, delivered by the Diocese. The attendees covered a broad range of church roles including PCC Members, Pastoral Visitors, Welcomers, Refreshment Helpers, a Busy Badgers Volunteer, and the Church Caretaker. The training was well received.

A presentation was prepared for the March PCC meeting to discuss church culture and ensure that we have a healthy and safe church.

The PCC approved a new monthly activity for children and parents, Kids Quest, run by the Children and Families Worker on Sunday mornings in the Church Hall.

The Diocese Safeguarding Hub has been adopted for Brockenhurst Parish. This is an additional module of the Diocese Safeguarding Dashboard which assists with recording and monitoring DBS checks and Safeguarding Training.

Report by Karina Curson, Parish Safeguarding Officer

DEANERY AND DIOCESAN SYNODS

We continue to participate in and be informed by the work of the wider Church. Locally Peter Lay and John Pearson represent our Parish on the Lyndhurst Deanery Synod. Peter has additionally volunteered to act as Deanery Treasurer, whilst the Reverend Simon Newham remains in the role of Area Dean. The Deanery Synod

meets three times a year to share information on the state of the parishes within the Deanery, to explore shared interests (Rwanda, Local mission through the New Forest Show and a range of missional areas (For example, Ministry to Children and Young People). The Deanery Synod is also a focus for the dissemination of information from the Diocese to local churches.

By contrast, the Diocesan Synod tends to focus on the strategic initiatives and concerns for our shared future as well as setting broad budgets and operational parameters. Representation of the Deanery on this Diocesan Synod comprises three ordained ministers and five members of laity, including myself. Current strategic focus areas include ensuring that the church embraces the broad and rich diversity within the diocese, looking at ways of resourcing local churches to have full impact of their communities and searching for new ways to reach out into the towns and rural communities. Please contact me directly if you would like to understand these and other strategic initiatives or concerns in more detail.

Report by John Pearson

HOME GROUPS

Some of our home groups are finding regular meetings difficult because of busy lives or shortage of leaders. One has closed this year. They do however provide valuable prayer and pastoral support. Each of the 6 groups chooses its own topic, sometimes bible study and at others aspects of discipleship. One group meets monthly for breakfast on Saturday morning. It would be good to involve more people in these opportunities to explore and deepen faith and we hope to start a new group soon. Enquiries would be very welcome.

Report by Diane Webster

BAPTISM PREPARATION

During the last year we had 8 baptisms with associated baptism preparation sessions to which parents and Godparents are invited. The leadership of these sessions is shared between Stephen Bennett, Sandra Hall, Lisa Thomas and me and are based on the Rob Bell Nooma video *Rhythm* <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1FNHoYI8a78> which generates some very interesting discussions and is well worth taking a look at. The sessions are held in the meeting room at St Saviour's over tea and cake and participants are encouraged to both think carefully about the commitment they are making in baptism and to ask questions about the Christian faith and the difference it can make in their child's (and their own) life. We go through the service together explaining what the different symbolic acts mean and how they will be invited to participate in them. 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. Thank you to all who have helped with these sessions.

Report by Simon Newham

MARRIAGE PREPARATION

At the end of January, 12 engaged couples, being married in Brockenhurst and Boldre churches this year, attended the afternoon Marriage Preparation workshop. 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 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 discussed with each other worksheets that were handed out. After tea and delicious cake provided by Mothers' Union members, the couples met with the Clergy who would be taking their weddings and were introduced to some of those who would be involved beforehand. As a gift from the Mothers' Union, couples were given the book 'Growing Together' - a marriage preparation book written by Andrew Body.

Report by Lesley Munt

ST NICHOLAS' CHURCH GUARDIANS

There are 26 Guardians each in their own way welcoming people from all parts of the world; from Russia, Poland, USA, South Africa, the UK and frequently from New Zealand. Many who come are happy to sit and feel, like thousands before them, the peace of an ancient place of worship, others come to ask about Brusher Mills, (they've been to the Snakecatcher) or admire the yew tree.

Guardians were present on 112 days in the summer of 2025, this is less than half the days possible, sadly we no longer have the volunteers to be present every day, a sad reflection of our times. We find that visitors are generous when a Guardian is there to highlight the unique features of the church building, give a little of its history, show the evidence that people have worshipped there since Saxon times, for over a 1,000 years. Many buy from our souvenir trolley and give generously.

In April many Guardians were involved in the ANZAC celebrations; offering a welcome in church and giving information; distributing the posies for each grave to receive flowers and assisting with the catering for the guests at Tile Barn.

After Spring in 2025 Alan Mutter decided that he would no longer be a Guardian each Saturday and Sunday; it was time to retire, we miss him. In the past people would come to St Nicholas especially to hear his descriptions of the church and fascinating accounts of local happenings. A surprise gathering of Guardians was held to present gifts and express our thanks for all the time and pleasure he had given for many years. Would you like to be a Guardian, 2/3 hours, once a month, you choose the day?

Report by Ros Dennison

ST NICHOLAS' and ST SAVIOUR'S FLOWER GUILD

We have 16 Flower Guild ladies, most volunteer at St Saviour's and some at both churches.

Doreen Risso retired from the flower guild during the year and we really miss her talent and friendship.

The guild ladies arranged flowers for all 5 weddings held this year and were engaged to help arrange bespoke flowers for 8 funeral and memorial services.

Many compliments were received from the wedding couples, their families and the church visitors, this is always appreciated.

The Easter flowers were slightly different this year, we used Spring blossom, tulips and daffodils with hanging Easter eggs to make Easter Trees, these looked bright and cheerful and were admired by all, a more contemporary style.



We decorated the church with red roses, white carnations and bluebells to celebrate the 80th year since VE Day Anniversary and we also provided table arrangements for the Community picnic held in the church grounds on the afternoon of 10th May 2025. We received a very kind donation to buy some new flower containers and we managed to source large urns and planters, these containers have been used regularly at both churches and we are delighted to use them to arrange flowers for the bigger designs. We also purchased a very pretty Urn, in memory of Jean Turner, who was a very valued and talented member of the flower guild for many years and her memorial Urn fits nicely on the welcome table at St Saviour's.





The majority of Harvest flowers, pumpkins and sunflowers were purchased at a local farm and the autumnal designs looked bright with the stunning oranges, burgundy and red colour waves. For Remembrance Sunday, we needed some new artificial poppies this year to provide some tall stunning designs either side of the altar and to decorate the wooden cross at the lectern. These flowers also looked stunning for the musical concert held in the church that weekend.

This Christmas Jane & Sally designed a hoop style arrangement for the window sills, using the wooden blocks and hoops, we held a workshop before Christmas to teach the technique on how to assemble the designs using contorted willow, pine, cones, baubles and fairy lights. These looked fabulous on the window sills and in the porch and were easy to maintain over Christmas and New Year.

We are very grateful for the money raised during flower pot collections and for the donations made from grateful families for wedding and funeral flowers. These donations enable us to be self supportive financially and provide flowers for everyone to enjoy in both churches throughout the year.

We are always looking for new volunteers to arrange flowers, this is done on a rota system for weekly flowers or in groups for weddings and religious celebrations. Help, training and guidance is given and flowers are provided. We meet around 5 times a year and we would love to welcome new members who are creative, love flower arranging or are looking to make friends and learn a new skill or hobby

Report by Jane Thatcher and Sally Hoy

THE SANCTUARY GUILD

There are 5 of us, Ros Dennison, Lizzie Tindell, Vicki Jago, Marion Burden and myself who each week wash and iron the linen, clean the silverware and prepare for every Communion service. We also lay out the vestments and make sure the correct liturgical colour altar

frontal is in place at St Nicholas' and St Saviour's. Tricia Hilborn washes and irons the large altar cloths.

This past year we have unfortunately had to remove the candles from both churches and replace them just for services due to vandalism.

We always provide gluten-free wafers at communion services and anyone wishing to have these, please let the presiding clergy know prior to the service, or ask me and I will make sure they are aware of this. Thanks to all on this team who carry out these duties quietly in the background.

Report by Lindy Waight

BROCKENHURST CARE CARS

Brockenhurst Care Cars has continued to offer Brockenhurst residents transport to and from medical appointments undertaking 473 trips throughout 2025. We are able to place virtually all requests but we do face several problems: Many of our loyal drivers, as they get older, are understandably less keen on driving to the Southampton Hospitals yet a significant number of client appointments are at these. Overall we really do need more volunteer drivers. We are also significantly short of co-ordinators (those pick up the client requests and place them with a driver). So Brockenhurst Care Cars is in good heart but could do with some help.

Report by Adrian Butterworth, Chairman

MOTHERS' UNION

2025's theme was Transformation – Now! Branch meetings were held on the 3rd Thursday of each month at 2.30 in the church hall. We are very grateful to Sue Lynes, our programme secretary, for arranging such interesting speakers and to our members for providing delicious cakes. Instead of our usual December meeting we went for lunch at The Foresters to celebrate the 40th anniversary since Brockenhurst branch was re-formed. To mark the anniversary, we also planted a crab apple tree in the grounds of St. Saviour's church, surrounded by blue, yellow and white crocus. Our monthly corporate communion services continue to be on the 1st Thursday of each month, followed by coffee at CAMEO for those able to stay. The annual Deanery Lady Day service was held at St. Nicholas' with Simon officiating and members from Hythe and Milford-on-Sea attending. Lyndhurst Deanery members led Cathedral Prayers in July and members attended the Deanery Carol service in Hythe.

Jean Taylor continues to keep photograph albums of our activities; Diane Webster orders and sells MU cards, diaries and other items, and Lesley Munt organises wedding and baptism and anniversary cards, and keeps members in touch with all that is going on.

Events through the year:

GiftSwap4Coffee morning - people were given a free coffee and home made biscuits in exchange for a donation to any of the 4 local charities being supported (Tools for Self Reliance, Basics Food Bank, Women's Refuge and New Forest Ukraine). There were also gift and book stalls and a raffle which raised funds for the work of the MU. This annual event is the Mothers' Union supporting the needs of the local community.

Marriage Preparation - members provided tea and cake for 26 engaged couples from Brockenhurst, Boldre and South Baddesley, and presented the 'Growing Together' marriage preparation book to the Brockenhurst couples as a gift from Mothers' Union.

Mothering Sunday - as this fell on a 5th Sunday and was a joint Mission Service, Simon invited members to take part in the service and promote the work of the MU. This was done with the help of Gill Coombs and her talk 'Mary's Legacy', Sue Lynes explaining MU projects and Rev. Diane Webster and Simon Newham explaining why they are members. Members did the bible readings and Geraldine Angel led the prayers, and our usual Mothering Sunday posies were handed to the congregation. A promotional You Tube video was shown and leaflets about the work of the MU and letters of invitation to become members were handed out at the end of the service. As a result of the service, 3 became branch members, and another joined centrally.

Summer outing

In May, 20 members had a most interesting afternoon visiting Honey Pot House, a local charity providing respite breaks for young carers between the ages of 5 - 12. Teas was then enjoyed at Fairweather's in Beaulieu.

Tea Afternoon

In August we held our usual members' tea afternoon, when we enjoyed social time together and made our "Little Bags of Love" which are given to parents of the children joining the reception class at the school.

Board Games Cafe

We held events on 8 February and 11 October and people enjoyed games and refreshments.

Busy Badgers

MU members and others continue to provide refreshments for the parents and toddlers' weekly sessions - thanks go to Liz Dodwell for organising the rota.

Crafts

Members continued to knit or crochet prayer blankets for children being christened and we also made 10 fidget quilts for residents of Heartland Manor, one of our local care homes, and another 3 for other people.

Christmas Tree Festival

We didn't organise a festival this year but one was held in St. Saviour's, organised by the Primary School PTA and Friends of Brockenhurst. We entered a tree decorated with knitted angels and card baubles depicting the many aspects of MU. We were one of the charities supported and were donated £250 from the proceeds.

Visiting groups for ploughman's lunches or cream teas - we hosted groups from Romsey, Overton and Winton, Charminster & Moordown Mothers' Unions for ploughman's lunches or cream teas, raising money for the annual Summer of Hope Appeal. They also enjoyed guided tours of St. Nicholas' and St. Saviour's churches, thanks to Di Fletcher, Ros Dennison and Janet Courtice.

FUNDRAISING

We have raised money from our Gift Swap 4 Coffee morning, sale of MU cards, ploughman's lunches and cream teas for visiting MU groups and other donations.

Altogether we sent over **£1,600** to MU for Overseas, Relief Fund, Britain and Ireland, Summer of Hope, and Literacy - a truly wonderful effort.

Sweet Tubes

As in previous years, our Treasurer Maureen provided sweet tubes for every member at the Christmas social. After the sweets were enjoyed, the tubes were filled with coins and monies raised totalled £400 which will be given to the Literacy appeal and Where the Need is Most.

THE FUTURE

Wendy Lay stepped down as Branch Leader at our 2025 AGM and as no new leader was forthcoming, the branch is running under the leadership of the Committee, and has had a successful year.

Report by Lesley Munt, Branch Secretary

WEDNESDAY LUNCHES

The lunches have been running since January 1988 and since last year's APCM, have continued to thrive, with a regular high attendance. During the year, we have welcomed several new guests and now have 40 on our register which is the maximum we can comfortably accommodate.

We continue to offer lunches on the first 4 Wednesdays of each month, in school term time only, and are managing to maintain the cost at £5 for the two-course meal followed by tea or coffee.

Woodpeckers Care Home very kindly continue to provide the dessert on the 4th Wednesday each month for which we are extremely grateful.

We have had 3 new recruits to the lunch teams during the year.

We know how much the weekly lunches are appreciated by all who attend and I am very grateful for the help given by all our volunteer cooks and drivers and especially Joyce who so admirably organises the transport rota and keeps in touch with our guests (even when she's supposed to be on holiday!) and Sue Griffiths who deputises when Joyce is not around. I would also like to thank Luke Chambers, our caretaker, who sets up and clears away the tables for us each week - such a great help as we are all getting older and, in some cases, less able.

If anyone is interested in helping, either on a kitchen team or with transporting our guests, please get in touch with me or Joyce via the Church Office. I would also like to find someone to shadow me to know what the weekly administration for the lunches entails should I ever not be around - it needs to be someone confident with computers.

Report by Lesley Munt, Wednesday Lunch Co-ordinator

CHURCH ELECTORAL ROLL

The Electoral Roll as at Annual Meeting in 2025 (<i>Resident: 140</i> <i>Non-resident: 9</i>)	149
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The new Electoral Roll as at Annual Meeting in 2026 (<i>Resident: 139</i> <i>Non-resident: 11</i>)	150
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