



BROCKENHURST
PARISH CHURCHES
Sharing the love and life of Jesus

St. Nicholas' with St. Saviour's

REVIEW OF 2022

ANNUAL CHURCH MEETING

Wednesday 19th April 2023

7:30pm
at St Saviour's Church
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 27th April 2022 at 7.30pm in St Saviour's Church and on Zoom

Simon Newham welcomed everyone, saying how good it was to be able to meet together with drinks and chatter now covid restrictions have been lifted. He opened the meeting with a prayer.

49 church members attended in St Saviour's church and 12 online.

Apologies were received from Jane Forrest, John Pearson, Jan Campbell, Mary Richardson, Janet McDonald, Joyce Kolaczowski, Sarah Foulger, Diane Webster, Camilla Pearse, Mary Robinson.

Annual Meeting of Parishioners

1. Election of Church Wardens:

Jeremy Moss - proposed Nathan Parnaby, seconded Joyce Kolaczowski
Joanna Plummer - proposed John Pearson, seconded Nathan Parnaby

No other nominations having been received, both candidates were elected unanimously. Simon said that our Church Wardens work extremely hard on our behalf and he thanked Jeremy and Joanna for offering their time and talents to this considerable role. A huge thank you was expressed to Ros Dennison who is standing down as Warden after five years. She has been a wonderful support to Simon and the whole church with such generosity and joy, particularly on the pastoral side. Ros has been presented with gifts and a book of memories at the Sunday services in both churches. She said a few words of thanks and admitted that she had unfortunately not followed the advice of her predecessor, Steve Curson, which was "never lose the keys".

Annual Parochial Church Meeting

1. Minutes of Previous Meeting

The minutes of the meeting held on 21st April 2021 were approved and signed by SN.

2. Matters Arising

There were no matters arising.

3. Vicar's Report

Simon's Report for 2021 is on page 7 of the Review of 2021 which has been previously circulated. No questions. Simon said the APCM should be an opportunity to look to the future. From his report, two things come out:

1. We must work more closely across the three parishes of Brockenhurst, Boldre and South Baddesley. We have to communicate with families and young people and to this aim we intend to appoint a Children and Families' Worker who will be funded jointly by the Group and work with our three church schools. We have very few families in our church family and we need to go to them and develop faith-based activities through the schools.
2. We are in the 'Year of Vocation' and various speakers, including John Littlewood Head Teacher at Brockenhurst Primary School, will be talking at our services. Next year will be the 'Year of Sharing our Faith' when we look to how we can encourage connection on faith issues within the wider community. In 2024 we will 'Review and Refocus' with an awayday to take stock.

4. A Warden's Report

Ros Dennison's report on pages 10-12 of the Review covers comprehensively the events of 2021 in her inimitable fashion. Thanks to Ros. No questions.

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

The full Annual Report and Financial Statements for the year ended 31st December 2021 have been previously circulated as a separate booklet. These have been approved by the PCC and our Independent Examiner. An overall summary with charts is on pages 13-19 of the Review of 2021. Peter Lay explained the structure of the accounts with the help of slides showing the Statement of Financial Activities which is a summary of income and expenditure with comparative figures from 2020. He gave details of expenditure and depreciation, adding that the net overall surplus figure is distorted due to the £30,000 raised from the audio visual system appeal. Any surplus on completion of the AV system will go towards repair of St Saviour's roof. The balance sheet shows a static picture of the situation at the end of the financial year. Special thanks were given to John Purkess for his extremely successful Bygone Brockenhurst books, the profits from which he has kindly donated to church funds which amount to £5,582 in 2021.

Questions:

How much will a Children and Families' worker cost? - £18,000pa which will initially come from general funds. We will set up a specific fund between the group when someone is appointed.

How much will the work on St Saviour's roof cost? - £37,000 estimated, to be done over seven weeks in July. This includes the prior roof survey. VAT will be reclaimed through the historic churches grant.

SN proposed a vote of thanks to Peter for his excellent and clear financial statements and reports and the considerable time and commitment that has gone into this work.

SN also wished to thank "all of you for your huge generosity in giving, particularly through the difficult time of the pandemic". Also for the same generosity of spirit in not complaining at the £105,000 out of income of £264,000 we have given to the Diocese towards the Common Mission Fund. This is invaluable in helping poorer parishes in Southampton and Bournemouth to grow and form a link with us. We should be very proud.

6. Electoral Roll Report

Alan Wright, our Electoral Roll Officer, was thanked for managing this so efficiently.

There are 208 recorded on the Electoral Roll as at 27th April 2022: 183 resident and 25 non-resident.

7. Other Reports

All reports are printed on pages 19-34 in the Review of 2021 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:

Tim Dodwell - Fabric & Grounds Team: We are well served by this team. They do a huge amount of work and are quick to respond to any problem, often at short notice. Particular thanks to Mike Morley who is retiring from the team after many years of service and thank you to Richard Jeans who is taking his place. Question: Have we funds to replace the path at St Nicholas' with a resin material that will drain and provide a safer surface than the present grid and gravel which is impossible for wheelchairs and catches on heels? TD: The advice is that the whole path will have to be taken up at considerable expense. This will be explored further. Appreciation was expressed that the handrail has now been extended at the entrance to the path.

Jeremy Moss - Digital Team: Work will begin on 2nd May on the installation of the AV system. Technology has seen us through covid and we have proved how creative we can be with its use thanks to Jeremy, Peter and Paul who have given much time and expertise to enable us to watch services, weddings, funerals and other events.

Jo Plummer - Children & Young People Team: Jo has worked hard to engage with the schools and Brockenhurst College where she has established an enthusiastic core group. Help is needed so please speak to Jo if you can offer some time to either.

Martyn Taylor - Lyndhurst Deanery Synod: Thank you Martyn for your continued service in this vital link between the parishes and the Diocese, along with Peter Lay and John Pearson. Simon as new Area Dean will guide the future Deanery Synod meetings.

Liz Dodwell - Mission Team: This team keeps us outward looking towards needs all over the world. Thank you for showing us a bigger vision of God.

John Pearson - Prayer Ministry: A team is coming here from the Crowhurst Christian Healing Centre for a Deanery training day and we hope to start healing services again. Thank you to those who pray for each other, it is a wonderful ministry.

Joyce Kolaczowski - Brockcare: Joyce and her large team have done an amazing job of organising, visiting, feeding, driving, reaching out to so many despite fluctuating covid restrictions. Thank you to every one of you and to those who have welcomed our homeless visitors. This is a part of our calling to be open to all.

Martin Fletcher - Church Hall Team: With bookings increasing following the lifting of covid restrictions, Martin has efficiently managed the hall and the many spreadsheets and requirements of legislation with the competent help of Mary Robinson. Lindy and Lesley manage the kitchen so well that it has again received the highest rating from the NFDC Inspector. Quite a team!

Keith Nolan - Social Team: Keith and his team have managed to work around covid restrictions and have given us joyful occasions to enjoy each other's company. In particular, the Newcomers Evening in July was a huge success. Thank you all.

Worship Team - Diane Webster, John Pearson, Mary Nicholson, Tony Foulger, Alan Graham and Sue Moss, Camilla and Paul Pearse who help at Open. Simon thanked them for their support and encouragement to him and their talents in preparation and leading of services. He also thanked all the teams that contribute to our worship and of course the involvement of everyone by being there as a worshipping community.

Diane Webster - Home Groups: These nine groups are a vital part of a healthy church, sharing friendship and support. New members are always welcome.

Karina Curson - Parish Safeguarding Officer: This role has expanded considerably since Karina took it over. She is doing a difficult job. Please do support her if she asks you to take a course or some training. We have to comply with rules set out by the Diocese.

Camilla Pearse - Eco Church Team: This team reaches out to the wider community and young people to whom the environment is hugely important. Part of our Christian vocation is to care for the gift God has given to us. We have begun to use the area of St Saviour's grounds facing the road as an art space, an example of this was the 'rubbish cross' which provoked much awareness.

Brenda and Phil Horner - Baptism Preparation: We have had some amazing conversations in these sessions which bring together parents and Godparents and help them understand the significance of baptism. Thanks to Brenda and Phil and MU teas!

Lesley Munt - Marriage Preparation: Many weddings were taking place in all four churches as some had been postponed from 2020. A very successful joint Brockenhurst, Boldre, South Baddesley day was held at St Saviour's and the church was filled with lively young people. Again, an MU tea was enjoyed.

Sue Hendry - Care Cars: This team reaches out to the whole community and performs a vital service. Thank you to all the dedicated co-ordinators and drivers without whom many residents would not be able to attend medical appointments. Please consider if you would be prepared to give a little of your time to be one of these drivers or a co-ordinator.

Wendy Lay - Brockenhurst Mothers' Union: The Report gives an impressive list of events and speakers and much that the MU does behind the scenes. The programme of speakers is advertised and visitors are always welcome, as are new members.

Jane Forrest - Street Pastors: Sadly, the New Forest branch is closing at Easter.

We have seen hope and compassion in these 8 years 'on the street' and some of our members will join the Southampton group which continues to help people feel safe.

Jane Thatcher and Sally Hoy - St Nicholas' with St Saviour's Flower Guild: Jane and Sally do a brilliant job planning, buying and organising. It has been an extremely busy year with the extra weddings in 2021 and five new members have been recruited. They all work with such joy and give so generously. We are very grateful for their time and artistry.

Lindy Waight - Sanctuary Guild: The team prepares for Holy Communion at St Nicholas' and St Saviour's and looks after the linen and the silver. Tony Foulger is always on hand to help. The care and value they show in all they do is very much appreciated.

Lesley Munt and Joyce Kolaczowski - Wednesday Lunches: These are up and running again and are a wonderful example of hospitality. Our elderly guests enjoy the social occasion immensely. The work involved in organising, buying, preparing, cooking and arranging transport by many volunteers is much appreciated. A huge thank you to Lesley, Joyce and all involved. Question: How many lunches have been served since they began 33 years ago? LM: from January 1988 to March 2022 = 40,716 meals.

8. Election of PCC Members - The following are standing for election:

Wendy Lay	- proposed Sue Lynes, seconded Maureen Phillips
Rosalind Waight	- proposed Joyce Kolaczowski, seconded Marion Burden
Nathan Parnaby	- proposed Jeremy Moss, seconded Peter Lay
Timothy Dodwell	- proposed Jeremy Moss, seconded Marion Burden
Paul Pearse	- proposed Jeremy Moss, seconded Jackie Eley

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.

Camilla Pearse has retired after serving one term. Simon thanked her for all she has contributed over the last three years and still does on environmental issues.

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 Sue Lynes. All in favour.

10. Date of next APCM

Wednesday 19th April 2023.

11. Open Forum

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

Peter and Wendy Lay - for the amount of work and hours given to immaculately keeping our accounts up to date and being able to answer all questions.

Camilla Pearse - for her dedicated work on the environment and church life in general including her time on the PCC.

Sue Moss - for her creative work on the website, particularly her prayer blog at Lent and Advent. We congratulate her on obtaining her BCM qualification, since when she has been a valued part of the Worship Team.

Martin Fletcher - our 'temporary' Hall Chairman who has now been doing that job for ever along with all the other things he does including anything to do with trees, maintenance and of course his love of bonfires, witnessed by the burn holes in his shirts!

Mary Robinson - She planned to step down from some of her duties in the office but has carried on in an unpaid role this last year and given an incredible number of hours for which we are extremely grateful.

Jane Forrest and Janet McDonald - They are the marketing and sales force behind John Purkess' Bygone Brockenhurst books and regularly meet with him in an attempt to take over

the literary world which they have almost achieved as can be seen from the profits shown in our accounts.

Simon thanked everyone for attending, including those online and closed the meeting with The Grace.

The meeting closed at 9.35pm.

VICAR'S REPORT for 2022

2022, if it had a theme, was one of remembering what we did before Covid! It was so good to be able to regularly do things together once again, but there was definitely a need to remember how to do all the planning and organising that made such meeting possible. Thank you for the leadership, hard work and creativity of so many of you that helped us to remember how to do so much. Some of this 'much' included:

- Launching of the Year of Vocation with different speakers sharing how their faith shaped who they were and what they did; A Bible Study course on vocation; and several people engaging with various Bishop's Certificates for Mission
- A new Parish Administrator, Clare, starting in April and a new hall booking manager, Kelly.
- A second Eco Fair
- Thy Kingdom Come Churches Together activities.
- A summer evening newcomers party.
- A Generous June Stewardship Campaign.
- Youth work in Brock College.
- A Holidays@Home in Peru (including dancing Alpacas in the church hall!!).
- A warm hub with wonderful soups.
- A celebration of the Queen's Jubilee and a mourning of her death.
- A Screwtape theatre production.
- A new Ordinand, Luke, starting with us.
- A new Curate, Stephen, being licensed to us.
- A new Children's and Families' Worker, Mel, starting to work in our three church schools.
- A Crowhurst Christian Healing Centre led healing service and training day.
- A trip for me to Rwanda.
- The formation of a Strategy Team to explore a 10-15 year vision for the church in Brockenhurst.
- An Advent Spiral.
- Lots of Area Deaning for me!

This has all happened in addition to the more normal pattern of services, weddings, funerals, baptisms, school work, community service, pastoral visits, building maintenance etc. that goes on and 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 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 Clare, Lesley and Mary in the church office. Thank you for being the 'glue' that's kept us all going in the same direction.

Our expanding worship team (Diane, John, Mary, Tony, Luke and Stephen – supported by Sue and Camilla) have been such a support and wise colleagues - 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. Jo and Jeremy have been with me every step of the way through 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.

If this year was about remembering who we were before Covid then the coming one is about exploring who God is calling us to become, and as such this following prayer, attributed to Sir Francis Drake, seems a good one to be praying:-

*Disturb me, Lord, when I am too well pleased with myself,
When my dreams have come true
Because I have dreamed too little,
When I arrived safely
Because I sailed too close to the shore.
Disturb me, Lord, to dare more boldly,
To venture on wider seas
Where storms will show your mastery;
Where losing sight of land, I shall find the stars.
Amen*

Revd Simon Newham

CHURCHWARDENS' REPORT

What a busy year. Sometimes (especially in the colder winter months) it is good to look back and reflect upon all that has happened. Whilst we started the year being reminded that we were not yet over the impact of covid, church services could now be indoors, we could sing loudly and even take communion. Most activities resumed (some of which are detailed below) however, we all had to make decisions around personal risk. Seeing friends and family was so important but the question of whether to wear a mask, socially distance and/or continue to 'virtually attend' events continued. As I write this report Zoom services are still available for St Saviour's church services.

During the past year we have welcomed quite a few new faces to our team: Clare R became the Parish Administrator in the church office, joining Kelly C and a band of volunteers. Luke A (and his family) joined us, as an ordinand, and Stephen B as a curate. Finally, and after much careful planning, the benefice welcomed Mel O as our Child and Family Worker. Mel currently works (the equivalent of) a day a week in our three Primary schools and will be running a summer camp as well as a variety of other events for our local families.

These additions became increasingly important as Simon was promoted to Area Dean and took on many new responsibilities. As a church we would like to say a huge thank you to all of those 'retired' clergy and lay ministers, as well as office staff and volunteers who, in addition to the regular weekly Sunday services (at both churches); Thursday communion at St Saviour's; nightly and daily prayer services have stepped in to support him in his new role.

We have also had the joy of experiencing new services – such as a Lenten journey and an Advent spiral; seasonal Compline series; crib and carol services, some of which were held outside in our grounds. In November we helped to host a Healing weekend, where we welcomed a team from Crowhurst. It was wonderful to welcome our brothers and sisters from other parishes and denominations to training, worship, services and ministry.

Over the past year we have been host to a wide variety of events, all serving our local community. Some of these, such as CAMEO and Wednesday lunches, are regular – and now have no restrictions over numbers. Some are seasonal, such as the amazing Holidays@Home; Harvest Quiz with Fish and Chip supper; Newcomers (to the village) Party and the wonderful Christmas Dinner. However, a three evening, almost sell-out, run of C. S. Lewis's "Screwtape Letters" was a first for us! We also welcomed Art students from Bournemouth University who used St Nicholas's Church to inspire their creations and then to stage a three-day exhibition.

Running and maintaining two listed buildings, with grounds, has continued to challenge our amazing site and grounds teams (as well as our budget). Mostly run by volunteers they have ensured that the churches remain safe and we remain dry and warm(ish). This year they welcomed help from a group of scouts who worked (for a week) in the garden and erected bird boxes.

With these (maintenance) concerns in mind, as well as the worry that we are not reaching out and connecting with our local community enough, the PCC set up a strategy group. Their explicit role was to plan 'our' church for the next 10 years, to create a vision for the whole church. A survey of members yielded some great thoughts and are a good base for discussion. The PCC will continue discussions and the wider congregation kept informed.

Finally, we are blessed by an eclectic mix of volunteers who selflessly give up their time and energy, often unseen. A huge thank you to them, and all who support our church family.

Jeremy Moss and Jo Plummer

FINANCIAL REVIEW

Independent Examiner

The appointment of Mr Lewis Ball as Independent Examiner for these financial statements was approved at the APCM meeting held on 27 April 2022.

Overall Summary

Total income was £245,806 while total expenditure was £274,664 (before unrealised investment losses) resulting in net expenditure of £28,858 compared to net income in 2021 of £43,785. However, these figures include a number of exceptional items:

- Expenditure on the repair of St Saviour's roof amounted to £29,501. This was funded from funds put aside in previous years
- Depreciation costs of £4,047 for the St Saviour's audio system installed in 2018 and £1,653 for the installation of cameras, projectors and screens in St Saviour's church funded from the AV appeal held in 2021. Both projects are depreciated over a five year period.
- Legacies of £700

Ordinary income amounted to £238,943 while ordinary expenditure amounted to £234,036 a net surplus of £4,907.

The CBF Endowment Fund investments decreased in value by £11,018 compared to a gain in value in 2021 of £11,715.

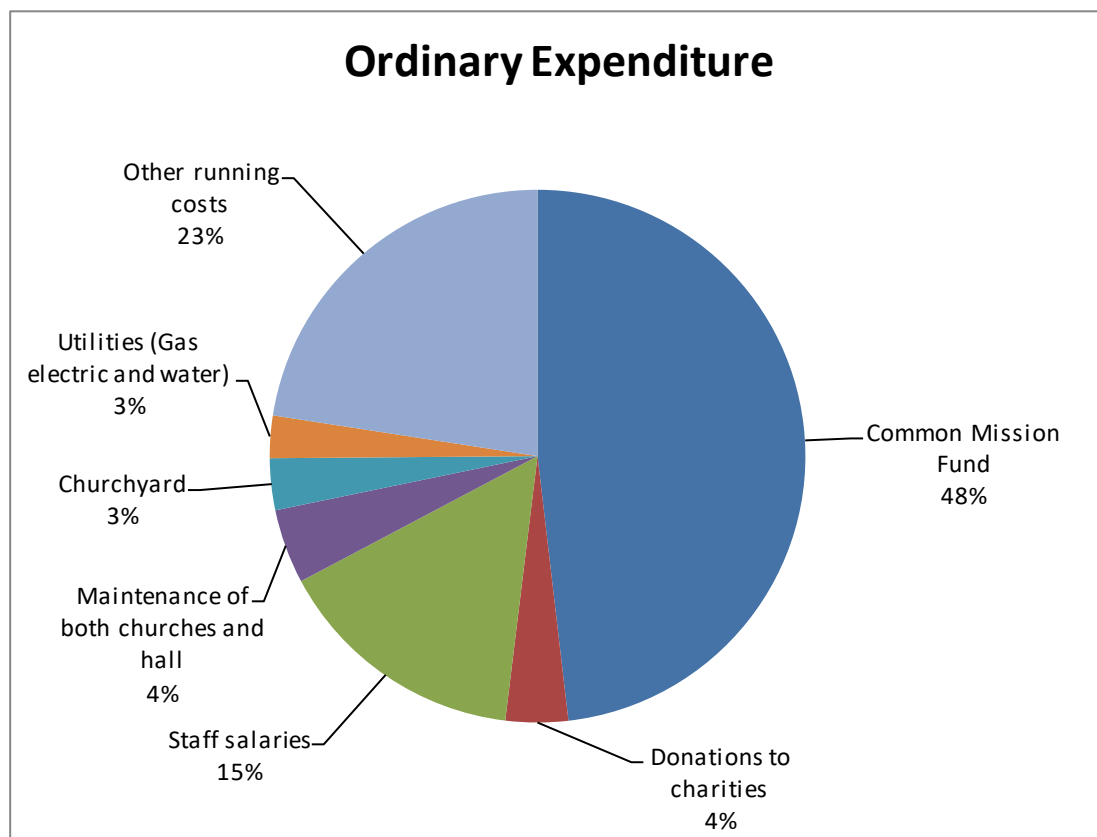
Ordinary expenditure increased from £200,093 in 2021 to £234,036 in 2022 while extraordinary expenditure was £40,628

		2022	2021
Ordinary	Common Mission Fund	£ 112,705	£ 105,442
	Donations to charities	£ 8,819	£ 10,000
	Staff salaries	£ 35,806	£ 26,845
	Maintenance of both churches and hall	£ 10,564	£ 8,260
	Churchyard	£ 7,341	£ 1,810
	Utilities (Gas electric and water)	£ 6,016	£ 4,465
	Other running costs	£ 52,785	£ 43,271
		£ 234,036	£ 200,093
Extraordinary/appeals	Charities	£ 3,824	£ 13,049
	St Saviour's roof repairs	£ 31,078	£ -
	Depreciation	£ 5,726	£ 7,345
	£ 274,664	£ 220,487	

Extraordinary expenditure comprises:

- Money given to charities from special appeals and collections
- The cost of repairs to St Saviour's church identified by the Quinquennial survey
- Depreciation charges for the St Saviour's Audio Visual (AV) system N.B. in 2021 there were also depreciation charges for the hall development but this is now fully depreciated.

Ordinary expenditure comprises:



- Payments to the diocesan Common Mission Fund. These were £112,705 in 2022 which is an increase of about £7,000 compared to 2021.
- Donations to charities from General Funds amounting to £8,819. These include £819 profit from the Screwtape Letters donated to the DEC Pakistan Flood appeal and in 2021 an extra £2,000 was donated to Rwanda.
- Staff salaries increased by about £9,000 to £35,806 an increase of 33%. These include employment costs for the maintenance of St Nicholas' churchyard which are offset by grants received from the Parish Council. A Family and Children's worker was employed from December 2022 with costs shared between Brockenhurst, Boldre and South Baddesley parishes for which the Boldre and South Baddesley contributions are reported as grants.
- Maintenance of both churches and hall are the day-to-day maintenance costs. These amounted to £10,564 in 2022 about £2,300 more than in 2021.
- The churchyard maintenance costs were £7,341 about £5,500 more than in 2021 mainly due to the cost of tree work in both churchyards.
- Utilities (gas, electric and water) charges rose by £1,500. The electricity contract finished at the end of August and a new, two year, contract was started from the 1st September resulting in a higher tariff for electricity. The gas tariff was unchanged for 2022 as the gas contract is for three years and started on 1 September 2021. Consequently, gas and electric prices are fixed until August 2024.
- Other running costs are the other running expenses of the parish.

Income

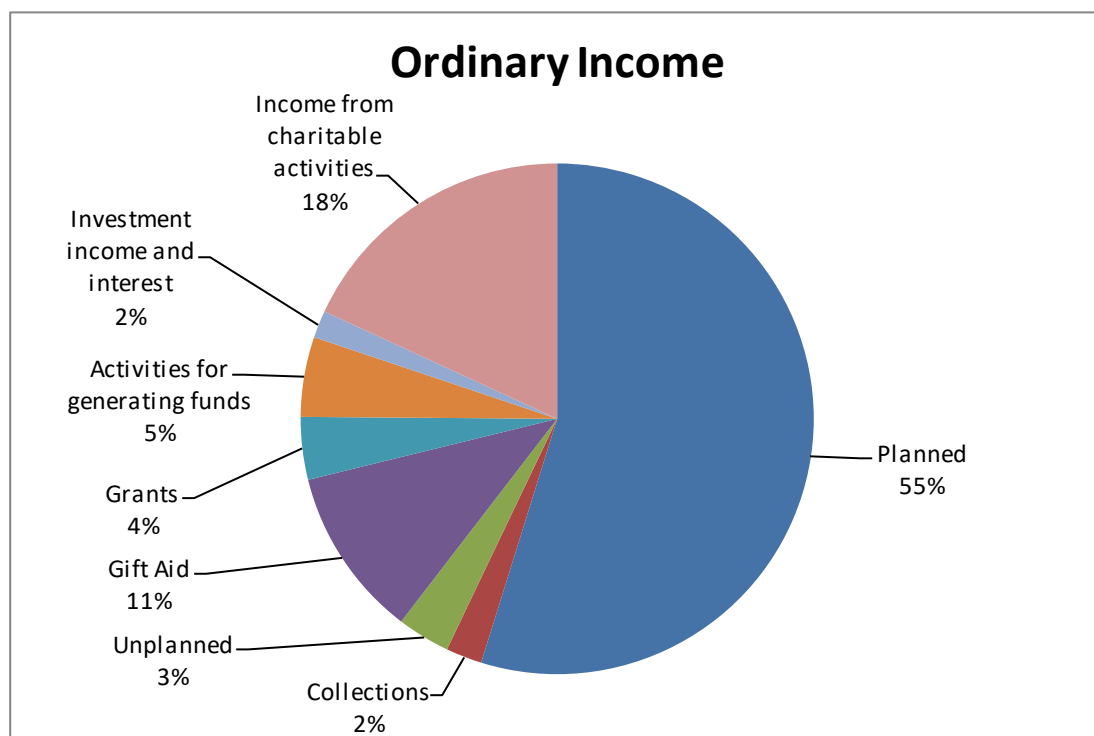
Ordinary income increased from £214,917 in 2021 to £238,943 in 2022 while extraordinary income was £6,863

	2022	2021
Planned	£ 130,922	£ 133,437
Collections	£ 5,440	£ 1,930
Unplanned	£ 7,964	£ 7,168
Gift Aid	£ 25,698	£ 28,708
Grants	£ 9,468	£ 4,642
Activities for generating funds	£ 12,083	£ 9,088
Investment income and interest	£ 4,127	£ 2,826
Income from charitable activities	£ 43,241	£ 27,118
	<u>£ 238,943</u>	<u>£ 214,917</u>
Charity collections	£ 1,863	£ 1,198
Charity donations	£ 3,726	£ 11,019
Charity Gift Aid	£ 574	£ 1,312
St Saviour's AV system appeal	£ -	£ 30,531
Legacies	£ 700	£ 3,500
Other	£ -	£ 1,795
	<u>£ 245,806</u>	<u>£ 264,272</u>

Extraordinary income comprises:

- Appeals and collections for charities
- Legacies

Ordinary income comprises



- Planned donations. These are donations that are made on a regular basis and account for 55% of ordinary income. There was a slight drop of about £3,500 (about 3%) in planned donations compared to 2021. Planned donations are received through a number of sources:
 - Parish Giving Scheme which allow donations to be indexed linked so that they increase with inflation annually
 - Payments made to the church bank account by standing order
 - Payments made through CAF
 - Payments made through Stewardship (stewardship.org.uk)
- Collections at church services increased by £3,500 to £5,440 in 2022 accounting for 2% of income.
- Unplanned donations are donations that are not made regularly. These were £7,964 in 2022 broadly similar to 2021 accounting for 3% of ordinary income.
- Gift Aid is collected mainly on planned donations and collections through the GASDS (Gift Aid Small Donations Scheme). Gift Aid receipts accounted for 11% of ordinary but were about £3,000 less in 2022 compared to 2021 reflecting the drop in planned donations.
- Grants are received from a number of organisations. In 2022 grants totalling £9,468 (4% of ordinary income) were received from:
 - Brockenhurst Parish Council to fund maintenance work on St Nicholas' churchyard. The grants received were for work up to the end of September with the work from October being covered by another grant to be claimed in 2023
 - Winchester Diocesan Board of Finance energy grant of £1,825
 - South Baddesley PCC to help fund the Family and Children's worker
 - Boldre PCC to help fund the Family and Children's worker
- Activities for generating funds is 5% of ordinary income and comprises income from:
 - Advertising in the Parish Magazine
 - Charges for wedding flower arrangements
 - Hire of the church
- Investment income and interest is income from:
 - Endowment investment dividends
 - Interest from cash on deposit with the Winchester Board of Finance Loans (i.e. money we have loaned to the diocese)

- Other bank interest
- Income from charitable activities is 18% of ordinary income and comprises income received from:
 - Fees for weddings and funerals. These consist of statutory fees laid down by parliament and non-statutory fees (e.g. for heating, verger, organist) charged by the PCC
 - Sale revenue from the Parish Magazine
 - Revenues from St Nicholas bookstall and souvenir sales and the sales of John Purkess' Bygone Brockenhurst books
 - Payments for events e.g. the performances of the Screwtape Letters.
 - Income from the church hall

Cash Flow

Net cash flow was a reduction of £40,321 compared to an increase in cash of £59,184 in 2021. This is accounted for by cash being spent from the St Saviour's AV appeal fund built up in 2021 and the cost of repairs identified by the Quinquennial Survey paid for from funds put aside in 2020.

The cost of St Saviour's AV enhancement was £20,144 which left £10,413 cash in the AV appeal fund. It is planned that this will be spent on ordinary expenditure in accordance with the terms of the appeal. The cost of the installation has been capitalised so appears as an asset on the balance sheet to be depreciated over five years in compliance with the PCC policy on capital expenditure.

Ordinary Activities

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

- The Common Mission Fund (Parish Share)
- Children and Families work
- Maintenance of 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 including the Hall Management 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 Trading Fund
- The Walker Munro Income Fund
- The Harding income fund

Looking Forward

The PCC has employed a Children's and Family worker starting in December 2022 on a three year contract. The cost of this is shared between Brockenhurst, South Baddesley and Boldre PCCs. At present funding for this work is coming from general funds.

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 Trading Fund. The total cash reserves held on 31 December 2022 were £99,041 (£37,555 plus £61,486 deposited with the Winchester Diocesan Loans Fund) with an additional £2,943 held in the flower funds. The average monthly cash expenditure in 2022 was £23,000 for which the reserves policy requires a cash reserve of

£69,000. Consequently, the surplus reserves available to spend at 31 December 2022 while maintaining the reserve required by the policy is £30,041.

Conclusions

The repairs to St Saviour's church identified by the Quinquennial Survey were scaled back and completed at an overall cost of £31,000 which was less than the original estimates enabling them to be funded almost entirely from the £30,000 put aside at the end of 2020. The enhancement to St Saviour's AV system was installed at a cost of £20,144 leaving £10,400 in the AV fund to be spent with general funds.

To some extent the PCC is protected from the large increases in gas prices because the current gas contract is fixed until the end of August 2024 after which it is expected there will be price rise when the contract is renewed. The electricity contract ended at the end of August and was renewed until September 2024 albeit at a higher price.

Now that the Covid-19 pandemic is over income has returned to a normal pattern.

Unfortunately planned income which accounts for 55% of ordinary income (before Gift Aid is added) has fallen by 2% while inflation has risen to 10% and other income is more-or-less similar to previous years. As a result income is likely to fall short of expenditure. In addition, this income is vulnerable to an aging congregation with reductions to be expected in the next five to ten years.

The PCC has been able fund the employment of a Children's and Family worker on a three-year contract, as an important part of its ministry, from the funds currently available.

Prepared by Peter Lay, Treasurer

STRATEGY GROUP REPORT

During the year the PCC formed a sub group to look at strategy. After extensive consultations the group identified 3 key areas to take forward

1. Buildings - How to reduce the cost of our buildings to release money for other activities
2. Relationships - How to build better relationships and communications between village, congregation, PCC and clergy
3. Worship - How to improve our services including how to improve the music

To take these 3 issues forward, 3 separate sub groups of the PCC are being formed and tasked in coming back to this September's PCC meeting with a clear, actionable programme.

Report by Nathan Parnaby

PARISH SAFEGUARDING REPORT

The annual Safeguarding Self-Assessment was undertaken in February 2022. The review confirmed that the church was taking essential steps to safeguard the children, young people and vulnerable adults participating in church activities.

The Safeguarding Process and the Training Requirements for Volunteers were also reviewed. Church Officers were encouraged to carry out additional Safeguarding Training where appropriate in line with the Diocesan Training recommendations. All PCC Members have completed Basic Safeguarding Training. Some other individuals in church roles have also undertaken Safeguarding Training including Pastoral Visitors, Office Volunteers and Refreshment Helpers.

One notification of a potential Safeguarding concern was received not relating to the church. Enquiries were made by the Safeguarding Officer and no further follow up was required.

During the year 12 DBS checks were carried out covering a range of roles, including Children and Families work, PCC Members, Pastoral Visitors, and Bishops Commission for Mission Officers.

In April 2022 the Parish adopted the new Diocese Safeguarding Dashboard. which will be used for all future Safeguarding Self-Assessments.

Report by Karina Curson

FABRIC AND GROUNDS TEAM

St Saviour's Church

It had been hoped to be able to report that the problems with the roof of St Saviour's Church had been resolved and indeed work commenced last July on the removal of the mortar pointing on the north roof of the chancel. However, it was found that this part of the roof was in worse condition than expected and so removing the mortar caused the tiles to slip and in some cases to disintegrate. Work was therefore suspended and the roof made watertight while a more invasive survey was made of the whole roof. This established while the south roofs were in a reasonable condition it would be desirable to attend to the north roofs, particularly those over the chancel and north transept. The PCC is considering how best to address this issue within the budget likely to be available as the stone tiles originally used are no longer available and only a limited salvaged quantity can be found.

The stonework repairs envisaged to the north buttresses and turret areas were carried out with some others found to be necessary. The weathercock was removed and found to be severely damaged so as to make repair and refurbishment significantly more costly than anticipated. It is therefore being temporarily stored pending a decision on its future.

In the course of annual maintenance, it was found that the heat exchanger in the heating system required repair, and it is not clear how long the present heating system can be kept functioning.

In the churchyard a survey of the Norway spruces by the wicket gate revealed areas of rot in the roots which led to one being felled during the year and another requiring to be monitored with a likely need to fell it in the next five or so years. It is intended that they will be replaced with Douglas firs.

In June a silver birch was planted adjacent to the Church Hall Patio to commemorate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee and to replace the Silver Jubilee tree which had to be felled due to rot.



In response to a suggestion from Greener Brockenhurst an area has been 'set aside' (left generally unmown) 1-2 metres wide running from the lower gate to the farm gate on Burley Road and they have created a 'stumpery' in the south-eastern corner of the churchyard which has already been much enjoyed by young children.

St Nicholas' Church

Peeling paint in the chancel ceiling has been noted and its cause is under investigation. Flaking render on the north side of the vicar's vestry has also been noted and it is hoped to remedy this in the coming months. External woodwork requiring attention will also be dealt with in the warmer weather.

Annual maintenance of the heaters revealed two requiring replacement of the heat exchange units. These are expected to have a normal working life.

The surface of the main footpath from the main gate and round to the disabled entrance by the choir vestry has been found to be difficult for wheelchair users. Consideration is being given to replacing it with a resin-bound surface if funding can be found.

In the churchyard various trees have been identified as desirable to be felled or pollarded on long-term management or safety grounds and it is anticipated that this will be dealt with in the coming year. As application has been made for the churchyard to be formally closed leaving the Parish Council grounds for burials. It is anticipated that responsibility for future grounds maintenance will then be passed to the District and Parish Councils.

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.

Report by Tim Dodwell, Jeremy Moss & Jo Plummer

DIGITAL TEAM

Website

The church website has continued to be well used with around 2000 'hits' per month. It is a valuable source of information and news about the church and our activities and is updated on a weekly basis.

Many thanks go to Sue Moss and Lesley Munt for their work on the website Prayer Blog and Mother's Union areas. Thanks also to Jean Wright for her diligent work on Spotlight which is uploaded weekly and automatically distributed by email to around 80 addresses and to Mary Robinson for updates to the Diary.

St Saviour's Audio-Visual Upgrade & Services Online

Following receipt of Faculty permission in the installation of the new equipment was completed in early July. This now provides 2 large clear screens showing liturgy, slide and video material and allow services to be broadcast or recorded for later viewing on the internet. Facilities at the front of the church allow for iPad or PC input to the system and also provide a feedback screen for leaders

Many thanks go to Peter Lay and Paul Pearse for their regular assistance preparing material and operating the system during services.

The use of Zoom for remote participate declined during the year but continued to be used by those who were housebound allowing them to participate actively. Recordings on YouTube are usually view by at least 30 people after the service has taken place from wherever they are in the country/world.

St Nicholas' Music

We have also developed a system to enable organ music to be played in at St Nicholas so that of music and hymns can be reintroduced to services despite the lack of regular organists.

Thanks go to John Pearson who has developed this solution at minimum cost and trained our clergy so that they are able to operate and control the system directly themselves. Although not 'live' it has been much appreciated by many in the congregation.

Report by Jeremy Moss

CHURCH MUSIC REPORT

The pandemic was not kind to music and particularly singing, which was not allowed in any indoor settings for many months. When services resumed, we were only allowed to listen to hymns and songs which were projected on the screen by our shiny new AV system. Whilst this was better than no music at all, it was very sad for those who love sung worship and who, perhaps like me, surreptitiously hummed under their breath!

The choir at St. Nicholas had been growing older and smaller before the pandemic and when normal life resumed, the choir did not restart. It was decided not to replace Andrew Parrish, our long serving organist, who was suffering a period of ill health. Weddings and funerals were covered by various freelance organists including Mike Noble and Craig Lawton.

We would like to thank Andrew for all that he has contributed to our church music over the years. He was a great servant to St Nicholas' choir and played the organ in St Saviour's with great gusto and enthusiasm at Christmas, Easter and on other important occasions.

This past year has seen music gradually return to our services. At St. Nicholas, a digital programme devised by John Pearson is enabling hymns to be sung at the beginning and end of the services. At St. Saviours, Mike Kelly and I are playing for services and a small band of instrumentalists have again begun to play with Mike every second Sunday. Unfortunately, Cynthia Wilson has been unable to play since last summer due to ill health and we have greatly missed her and all that she contributes to our services.

It is clear from the recent church questionnaire, that many people miss the music from pre pandemic, whichever form it took. Church music can be a contentious subject and much thought and prayer will be needed when considering how to take it forward into the future. As for me, I just love to sing and play (sometimes!). There are many beautiful old hymns with wonderful words and tunes, and there are many new worship songs which are equally great to sing, and which enhance our worship. As we go forward, let's enjoy singing them all!

Report by Pauline Brown

CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE TEAM

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

Thank you for all your faithful prayers about this ministry.

Brockenhurst C of E Primary School:

Simon continues to deliver regular assemblies; these will be supported by Mel Osborne (the Benefice's Child and Family Support Worker) after Easter. The three foundation governors (Vicky Wales – Chair of Governors, Simon and myself) continue to visit the school regularly, not only in an official capacity but also as readers/helpers. This has also extended to the pre-school. Several other members of the congregation volunteer on a regular basis: reading, gardening, accompanying trips and as midday lunch supervisors; more are needed.

The Mother's Union continues to organise the very successful and well received 'Little Flames service', every half term. The 'Busy Badgers', pre-school and school are all invited and from December we have been welcoming children (and their helpers) from Highfield nursery. Additionally, up to about 20 parents/grandparents attend.

Brockenhurst College Christian Union:

It is so exciting to see how God is working in this ministry.

Our group of 18 young people's attendance varies, depending on other commitments and train strikes. They have set up their own Monday enrichment session and the support they offer one another goes from strength to strength. They are really keen and enthusiastic. The college is very supportive of us and have asked us to continue this next year. We will (hopefully) have a 'stall' on enrichment day, during college enrolment in September.

We organised a Cookies and Carols in the Quad in December. The students invited via labelled candy canes 10 friends/peers. They made plates of delicious cookies; Lindy Waite

made a basket of sweet treats and one of the students made cards with Bible verses on. Approximately 350 staff and students either came along or were 'visited' and given sugar and the message that this was a gift from the CU to wish them a Merry Christmas. The pupils were able to engage with some of our visitors. The college newsletter also carried a report about it.

Families and young people in church:

Praise be – we now have 5 children on a regular basis in church. You may not be aware of this as the four youngest are offered (and usually take up) the crèche, whilst the elder child is given a variety of craft activities. Long term it would be great to include them more in our services and for them to be a visible part of our Church family.

A huge answer to prayer was the arrival of Mel Osborne who took up her post on 6th December.

The main concerns remain:

1. Supporting very young families in 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.
- Please continue to pray for all our children and young people.

Report by Jo Plummer

LYNDHURST DEANERY AND DIOCESAN SYNODS

The Parish of Brockenhurst seeks to participate fully in the life of the wider Anglican Church through our roles in the Deanery and Diocesan Synods. In addition to being a part of the governance of the Church, these provide a perspective on the issues facing other parish contexts and provide information on emerging initiatives, such as the Benefice of the Future (an emerging model for the Rural Church), that can inspire our own approach to Ministry.

The Deanery Synod meets three times a year in different church buildings: 2022 provided the opportunity to learn about parishes in Lyndhurst, Dibden and the HTB resource church in Totton (St Wins). It co-ordinates both the Church Tent at the New Forest Show and our collective relationships with Rwanda: it is planned that 2023 will see a resumption in trips to Rwanda and 2024 will see the inception of visits to the Deanery from our link Rwandan parishes. During the year, the Brockenhurst Deanery Team (Revd Simon Newham, John Pearson and Peter Lay) also co-ordinated a successful diocese-wide Healing Ministry weekend on behalf of the Deanery. Martyn Taylor has decided to step back from his role on Deanery Synod: we thank him for his faithful service and active contribution over many years. Peter Lay and John Pearson continue in their role as PCC representatives to the Deanery Synod.



The Diocesan Synod also meets three times a year to review and approve/reject major diocesan decisions. John Pearson is one of the Deanery representatives to the Synod. There have been major changes to the relationship between the Diocese and its Synod since the departure of the Rt Revd Tim Dakin in 2022, with a significant improvement in consultation and collaboration concerning Diocesan decisions. The Diocesan Synod mirrors the structure of the General Synod with separate meetings for Bishops, Clergy and Laity as well as the unified Synod meetings. The House of Laity is currently exploring how lay skills can be best utilised within the Diocese, together with how we can support the education, Children's & Family, and Eco activities so important to the mission of the Church. To this end, the House of Laity is looking to co-opt additional members with expertise and interest in any of these areas to enrich the development and focus of the Diocese. Anyone interested in understanding more about these opportunities can contact John Pearson.

Prepared by John Pearson

WORSHIP TEAM

2022 was our Year of Vocation in which we had various speakers addressing us on their sense of vocation including a teacher, banker and architect as well as members of our own congregation. Several members of our own congregation also completed various Bishop's Certificates in Mission as part of their exploration of vocation.

Various speakers joined us through the year – either live or via Zoom – including from CMS, Tearfund and A Rocha

Worship continued throughout the year both live and digitally – including music returning to St Nicholas' through our own developed digital system - a huge thank goes to Pauline, Mike, John and the digital team led by Jeremy for making all this possible.

Open continued with an exploration of some key issues in a more informal way – it is a joy and revelation to plan some of these – thank you to the team for their commitment and creative work as we seek engaging ways of unpacking some big issues. Once again we managed a full Holy Week and Easter programme including a pilgrimage to South Baddesley (where there was a new format to the Tenebrae Service) 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 with a marvellous array of community painted Easter Eggs.



Daily Morning and Evening Prayer continued online; housegroups continued; we had a well-attended ANZAC service;



Revd Simon Newham
ANZAC service 2022

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; a very well attended healing service led by Crowhurst Christian Healing Centre; worship continued in the schools with assemblies being led in-person; we worshipped together across the Group at Choral Evensongs and at an Advent Carol Service.

And finally, we ended the year with a range of Christmas services which were (thankfully!) after the COVID years pleasingly well attended.

Throughout the year we have continued to serve the wider community as evidenced by the 13 weddings, 2 marriage blessings, 13 baptisms and 24 funerals we have taken.

Our worship team has expanded with Luke (our Ordinand) joining us in September; Mel (our Children's and Families' Worker) joining us in December and Stephen (our curate) being licensed to us in December. Each one of them is doing a fantastic job and are a delight to work with as well as teaching me some new things!

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 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. Thank you!

MISSION TEAM

Our giving to Mission from the church continues to be a mix of direct payments to nine charities; collections in church for special events or services (such as Christmas); appeals for emergencies or special items and personal giving.

In 2022, as a church, we have supported the Church Mission Society, Tearfund, the Bible Society, Jerusalem & the Middle East Church Association (JMECA), Gateway Club, 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 Friday Club, JMECA, 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. This year there was a special appeal for the victims of the floods in Bangladesh and the surplus income from the production of the Screwtape Letters also went to this cause.

Report by Liz Dodwell

PRAYER MINISTRY TEAM

Prayer Ministry continues to be offered on the first and third Sunday of each month. 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 after services in an attempt to provide greater privacy and a reflective environment for those seeking prayer.

The team organised a weekend for the healing ministry in November 2022, which was led by team members from the Crowhurst Christian Healing Centre and attended by over 50 people from across the deanery and diocese

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: all requests will be treated confidentially.

Additionally, the church website provides ideas and approaches to prayer to support your prayer pattern and 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.

Our team has shrunk slightly over the year and, should it shrink further, we may have to consider whether it remains viable. 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

HOME GROUPS

We currently have 8 Home Groups, meeting on different days of the week, some fortnightly, and at different times of the day involving just over 50 people. Sadly, this is fewer than in the past. Each group chooses its own programme and all of them provide fellowship, support and encouragement as they explore together what it means to be a Christian in this place at this time. Additionally, there is one group which meets monthly for breakfast on Saturday morning. This is a more flexible group and is ecumenical. For different reasons, three of our groups have closed and we hope that the remaining members may join or form another group. I am always glad to receive enquiries from anyone thinking of linking up with a group.

Report by Diane Webster

BAPTISM PREPARATION

During the last year we had 13 baptisms with associated baptism preparation sessions to which parents and Godparents are invited. These sessions are based on the Rob Bell Nooma video *Rhythm* <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1FNHoYI8a78> which generates some very interesting discussions and is very much worth taking a look at for yourself. The sessions are held in the youth room at St Saviour's over tea and coffee 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 and most especially to Brenda and Phil Horner.

Report by Simon Newham

MARRIAGE PREPARATION

At the end of January 2022, we ran a joint Marriage Preparation afternoon with Boldre and South Baddesley and 14 engaged couples (9 from Brockenhurst; 4 from Boldre and 1 from South Baddesley) attended the session held in the St. Saviour's Church. After a fun introductory session based on which road sign most described their relationships and thoughts of marriage, Simon explained the Christian understanding of marriage and why we feel marriage preparation is so important. Simon then talked on various topics and aspects of marriage (barriers to talking; conflict resolution; financial management; personal style and habits; children and parenting; spiritual beliefs etc) and couples were given worksheets to discuss with each other. After a break for tea and cake provided by members of the Mothers' Union, Simon went through the Marriage service itself and the couples were introduced to those who would be involved with their wedding - the clergy taking the ceremony, Sally Hoy, from the Flower Guild, Sue Lynes the Verger, and Nikki Cullingford and Sally James, the administrators who would be sorting the forms and formalities. Before leaving, as a gift from the Mothers' Union, each couple was presented with the book 'Growing Together' - a marriage preparation book written by Andrew Body.

Report by Lesley Munt

PASTORAL CARE TEAM – 'BROCKCARE'

All of our pastoral activities ran normally and effectively throughout the year of reporting (May '22 – 'April '23), and all of our many volunteers have been active and busy providing pastoral support, as well as a variety of activities for those in our community.

Pastoral visiting: This remains a mainstay of our work. Caring for individuals in time of need and supporting them in a variety of ways, is one of the Church's primary functions. It is in this area of work that Jesus spent much of his time and effort and he is, of course, the model we fix our sights on. It is rewarding work – pastoral visits are so much appreciated by those who are isolated at home, feeling bereft after a bereavement, or hospitalised, for example.

Wednesday Lunches: These remain very popular and enable us to reach out to the elderly and vulnerable in the village in a very positive way. (See Lesley Munt's report on Wednesday Lunches elsewhere).

CAMEO: A dedicated band of willing volunteers enable this activity to be provided each week throughout the year. This is one of its great strengths as people come to know it is 'always there'. Over this past year, CAMEO has regained its popularity (following Covid and associated lockdowns), and many new faces have arrived to experience a warm welcome and to share coffee and a chat together.

All-4-One: Contact has been maintained with an array of people across the village who find themselves alone. Various get-togethers and activities have been arranged whereby individuals can join up with others for shared experiences.

The Sunday Club – for those who are widowed – has filled a 'gap' in Brockcare's portfolio of activities and has gone from strength to strength this past year. This group, overseen by Diane Webster and others, has met at intervals for afternoon teas, Sunday Lunches in the Hall and for other activities too. It is extremely well attended and is set up to be a self-help group, whereby members themselves decide where and when their next get-together should be.

'Holidays@ Home': In early September we were able to organise this event once again. Covid had disrupted the activity in 2020 and 2021. Our 'trip' to a variety of countries in South America proved to be very popular and the whole event was a great success, thanks to our talented and enthusiastic group of volunteers, and an array of wonderful speakers and demonstrators. Our guests were clearly delighted to see 'H@H' back on the agenda – and they look forward to their next holiday! We are grateful to the Groome Trust for a donation made towards the costs of this event.

The **'Service of Remembering Loved Ones Departed':** This was held at the end of October. It was well attended and proved once again to be a great source of comfort to those mourning the loss of loved ones. After the service there was an opportunity for pastoral visitors (and other church members) to speak with those who had been bereaved, and this is always a privileged time spent together. Tea and cakes, kindly provided by the Social Team, were served in the Church Hall.



Christmas Day Lunch: We were pleased to be able to provide Christmas Day Lunch in the Church Hall once again on Christmas Day, 2022. Roger Drake, our incomparable chef, was back in position and about 20 guests enjoyed this special lunch together. Lindy Waight kindly hosted the event, ably supported by other helpers. Guests were provided with small gifts and went home delighted. We were also able to deliver a few Christmas Day Lunches to those who were unable to join the event in the Hall. The drinks for this special lunch were kindly provided by an anonymous doner from the village.

'Winter Warmer' Soup Lunches: In response to rising fuel costs and the rising cost of living, Brockcare took part in the Community Hub initiative by providing Soup Lunches followed by cakes and a hot drink, on Thursdays in the Church Hall. These lunches ran from October through to the end of March and proved to be very popular. Our thanks go to Roger Drake who very kindly came along on most Thursdays to make delicious soup and cakes for our guests. We would like to thank all those volunteers who made soup when Roger could not, and all those other volunteers who helped to make this activity possible.

As ever, I would like to record a heartfelt 'thank-you' to all those involved in our range of pastoral care activities. Our volunteers willingly continue to give of their time and talents to show Jesus' love and friendship, comfort and compassion to all those with whom they come into contact. My thanks also go to Mary Robinson who has stepped in to help with some of Brockcare's administrative tasks this year.

We are always looking for new volunteers – please contact Ros Dennison or the Church Office if you would like to join our team, or would like more information about what we do.

Report by Joyce Kolaczowski

CHURCH HALL TEAM

After a slow start at the beginning of 2022, there has been a considerable increase in booking and lettings.

Much more use is being made of the Youth Room, now called the Meeting Room. It is mainly church bookings for house groups, committee meetings with the occasional commercial letting. Regular bookings are now running successfully and immediately after CAMEO on a Thursday a new venture is Winter Warmer, a soup lunch and cake; used by many in the village for companionship.

In August we had our regular decorator Sean Harris, to keep the hall in a presentable condition. The Rentokill Initial janitorial services contract has now run successfully for the first year.

Thanks are due to Mary for all the work and support she had put into running the bookings and the smooth transfer to Kelly Cooke, who has efficiently taken over. Clare and Kelly manage the hall administration extremely well, coping with the complexities of numerous enquiries. Plus of course the diligent office volunteers, who in the background cover innumerable chores, helping with the smooth running of the hall. Luke has been invaluable in setting out and clearing tables / chairs and stepping in when Bernadeta was off after an operation

On administration I must mention the smooth transfer, after 34 years, from a manual bookings' diary for an electronic version, which we all can access on line. When Diana and I started the church hall diary bookings in 1988 and ran it for a decade, little did we imagine it ever going electronic. Thanks are due to Jeremy Moss for the digital synchronisation of the diary, to both churches and the hall for the winter heating time settings. This was never envisaged and saves a tedious job every week.

I must thank Lindy and Lesley for their kitchen management and Lindy for the August kitchen stocktake and 'spring' clean – an arduous task. For the second year running after a NFDC unannounced inspection on a Wednesday the hall kitchen scored 5 out of 5.

Financially the income stream is now stronger. However, with the enlarged hall, there is likely to be a net deficit running cost; this was contained to about £1,800 in 2022; but even with increased letting this figure will be around £2,000 in 2023 because of rising fuel prices. My thanks to the Committee of Keith, Lindy and Kelly for their support.

Report by Martin Fletcher

SOCIAL TEAM

We again held the Newcomers' Party in July as we think the summer weather is an advantage. The Pimms and good food, and the vicar in shorts, kept 36 Newcomers happy. We will do the same in 2023 but will aim to link it to another Church event, such as the Quiz, in the hope of seeing some of the newcomers again!

We were involved with other Church members in celebrating the Queen's Jubilee in June.







We held the October Harvest Quiz in the Church again, not this time due to Covid, but because it brings people in to experience the actual Church in a welcoming way. We provided help at other events, and this year returned to providing nibbles and mulled wine at both Carol Services.

We have a small but willing team and I would like to thank them for their work this year.

Report by Keith Nolan

ECO CHURCH

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, we joined the Eco Church movement back in Jan 2020. We were awarded our Silver Eco Church Award at the end of 2021 and have been working towards Gold since then. Activities and Progress over the past year:

- Easter 22: As a lent initiative, the Eco Church team publicised their own personal attempts to give up / minimise their own use of single use plastic and encouraged the congregation try and do the same.
- May 22: Started work with the Greener Brockenhurst Making Space for Nature Team & the Church Grounds team to set aside areas for rewilding and encouragement of wildlife within St Saviours grounds.
- May 22: Approached the Diocese re doing a survey of the vicarage from an energy performance point of view. This has been difficult to progress and it appears there is a lack of funding in the Diocese for work on home energy improvements to diocese properties.
- July 22: Successful Eco Fair / Church Garden Party held in the Grounds of St Saviours and organised jointly with Greener Brockenhurst.
- July 22: Ongoing work with the Greener Brockenhurst Making Space for Nature Team & the Church Grounds team. Laurel was been cut back, wild flowers planted and a little wildlife nature trail for children was developed. The edges of the grounds were left unmown.
- August 22: A Scout group, on camp in the New Forest, donated bird and hedgehog boxes they had made and installed them around St Saviours church grounds under the supervision of one of the Greener Brock Making Space for Nature team.
- October 22: A Rocha was the mission of the month for November. We held an environmentally themed mission service on the 30th October. This service hopefully raised awareness of the importance of a Christian response to the climate crisis. It was also successful in recruiting 3 new members to our Eco Church team.
- 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

ST NICHOLAS' CHURCH GUARDIANS

The Parish Church of St Nicholas welcomed many visitors from all parts of the world in 2022. It is important that we recruit more volunteers to always have a presence there in the summer months. Guardians are able to highlight the many aspects and features of this ancient church and by selling merchandise we contribute to church funds.

Varied are the reasons for entering St Nicholas. Some are seeking a place to pray or find peace, experience the atmosphere of an ancient building, others are looking for the 1000 year old yew tree, whilst others have a family connection and like to reminisce. Some people researched family history during Covid lockdown and are looking for graves, hoping for detail to enter on the 'family tree'. Many years ago, a map was produced - before the inscriptions faded due to weathering - and we have a corresponding file with alphabetical lists of all the family names on the graves in the upper graveyard. Others are interested in the New Zealand WWI hospital connection and the NZ window, and then realise that the church has other beautiful stained glass.



A New Zealand contingent from the three military services, who'd had the honour to be on duty at the parade for the late Queen's London Platinum Jubilee celebrations, came to Brockenhurst for the day. Each person had been chosen to represent NZ and this day was a reward concluding their visit to the UK. In Māori they held a remembrance service around the New Zealand graves. As they left, they all talked of coming back to Brockenhurst.

We need and would welcome more people to volunteer as Guardians.

Report by Ros Dennison

BROCKENHURST CARE CARS

Once again, a very big "thank you" to all our volunteer drivers for their wonderful commitment through 2022. 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 from our 0845 643 5808 number. We place the requests as quickly as possible and then call the client back with the driver's name and pick-up time. There is a set list of charges which the client pays to the driver to cover costs.

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 on 01590 623543.

Report by Sue Hendry

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

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

With 15 weddings, including 6 postponed from previous years because of covid, a Platinum Jubilee, Easter, Harvest, Remembrance, Christmas and the weekly rota of flowers this has been a very busy year for our brilliant team of 18 volunteers. A big thank you goes to them all for the wonderful fresh flowers they have arranged in St Nicholas and St Saviours.

There has been a lot of variety in our arrangements this year, from the red, white and blue with crowns and flags for the Jubilee to vibrant sunflowers with knitted pumpkin for Harvest.



From traditional Christmas wreaths and lanterns with poppies for Remembrance to large arches with pampas grass at St Nicholas.



In between it has been a pleasure to arrange flowers for weddings, including those of Andrew Parrish to Diana and Clare's daughter Lauren.





We have received many lovely comments for all our events so we know how much they have been appreciated.

We were delighted to welcome Lindy, Carole and Elaine to our friendly team this year. Carole and Elaine also provided beautiful flowers from their gardens for the weekly arrangements and weddings. Their dahlias were stunning. How lucky were we and the brides to have locally grown flowers. Also a thank you to them both for helping with the weddings we were unable to organise because of other commitments.

Sadly, Gill Smith and Ann Morley decided to leave the guild after many years spent arranging flowers for our churches. A special thank you goes to them for all their lovely work, help and support.

Thank you to all who contribute to the 'Flower Pot' collections. This helps to continue to provide beautiful fresh flowers in both churches.



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Report by Jane Thatcher and Sally Hoy

THE SANCTUARY GUILD

We continue to manage very well on just 4 helpers plus Tricia Hilborn to do the washing and ironing of the altar cloths. They are Ros Dennison, Lizzie Tindell and Marion Burden with myself, Lindy Waight. However, we will seek to find more people to come and join this team. Our duties are to wash and look after all the linen used for Communion, clean the silverware and prepare for Communion at St. Saviour's and St Nicholas' and change the altar frontal as and when required.

We would like to make you aware that we carry gluten-free wafers and anyone wishing to use these instead of the normal ones please let the presiding clergy know before the start of the service. Alternatively, you can let me know and I will make sure the clergy are aware of this. Once again, I would like to thank Tony Foulger who has often stepped in and helped us at St Nicholas' especially around Christmas time.

Report by Lindy Waight

WEDNESDAY LUNCHESES

During 2022, we returned to normality after the Covid pandemic and have welcomed some new guests but have sadly lost some of our long-standing ones. We are able to accommodate all who are wanting to come to a maximum of 35/40 per week - it usually averages out about 30.

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

The lunches began way back in 1988 at a cost of just £2.25 and since then we have served a total of 41,742 lunches to our guests. We couldn't have achieved this without the help of our many volunteers. During the 35 years we have had help from 151 volunteer cooks and 145 drivers. 28 of these volunteers have helped for over 20 years and 2 for over 30 years! We are extremely grateful to each and every one of them.

At the end of the summer, Sue Hendry and Janet Glasper, who together headed up the 4th Wednesday team, decided it was time for them to hang up their aprons and retire. Both had been helping for many years - Sue right from when we started back in 1988! We have been extremely fortunate in recruiting Josephine Page and Christina Simons to replace them and they are enjoying their new roles.

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 Kolaczowski 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 now 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.

We are always on the look-out for new recruits to the cooking or driving teams so if you, or someone you know, might be interested, please phone me via the church office (624584) for more information. I am also looking for someone to help with the weekly admin work, so if this is something that you think you could do, again, please give me a ring.

Report by Lesley Munt

BROCKENHURST MOTHERS' UNION

2022'S THEME WAS TRANSFORMATION – NOW!

Branch Meetings

In January we held our Wave of Prayer Service followed by our AGM. Our February meeting was not as advertised; John Purkess was unwell, and so Sue Lynes stepped in to tell us about the New Forest and how it is changing. In March our church flower ladies gave a demonstration of their skills, and the various flower arrangements were raffled (to cover the cost of the flowers). We held no meeting in April, as the third Monday was the Bank Holiday. May's speaker on "Transformation Now!" was our former diocesan President, Stella Roberts. In June we had John Purkess' talk about Brockenhurst, the village history and his life running the shop (now Tesco's). We cancelled our September meeting following the death of our patron, the Queen. Our speaker at October's meeting was Jill West from Oakhaven Hospice, and Elizabeth Webster, who works for the Restorative Justice Service in Hampshire and the Isle of Wight was our November speaker. Restorative Justice brings together those harmed by crime and those responsible for that harm, allowing victims an opportunity to be heard, and for offenders to recognise the consequences of their actions and impact of their behaviour has had upon others. Our December meeting had a Christmas theme, Delphine Matthews played the piano for singing carols, and Julie Hodkin and Sue Griffiths, from St Nick's bell ringers, taught some of us how to ring hand bells to accompany Christmas carols and songs.



Mothers' Union Services

Corporate Communion services have been held on the third Thursday each month at St Saviour's. The Deanery Communion Service for Lady Day at St Saviour's was not as expected, as Rev. Canon Diane Webster, who was to lead the service, tested positive for Covid that morning. The service was led by me (without communion), and Gill Coombs read Diane's sermon on her behalf. The Diocesan Festival service on 9th June was held in the Cathedral Choir. It was sad to see so few members attending, when in previous years we used to fill the entire Cathedral. Only three Brockenhurst (Committee) members attended Milford on Sea's Deanery Service on 20th September. Little Flames services have continued in 2022, and not only the School Reception class and the Pre-School have attended, but the Brockenhurst College Pre-school joined us for our Christmas service.

Events and Activities

In the spring we planted some snowdrops around the 35th anniversary hawthorn tree to commemorate two of our members who have died (Linda Woods and Hilary Turner). Many members joined in making posies for Mothering Sunday, and two members made arrangements which were taken to the two nursing homes in the village.

Our planned summer outing to Lepe in July was cancelled because of the extreme heat. In August we had a members' tea afternoon. As well as a time of fellowship and eating some lovely cakes, we made our Little Bags of Love for the parents of the new YR children in the Primary School. After they were blessed in a Sunday service they were delivered to the parents at the beginning of term by Sue, who is a school "dinner lady".

Members of our branch have taken part in MU Information Days. The spring meeting was by Zoom, but the meeting on 15th July was held at Weeke, Winchester. Just a handful of members attended, which was embarrassing for those of us who attend. However the Street Pastors gave a very interesting talk, and we were also told about the Reimagining Conference in Liverpool. The Information Day at Chandlers Ford in November was better attended and those of us who were there felt it was excellent.

MU supports the worldwide 16 Days of Activism against Gender Based Violence. Our branch was given permission to stand outside the station to catch commuters and Brock College students in the early morning of 29th November. It was very successful and we ran out of leaflets to hand out! Several people spoke to MU members about their own experiences. Lesley Munt also set up a reflection table in St Saviour's with details of the 16 Days of Activism, where people could discover more about Gender Violence and how many organisations are working to reduce GBV.

MU members, and others, have continued to provide refreshments for the parents and toddlers at Busy Badgers.

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.

At the end of January 2022, Marriage Preparation afternoon with Boldre and South Baddesley tea and cake was provided by MU members, and as a gift from the Mothers' Union, each couple was presented with the book 'Growing Together' - a marriage preparation book written by Andrew Body.

Fundraising

The Branch worked with the WI to provide refreshments for the Queen's Platinum Jubilee celebrations in the village on 4th June. We also provided refreshments for the Eco Fair in St Saviour's grounds on 9th July. (Unfortunately the turnout was poor.) We have also been welcoming visiting MU Branches to have a tour of St Nicholas' or St Saviour's and then a lunch or cream tea. These have been very successful and we have been able to send off the profits from them, our stall at the Platinum Jubilee event, Gill's "Bring a Book, Buy a Book", and the donations to the MU from Hilary Turner's funeral. £400 was sent to the Summer of Hope and £1023 to the Diocese (£250 for Literacy).

Membership

In 2022 one member moved to Sussex.

The Future

We recently sent out a letter asking what members want from MU, and using the replies we have now changed our day and time of meetings starting in January 2023. We will now meet on the 3rd Thursday each month from 2pm to 4pm. Our corporate communion will also move, from the 3rd Thursday in the month to the 1st. The move will be a trial, so our 2023 programme will only be until June. The Committee will then review the change and decide whether we should continue the afternoon meetings.

The theme for 2023 is still TRANSFORMATION-NOW!

In 2023 let us join with Sheran Harper, our Worldwide President:

"We pray that the Holy Spirit will ignite in us new vision and imagination for the future of our movement. May we open our ears, open our hearts and open our lives to new possibilities."
Amen.

Report by Wendy Lay

CHURCH ELECTORAL ROLL

The Electoral Roll as at Annual Meeting in 2022	208
The new Electoral Roll as at Annual Meeting in 2023 (<i>Resident: 176</i> <i>Non-resident: 28</i>)	204