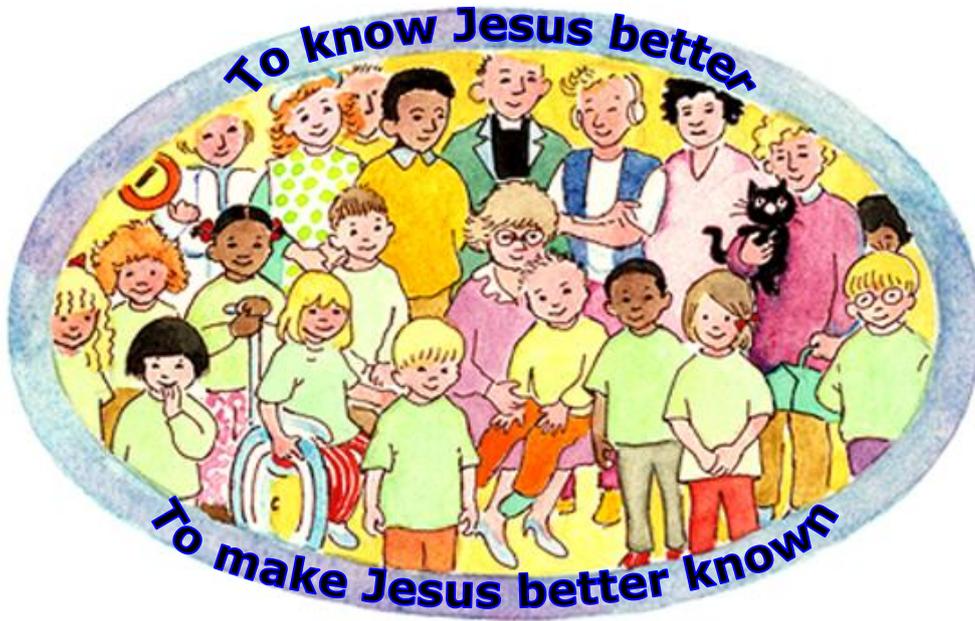


# THE PARISH OF MILFORD-ON-SEA

All Saints' and St. Mary's



**Annual Reports for the period from Apr 2019 to Sep 2020 and  
Financial Statements for the year ended 31 December 2019  
for the**

## **Annual Parochial Church Meeting**

**By Zoom and in person in All Saints' Church  
at 7pm on 21 October 2020**

**Incumbent:** Interregnum

**Bank:**

HSBC, High Street, Lymington

**Independent Examiner:**

Hope Jones, Chartered Accountants,

**Church Office:**

Church Hall, Greenbanks Close, Milford on Sea, SO41 0SQ  
01590

**Milford PCC** is a corporate body established by the Church of England. The PCC operates under the Parochial Church Council Powers Measure and is a registered charity. It has the responsibility of co-operating with the incumbent in promoting in the ecclesiastical parish of Milford (which includes Everton, Keyhaven and Lymore) the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical. It also has legal responsibility for both churches and both church halls.

**Membership** Members of both Milford PCC and St Mary's DCC are either ex-officio or elected by the Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM) or the Annual District Meeting (ADM) in accordance with the Church Representation Rules. During 2019/20 the following have served:

**Milford Parochial Church Council (PCC)**

PCC Secretary: Mrs Beverley Smith

**Members of the PCC:**

Incumbent: Rev Dominic Furness (until July 2019)

Licensed Lay Ministers: Miss Gillian Peard  
Dr James Soper

Churchwardens: Mr Matt Allum  
Mrs Olga Soper

Treasurer and Assistant Warden: Mr Alan Chapple

Deanery Synod: Miss Gillian Peard  
Mrs Sue Forward  
Mrs Joyce Rhoden

Elected Members: Dr David Badham  
Mr Alan Chapple  
Miss Val Chalk  
Mr Bill Darley (vice chair)  
Mrs Libby Gillespie-Smith  
Mrs Sheila Hopkins (until July 2019)  
Mrs Kate Pinnell  
Mr Jonathan Morris  
Mrs Jill Neill

Elected Members: Dr Annabel Taylor  
Mrs Carol Tyler  
Mrs Margaret Warren  
Mrs Rebecca Webb (resigned Nov 2019)

Co-opted Members: Mr Phil McNinch (resigned July 2020)  
Mrs Lesley Prince

**St Mary's District Church Council (DCC)** was set up for that part of the Parish of Milford in which the daughter church of St Mary's Everton is situated in accordance with a scheme approved by the Diocesan Pastoral Committee and brought into effect on 19<sup>th</sup> March 1976. The DCC has responsibility for the financial affairs of the Church, subject to the approval of the PCC for items of capital expenditure in excess of £7,000.

DCC Secretary: Ms Katie Durrant

**Members of the DCC:**

Incumbent: Rev Dominic Furness (until July 2019)

Licensed Lay Minister: Miss Gillian Peard

Churchwarden and Chairman since July 2019: Mrs Myra Campbell

Treasurer: Mr Chris Knox

Elected Members: Mrs Di Fisher  
Mrs. Jenny Lawford  
Mrs. Marlene Avery  
Mrs. Linda Bettle

Hall Manager: Mrs Vera Peters

Vice-chairman of PCC: Mr Bill Darley

Co-opted: Mr. Michael Easter

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## 1. PCC SUB-COMMITTEES

**The DCC** is responsible for St Mary's. It held 5 meetings during the year. Since May 2020, the DCC have met on Zoom. The Annual General Meeting of the District Church Committee was held on Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> October 2020.

**The Standing Committee** has the power to transact urgent business of the PCC between meetings. In 2011 the PCC passed a resolution that the Standing Committee has the discretion to spend up to £1,000.

**The Church Hall Committee** has responsibility for running the Church Hall. For Hall bookings, please contact Mike Fitzgibbon via the Church Office.

**The Mission Team** review the financial support for our mission commitments and support church members in mission action.

**The Parish Magazine Committee** is responsible for the monthly production and distribution of the magazine.

## 2. CHURCH ATTENDANCE

**All Saints' Church Attendance:** Until lockdown in March 2020 there were 24 8am services with an average attendance of 22 (2018: 21). Average 10am service was 91 adults and 3 children (2018: 90 adults, 4 children). There were 35 evening services with an average attendance of 27. The number of baptisms was 13 (2018: 11). Following the re-opening of the church in August for worship there have been between 20 and 25 for the 10am service, which is the same service that is sent on-line to all on the database. There are currently no 8am, evening or Friday 10.30am services at present.

**St Mary's Church Attendance:** The average attendance at normal Sunday services prior to lockdown was 12 at 8am and 44 in the church at 10am. Since lockdown, from July 5<sup>th</sup> there have been 18 in church at 10am which is the maximum. There are no regular evening services at St Mary's.

## 3. ELECTORAL ROLL OFFICER'S REPORT

The retirement of Dominic and Alyson in 2019 necessitated the appointment of a new Electoral Roll Officer; a role which Alyson had efficiently discharged and which entailed the preparation of a completely new Roll in April 2019. The Roll at the last APCM listed some 234 names.

Since April 2019, 14 names have been removed from the Roll, 7 through death, 6 who moved away and 1 who moved to a different church. 35 new names have been added, 14 of which were received by the last APCM, but after the cut-off deadline 14 days before the APCM. The new Roll contains 255 names.

**Geoffrey Birch**  
Electoral Roll Officer

## 4. SAFEGUARDING

I can confirm that the PCC has complied with the duty contained in Section 5 of the Safeguarding and Clergy Discipline Measure (2016) duty to have regard to the House of Bishop's guidance on safeguarding children and vulnerable adults.

## 4. SAFEGUARDING (Continued)

I took up the post in September 2019. Since then, work has taken place to bring the churches within the safeguarding requirements of Diocese as follows:

- A dedicated phone helpline and safeguarding email address were set up (details available at both churches, the church office and the church website) and these are checked once a day.
- A pocket leaflet 'Safeguarding – a pocket guide', produced by the Church of England, was distributed to each member of the two congregations (please contact me if you have not received one of these and would like one).
- A volunteer database has been set up to record all of our volunteers, which number over 100 across both churches
- With close involvement from Lesley Prince and the PCC Vice-Chair, work has taken place in the area of Safer Recruitment and the development of an 'at a glance' system for identifying DBS requirements and appropriate levels of training and other requirements for each role within the church.
- A system for flagging up renewal dates for DBS checks has also been developed.
- Prior to Covid-19, I began a programme to meet with the various groups within the church and met with the Pastoral Care Team to discuss the specific safeguarding issues related to this group, and would like to continue with this in due course.

In order to place the work of safeguarding within a Christian perspective, I set out below part of a message from Archbishop Justin Welby:

“Safeguarding is at the heart of our Christian faith. We are all made unique and in the image of God. Jesus came that we might have life and have it in abundance (John 10.10). Safeguarding means the action the Church takes to promote a safer culture in all our churches”.

I would like to take this opportunity to set out some key safeguarding contact information as we are all responsible for ensuring that church is a safe place:

- Safeguarding Helpline (not 24-hour but checked once a day): 0751 4471 545
- Safeguarding email address: safe@allsaintsmilford.co.uk
- Diocesan Safeguarding Manager: 01962 737317
- Out-of-hours: 0300 555 1373 (Hampshire County Council hub)

**Annabelle Short**  
**Safeguarding Officer**

## 5. PCC REPORT

This has not been a typical year as it is now 18 months since the last APCM but the PCC has continued to meet monthly. Our Spiritual Vision meeting in June 2019 was devoted to prayer as this was the last meeting at which Dominic was present. Our second Spiritual Vision meeting in February, led by Kate Pinnell was devoted to outreach – mainly on a personal level. It was agreed not to go ahead with an Away Day in September 2019 as Dominic and Alyson had left and we were anticipating a new vicar before Easter 2020.

Bill Darley was elected as Vice Chairman in July 2019 and has been chairing our meetings since August 2019. In August 2019, the Archdeacon attended our meeting to explain to us the procedure and timetable we needed to follow during the interregnum. A group of 4 were chosen to prepare the Parish Profile and a Role Description. Several drafts later the documents were approved by the PCC and then by Diocese.

## 5. PCC REPORT (Continued)

The Archdeacon visited again in October 2019 when a timetable was agreed for the advertisement and interviews. We were told the post had to be deferred until May due to the necessity of renting out the vicarage. We chose 3 members of the PCC - 1 more than usual to enable representation from St Mary's - to be on the interview panel along with the Bishop, Archdeacon and Area Dean.

There were 2 applicants following the advertisement in December but only one chosen to attend for interview, who declined the invitation as he had taken another post.

Although initially the position would have been re-advertised in late January, on the advice of Bishop Debbie after she had come to All Saints' to lead a service, it was agreed to defer advertising until May with interviews taking place in June with a view to licensing in September. Her view was that this deferral would enable us to attract a better quality of candidate. The PCC accepted this advice.

On 24 March 2020 we received an email from the Archdeacon informing us that all recruitment by Diocese was on hold due to Covid-19. Bishop Debbie spoke to us on 26 July about the benefits of "waiting" described in the scriptures. On 11 September we heard from Bishop Debbie that the vacancy could be re-opened, so we are advertising through October and hope and pray to appoint in December for a start before Easter 2021.

Safeguarding Children and Vulnerable Adults is an extremely important issue and in May 2019 we appointed Annabelle Short as our Safeguarding Officer. Please see her report at 4. above relating to the safeguarding of children and vulnerable adults. The PCC adopted the Church of England's recommended Safeguarding Policy in January 2020. This included Job Descriptions for PCC members for the first time.

The PCC approved the Health and Safety Policy in October 2019 as it does on an annual basis.

As a PCC we are very appreciative of all the work done by Olga and Matt behind the scenes who have maintained the services. We have been blessed during the interregnum by receiving a lot of help from retired clergy in the area, and also from members of the congregation who have stepped up to deliver our sermons/talks. Also we are indebted to visiting organists and the choir and worship band who have faithfully led us during this time. One initiative has been some evening services led by one of the home groups.

The Standing Committee continues to meet monthly to deal with urgent matters between PCC meetings and reports to each PCC meeting. Huge thanks are due to Matt for many of the day to day maintenance needs. The Archdeacon apologised that having thought the Vicarage would be tenanted for six months, this unfortunately did not happen. The Diocese was taking responsibility for maintenance and repairs to the vicarage and Lesley was continuing to collect mail.

We received regular reports from Phil McNinch about the youth work. Phil's role had changed slightly since Sheila Hopkins (our Family Worker) left in July 2019. He had continued some of her excellent work at Milford School. Phil tendered his resignation in May 2020 with a leaving date in July as he was getting married and moving to Wales. The wardens organised a very small leaving lunch for him with the hope that a celebration could be held in the future when large gatherings were allowed.

## 5. PCC REPORT (Continued)

Since September 2019 we have employed Carol Celesius to look after the Toddler groups at All Saints' and St Mary's, and we receive a report about All Saints' Cafe and other activities, many of which have been taken on by Rebecca Webb. Also each month we receive reports from St Mary's, the Treasurer and Deanery Synod (if there has been a meeting).

A more informal service, A Live, had been introduced in May 2017. Kate Pinnell took on the leadership of this service in early 2020 and introduced a slot where members of the church family were "interviewed" by answering five questions. This was in addition to the talk. The new format was positively received by the congregation.

We were delighted to be able to nominate Adam Smith as a Foundation Governor at Milford School in September 2019. As Rebecca Webb had resigned from her position as a Foundation Governor in November 2019, we are looking for another person to take on this role.

On 23 March 2020, the church was closed due to Covid-19. Arrangements were swiftly made for Lesley, our Administrator, to work from home. Caralyn Kidd-Coutts had resigned and it was decided not to replace her. As a result of lockdown, the APCM could not be held in April so all members of the PCC would remain in post until such time as the APCM could be held.

In the meantime, PCC meetings and Standing Committee meetings continued to be held via Zoom and within the last two months have been held as hybrid meetings both in person and on Zoom to test our capability for a hybrid APCM. This was only possible because Terry Bufton, after months of research and planning, had managed to construct a radio link to enable a WiFi link from the church hall to the church in August. Thank you, Terry.

Bill Darley, Lesley and Rebecca used lockdown time to install Church Suite – a cloud-based, secure church administration system. All data lists of church members have been consolidated on ChurchSuite. This includes the Electoral Roll, the Address Book, our Donor records, the volunteer database to name but a few. All data is secure and there are various security levels to ensure suitable confidentiality. This massively simplifies data management. It has also enabled the office to email the church family with the weekly Newsletter, the online Sunday services, and manages all of our various rotas which can be accessed in real time by the appropriate people to swap duties, simplifying the rota managers' job.

Within 10 days of lockdown, Colin Fry had developed a recorded online Sunday service via the website and shortly afterwards set up our very own YouTube channel. We are very grateful to Francis and Tina Cumberlege who have both embraced and developed this new ministry for our substantial benefit. Thanks are also due to Eddie Donaldson and Kate Pinnell who have also led and preached at these services.

In mid-June 2020 churches were allowed to be open for private prayer. Rotas were quickly set up for St Mary's to be open Monday to Wednesday and All Saints' Thursday to Saturday with a volunteer in each church to supervise the hygiene regulations and social distancing.

Collective worship was then allowed from early July under tight safety restrictions. A majority vote of the PCC agreed to run limited services for a few weeks until we felt in a position to offer worship safely. St Mary's trialled a service on July 5<sup>th</sup>, followed by All Saints' on July 12<sup>th</sup>. Following these pilot services it was agreed St Mary's would continue to run morning worship services on a booking-only basis for residents with visitors welcome. All Saints' would run the online service in church from August.

The PCC agreed in September to commit indefinitely to the on-line service as weekly viewings were averaging over 100 views, so presumably around 150 people watching. It was agreed that All Saints would continue for the time being with showing the recorded online service in church every Sunday morning and St Mary's would continue with their weekly live service. Harvest celebrations would be marked with an outdoor live service at St Mary's and All Saints would have a stall on the Green on Saturday 26 Sep supporting Basics Bank. 2 full cars of food supplies were collected and many non-church people spoken to that day.

**Beverley Smith**  
PCC Secretary

## **6. CHURCHWARDEN'S REPORT**

Re-reading our report for the APCM which we wrote for the April meeting, it is quite hard to remember what life was like then with the usual Services going on, and home groups meeting week by week. All that normality has disappeared but we believe a new way of doing things is emerging. God is using this pandemic to shake us up and wake us up, but also giving us the opportunity to change. He has catapulted us out of the churches and thrown us back into the community.

So what do we do with this new thing? Do we hanker after the old ways or do we take advantage of a new calling. *'Forget the former things, do not dwell on the past. See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it? I am making a way in the wilderness and streams in the wasteland. Is.41:18-19*

Online services are being used to bring the Gospel to countless people all over the world. People are tuning in who wouldn't dream of coming through our doors and people are discovering 'church' - 'so that's what they get up to'! Thousands have done Alpha and Christianity Explored online and many worship with one or more churches far from home. We know several who join in where their families are worshipping. Francis and Tina Cumberlege have been such stars in persevering with the technology and have given us, week after week, an opportunity to worship and be taught. It is one of the surprises of the lock down that we have successfully 're-planted' our congregation.

Colin Fry has carried the greatest load in recording the messages and putting them together. We owe him a great debt. Terry Bufton, too, who has been dealing with the WiFi and has brilliantly brought it into the church building, from time to time fills in for Colin. These are pivotal positions in our reaching people. The possibility of streaming our services is becoming more likely.

Our interregnum has been long. We thank God for Bishop Debbie and although her hands have been tied by Diocesan rules, she has been a great encourager and prays for us. We are particularly grateful for her support. At the time of writing, our vacancy is now open for advertising which we expect to happen in October. It is not helpful to speculate in an optimistic or pessimistic way. God's timing will prove to be perfect.

We are also so grateful to the home group leaders who have kept people in touch and have done far, far more than they signed up for being a HG leader. It has kept the church family together as much as has been possible.

None of these activities is of much use unless supported by praying people. Many of you have us in your prayers constantly. Saturday Morning Parish Prayers meets by Zoom and our thanks to Florence and Terry for keeping the technical side alive!

## **6. CHURCHWARDEN'S REPORT (Continued)**

The Day of Prayer was perhaps one of the highlights of this unusual period of our church life. There was a big take up and people sent in their responses to the day. It was so encouraging. We know that God is with us and He is simply asking us to get out into our community - and to wait.

We are delighted that Douglas Marcuse is joining us as an LLM (subject to the Bishop's agreement). He and Rosemary live in The Orchard. Douglas has been running a home group there for some while. We look forward to his ministry.

This is an opportunity to thank Colin Fry for his massive contribution over the years as a Licensed Lay Minister. He retires after some 56 years – quite some stint! He will become an LLM Emeritus. His love for God's word shines through what he has preached and we have been blessed by his ministry.

There are still baptisms, weddings and funerals which take place from time to time. We are grateful to the clergy and Gillian who help out with these Services. Most of what is done at both St. Mary's and All Saints' is done by a team of over 100 volunteers and without them we wouldn't have the church community we have. As well as the volunteers, Lesley has kept the office running with the help of a great band of helpers, Val, Andrea, Matt, Phyllida and Rebecca. And they do it so well. The Holy Dusters turn out every Friday and there are the lockers and unlockers of doors. Well, I could go on.

Finally, I want to thank the PCC for the unfailing support and prayerfulness during what is proving a long and busy time. We are now seeing a light at the end of the tunnel.

*God will make it happen, for He who calls us is faithful. 1 Thessalonians 5:13*

Finally, finally – a huge thank you to Matt. One couldn't have a more dependable and kind fellow churchwarden.

**Olga Soper**  
**Churchwarden**

## **7. ALL SAINTS' CHURCH HALL**

Sadly, we lost some bookings to the Community Centre during 2019 but have since gained 2 and the hall was well used for church events and meetings.

The total income from bookings in 2019 amounted to £9,841 (2018: £10,146)

The total expenditure amounted to £12,627 (2018: £12,480) resulting in a deficit of £2,786 (2018: £2,334).

In March 2020 the Hall had to be closed due to the Covid-19 pandemic which resulted in the loss of all income. We did use the time to carry out our plans to redecorate the hall and the main hall floor had its usual treatment. All other expenditure was kept to a minimum. We received generous donations totalling £1,250 towards the redecoration costs for which we are very grateful.

In September, bookings were arranged for new static exercise classes but all our regular hirers have indicated they are waiting until the New Year before making any decisions. In re-opening the Hall, we are now incurring expenses, not only our normal costs, but also expenses related to the Covid security to keep all Hall users safe. At the end of the year we will have to review the situation and make a decision as to whether it is viable to keep the Hall open.

**Stewart Gillespie-Smith**  
**Chair of Hall Committee**

## **8. FABRIC REPORT**

The church is in a reasonably good state with no major problems. We should have a quinquennial inspection this year but it has been put on hold for the moment. The building has adapted well to the regulations concerning Covid-19 i.e. masks, sprays, seating and social distancing to keep people safe. Thanks go to the volunteers who have supervised the church on Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays as having someone there has been very helpful and constructive.

The churchyard is still being well maintained with annual hedge cutting and regular grass cutting shared by volunteers and a firm at a cost of £4,525 – volunteers not charging.

I add my thanks to Olga's for the dedication and commitment shown by all those involved in the online services. These services have been and are a considerable asset to our community, reaching people who would not normally come to the building. Thanks also to the teams who clean the church, maintain the churchyard and generally help and contribute to keep this show on the road.

**Matt Allum**  
**Churchwarden**

## **9. ST MARY'S REVIEW**

The highlight for St Mary's this year was having enough children to act the Christmas story at our Family Carol service. This has been possible through the families gradually becoming part of our Family services having been attending Family Tea. Earlier in December we had been privileged to have Sam Jaisunder visit Everton on several occasions and then preach for us on the Sunday he was leaving. He played a special Christmas song for us which we have since used at a family service.

Our new cook at Friendship lunch, Elizabeth Kempe, has cooked some delicious meals for us and the new team in the kitchen enjoy working together.

In Summer 2019 we had two farewell teas, firstly for Sheila Hopkins at Family tea in July and then later in the month a tea for Dominic and Alyson. Many from St Mary's attend the farewell service in All Saints' on July 21<sup>st</sup>.

As we await the arrival of our new incumbent, we are most grateful to Barry Kent for taking two Communion services each month and for William Cummings celebrating at 8.00am. We are also grateful to Chris Knox who is preaching for us when he is not involved at Hordle. In the New Year of 2020 Ray Hubble is also going to be supporting us at St Mary's so we have been greatly blessed with extra help.

From the end of lockdown on July 5<sup>th</sup> there have been 18 in church which is the maximum. Everyone without access to the parish service had the weekly newsletter read to them over the phone with maybe a prayer, a bible reading and a hymn. This has continued for those who are not yet ready to return to church.

We had a wonderful Harvest Festival service for 50 people. We collected food for Basics Bank and were delighted to raise £1,020 for Send a Cow. This year our project for Send a Cow was "Tip-Taps" and in the afternoon the Family Tea families came in individual groups to enjoy some water activities.

The AGM of the DCC is due to be held on 17th October.

**Gillian Peard**

## **10. TREASURER'S REPORT**

2019 was an exceptional year, financially, for All Saints' as our unrestricted income exceeded our expenditure by a little over £20,000. There were 2 principal reasons for this. Firstly, we received 2 gift aided donations of £10,000 each, part of which was used to clear the balance of the cost of the new audio/visual system, with the balance going to general funds. As you can imagine we were extremely grateful for these very generous gifts. Secondly, we did of course benefit financially from only having to pay for our family worker for 7 months – you will recall that Sheila Hopkins moved away from the area with husband Dave at the end of July 2019, and she has not as yet been replaced.

Looking ahead, however, 2020 is proving to be a much more difficult year, principally due to Covid-19 which caused us to close the church back in March. This has meant that for some months we have had no income from collections or church hall lettings, and much reduced income from fees for funerals and weddings, While we have been able to make a number of cost savings they cannot replace the income we have lost. As I write we have, of course, re-opened the church on Sunday mornings and are hoping to re-start church hall lettings shortly, but it will clearly be quite a while before we return to any kind of 'normal'.

Through these difficult times you, our church family, have been quite wonderful in the way that you have kept up your regular giving and I send you my heartfelt thanks. Without your loving and faithful support I'm not sure where we would be – thank you so much!

These are not the easiest of times, and so there are often difficult decisions to make but, with God's help, and with the continuing prayerful and financial support of our church family, we will do our best to ensure that the vital work of ministry continues. Thank you so much, and we will continue to do our best to honour your trust as we move forward, in faith, in this very challenging year.

**Alan Chapple**  
**Treasurer**

# **SECTION B: Young People, Children, Families and Mothers Union**

## **11a. EVERTON TODDLERS**

Everton toddlers had continued to grow since September 2019, attracting several new families including 2 Dads who both attended regularly. Prior to lockdown we had around 20 families each week. Unfortunately, the majority of these are coming from outside the villages of Everton and Milford.

We have continued with the format used by Sheila as this had proven to be popular. Toys, such as a farm and dolls house are set up on tables. Slide, cubes, trikes etc. are also available. Liz Hines kindly gives her time each week and supplies some fantastic crafts for the children to make, this is always very popular. Jill Neill and Sue Evans do a great job in the kitchen preparing snack bowls for up to 25 children and making coffee for all the parents. After snack time the table toys are changed and either painting or playdoh replaces the craft.

We had introduced a Bible story during snack time, which was popular but since the numbers have grown it has proved impossible to carry on with this due to numbers, noise levels and seating arrangements.

## **11b. TWINKLERS**

The numbers at Milford started very low in September 2019 and although we attracted a few new members, we were still only attracting between 6 and 9 families each week prior to lockdown.

Each week we offer a mix of table and floor toys, along side either painting or playdoh. At snack time a story (mix of bible/general) is read which is always popular.

We have two regular room volunteers (Sue Hylands and Sue Evans) . Unfortunately, we have struggled with coffee volunteers mainly due to age restrictions and have covered this ourselves with success.

## **11c. BOTH GROUPS**

At both groups we finish each week with singing time, this is usually very loud, great fun and enjoyed by most of the children. This is followed by a prayer and goodbye song. Each week the adults are given a bible verse card, which I have been told by one is of great help to them.

We had a short service in both churches at the end of the Autumn and Christmas terms. I tried to make these child-friendly and different from each other. The Autumn one was based on the seed sowing parable and involved a box of props (earth, seeds etc.) the Christmas one was a colourful Nativity storybook with a pop-up nativity scene on the last page, which the children enjoyed looking at. We also had songs and a prayer at both services. After the Christmas services each child was given a small present.

**Carol Celesius**

**Toddler and Twinkler Co-ordinator**

## 12. FAMILY REPORT

These are the Things that Sheila was involved in 2019 before she left in July:

### Children's and Families' Things

- explore! (with Dominic, Rebecca, Joyce)
- geneSIS (with Kate)
- Friday Fun (with Phil) including 'Thy Kingdom Come' Prayeroplane Party
- Family Tea & Family Services (Everton)
- Easter Crafts
- Prayer Spaces in School (with Phil & Rebecca)
- Kite Workshop, part of 'Thy Kingdom Come' Prayer Novena (with Rebecca)

### Other Things not specifically families

- 2160 Prayer Room, part of 'Thy Kingdom Come' (with Rebecca and Phil)
- Quiet Afternoons
- Guided Prayer Walks, part of 'Thy Kingdom Come' (Sheila/Terry)
- Prayer Breakfast, part of 'Thy Kingdom Come'

### Teddy Bears Picnic

Children joining Milford School Reception Classes in September 2019 attended a Teddy Bears Picnic in the Church during the afternoon of the first Friday in September. The afternoon included Crafts, a story and games. All children (and their accompanying parent) enjoyed a picnic lunch. Sadly due to inclement weather all the activities, including lunch, had to take place indoors.

### Café

All Saints' Café has seen a number of changes to both its structure and intent since its inception. We are seeing increasing numbers of people pop into the church for a cuppa and a chat from 2.30pm. Some of these are visitors and some are from the local community. We would like to encourage members of the congregation to pop in too; we see it as a good way of encouraging fellowship with the wider community. We have a small core of families who feel part of the Café and appreciate the Crafts, Bible story and open-ended activities which we offer.

Since September we have welcomed a total of 11 different families (9 parents, 19 children) of whom 2 families come almost every week, with others popping in as after school activities permit. We thank our amazing team of volunteers and bakers.

**Rebecca and Carol**

**Leader            Lead Volunteer**

## 13. YOUTH

Over the past year there has been rather a lot of change. Even before Dominic and Sheila left, it was apparent that the majority of youth work was outreach both in the community but also at our games groups in the church, The Den and Ready/4/the/WKND. With this in mind I tried to run Bible groups at both All Saints' and St Mary's. Unfortunately these fell flat. We returned however to Bacon and the Bible and as only our Sunday youth attend it, we have focussed on materials that will give the youth strong foundations in their faith. We completed Origins, a course for teens by Prayer 24/7. Its blend of theory and practice have gone down very well.

### **13. YOUTH (Continued)**

This also affected a change in both The Den and Ready/4/the/WKND. We tried to introduce a God Slot or “faith thought” for each session about 2 years ago but at Ready/4/the/WKND at St Mary’s these fell flat. However not long after our last APCM I was shown a family coffee table Bible with brief overviews of Bible books and cartoons of the main themes and stories. I began using these with great success at The Den and we had many good faith and moral discussions each week. With Ready/4/the/WKND I introduced this at the end of Summer 2019 and this time it was accepted well. In short, at our outreach groups all our 11-18 year olds are hearing the gospel clearly and allowing it to shape their values.

At the Milford Community Centre’s Youth Group I find I do a lot of work chatting with ages 10-12 about life and school and the pressures they face. I even get given prayer requests from them. Moreover I have become a solid part of the team and the youth workers who come from Bournemouth will often ask about my faith and my views allowing me to share the gospel with them too.

When Sheila resigned it became quite apparent that there were certain ministries that I would need to take on. One of these was Friday Fun where I had been the second adult for Sheila. This is a group for 7-11 year olds. I recruited volunteers gifted in craft and have been using modern parables with the children which allows them to discuss life issues, morals, and most importantly, the idea that they can know Jesus. This takes up about half of the group time with the rest being committed to a run around game.

Perhaps the biggest change is my presence at Milford Primary School. This required first, that I leave the Christian Union at Priestlands Secondary School and at the start of this year I dropped Minecraft club at Milford Primary. I have not managed to fill Sheila’s shoes because the way Sheila engaged was using her gifts and abilities and committed for more time than I could to the Primary School. What I have done is take on Sheila’s prayer space which used to get 5 or 6 children and develop it around a weekly theme and activity such as that you would see in a prayer room. I get between 40-50 7-11 year olds on Tuesdays coming in their lunch break to pray for things like the fires in Australia, asking Jesus to help in their lives, encouraging each other and more. My favourite thing about this group is that there are a dozen children who (whether Christian or seeking) will have appropriate faith discussions with each other and me based on the activity.

Alongside this I support the Primary School at Forest and Beach School where again children will often have conversations about morals and life with me. One of the keys to this is letting them reflect on their own views and thoughts. It’s incredible how powerfully nature tells of God and how naturally aware many children seem to be without realising it. Perhaps the most exciting thing to me about being in Milford Primary is the two or three Dads I am connecting with who are either non-church attending Christians or lapsed believers. They volunteer with Forest and Beach School and their children come to the prayer space most weeks. I am able to build relationships and, when the opportunities present themselves, to share my faith in a relevant way. My aim is to try and get them together to meet for a coffee or pint and just chat about life until the opportunity to share Jesus or invite them to church arises.

**Philip McNinch**  
**All Saints’ Youth Minister**

## **14. FAMILIES, CHILDREN AND YOUTH IN LOCKDOWN**

Phil provided resources via the All Saint's website including

- daily studies for Youth (provided by different members of the church family)
- a weekly video with Bible reading, teaching, worship playlist and crafts/games/activities for youth and another for children's
- a list of activities, resources and links for families

He also kept the renamed All Sainly Families Facebook group updated, signposting folk to the resources on the website. I also posted signposts to useful resources, as I found them, for families, children and youth and continues to keep this updated.

Just before Phil left, I discovered the YFC Intro Outro YouTube and Instagram channel and have been, after taking advice from Phil, posting each new weekly video to the All Saints' Facebook page as well as to the Families group. Two additional videos from the Intro Outro library have additionally been posted to the Families group each week. I continue to try and post other useful resources to this group too.

With the closing of Twinklers and Everton Toddler Groups at the beginning of lockdown, I initiated a weekly Toddler Toy Library (launched Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> September) to enable some level of direct contact with younger village families. I have emailed and hand delivered invitation postcards to those Milford families for whom we had contact details and gathered a team of volunteers to help.

All Saints' Cafe also closed just before lockdown. We have no plans to reinstate Cafe until January at the earliest and am prayerfully considering whether it is right to restart at all or whether its season has passed.

**Rebecca Webb**  
**Volunteer**

## **15. FAMILIES AT ST MARY'S DURING LOCKDOWN**

Family Tea – each month the Family Tea families were sent a “pack” via e-mail which contained a Bible story, craft, a prayer and sometimes a link to a song. We had a few pictures sent in of the results of the craft especially at Easter with the Easter gardens made by the children at home.

Toddler Group – The group has been closed since March and is unlikely to open again at present.

Ready4/the/WKND – Has been closed throughout lockdown and the summer holidays. This meant Phil was unable to say goodbye to the young people. Discussions are taking place as to whether to reopen with necessary safety measures in place and probably fewer young people at any one time.

**Gillian Peard**

## **16. MOTHERS' UNION**

I am very happy to report that the “ad hoc” planning group is alive and well. We receive regular news from Mothers' Union groups around the world and our January meeting “Worldwide Wave of Prayer” was the perfect opportunity to share this news and to pray for the women of each country.

Our thanks to Phil for sharing his experience with the community at Taizé at our February 2019 meeting. Then in March 2019 we welcomed Brenda Green from the charity "Hope Now" who told us about the work going on in the Ukraine. It was very moving to see how much the older women appreciated the love and friendship shown to them. Our Deanery representative, Gill Coombes also spoke and was very encouraging. Also in March we went to a lovely "Lady Day" service, hosted by the Brockenhurst group at St Nicholas' Church.

## 16. MOTHERS' UNION (Continued)

Sheila Hopkins came to lead our Lent Reflection in April 2019 and we thank her for leading a time of meditation, sharing her poetry, and for giving us some of her collected poems.

In May 2019 we had our fundraiser... "A Big Book Sale" and coffee morning this year. Thank you all for your support as £262.65 was raised to help continue the work of "Away from it All" holidays for families who would not otherwise have a break.

Gillian was our speaker in June. Thank you, Gillian, for the way you communicated the MU theme of the year "Listen, Observe, Act - in step with God", through Bible verses, prayer, quiet moments, music, hymns and pictures. Also in June, a group of us drove to Romsey Abbey to the MU Festival.

July 17th was our Annual Communion Service in All Saints', conducted by Dominic ( just before he and Alyson moved to Salisbury). His message was from Jesus' words "Keep company with me and you'll learn to live freely and lightly." Thank you, Dominic! Hythe and Brockenhurst group joined us, also people from Milford Baptist Church.

We do not usually have a meeting in August but, as not everyone was on holiday, we had a coffee morning at St Mary's, proceeds to "Away from it All" holidays. In October 2019, Abbie Barry came to speak about the work of "Christians against Poverty" based at Lymington Baptist Church where she is a life skills coach. So many lives have been turned around through their work and watchword "Always Hope!".

Then in November 2019 Geoffrey Birch gave us an interesting insight into the role of a Barrister...not to be confused with 'Barista' as he pointed out! 2019 ended with a trip to Hythe to join the MU there in a lovely Carol Service led by their vicar with the theme "Christmas Surprises."

Since our February 2020 meeting when Pat Brooks spoke to us on "The joys of being Head of a Primary School", we have not been able to have our usual monthly meetings, but we have been phoning each other regularly. It has been good to hear how families, friends and neighbours have rallied round.

From Gill Coombs (Lyndhurst Deanery MU), we have received monthly services by email "Coming together in prayer and worship". Gill gathered members' contributions and wove them into short services. This helped us to remember each other in prayer.

We met as a committee via Zoom on 9 July 2020, agreeing to continue keeping in touch with all our members by phone and email until we can safely meet in the Church Hall. We want to thank everyone for doing this and we look forward to being together again.

Our thanks to all, especially to Gillian for guiding us through this year. A warm welcome awaits anyone who would like to come and join us.

**Val Butterworth**

# SECTION C: Our Worshipping Life Together

## 17. BELL TOWER REPORT

Sunday service ringing has been very well supported throughout the year. We are lucky in that 2 very good ringers have a holiday flat on the clifftop and are often with us to ring at the weekends, and with our own band improving all the time, it is not unusual for us to ring Surprise major on a Sunday.

Practice nights also see good numbers which means we are able to help the less experienced at whatever stage they are, both from Milford and visitors from other towers too. Sallie and Andy help run training days around the Guild and so we all benefit from their expertise.

The regular last Wednesday quarter peals are usually successful and stretch the most experienced among us, but the ringing highlight in 2019 was a peal rung for the Cornwallis Bicentennial celebrations, with an invited band to make sure of success.

We are always keen to welcome new members, so if you are looking for a new hobby that will benefit the church as well as giving you friendship, exercise, mental stimulation and a lot of fun whether young or old please join us.

Apart from the clock chiming and the rings on Thursday evenings for the NHS, there has been next to no sound from the tower since the onset of the Covid lockdown. The last ringing was on the sad occasion of the thanksgiving service for Betty Forrester who had learnt to ring as a girl and on her retirement to Milford was able to take up the hobby again and continued as a loyal ringer and also Tower Secretary until she was unable to stand for long.

The planned peal for the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of VE day never happened but by VJ Day, we were able to ring six "socially distanced" bells for 15 minutes.

Once services resume in church, we will be making a noise again, but who knows when it will be all eight bells calling people to worship again.

**Maggie Cobb**

**Tower Captain**

## 18. FLOWER GUILD

Another year has flown by and we have managed to continue adorning the church with flowers every week. Thanks to all our ladies on the team who give their time and money. Our lovely team have helped produce extra special displays at Christmas, Easter and Harvest.

Due to Covid-19 and the church having to close, we were no longer able to do arrangements. We had hoped to do wedding flowers in September but this has been cancelled. We look forward to resuming when conditions permit.

We desperately need to have a few extra ladies or gentlemen to help us, please. Thank you for your support.

**Andrea Fitzgibbon**

**Flower Guild**

## 19. HOME GROUPS

Home Groups this year have taken on a new look. At the time of the last APCM, we were meeting together as always for Bible Study and fellowship when dramatically in March 2020 all that stopped. It was important to somehow keep the Church family together and informed. It was therefore decided to use the home groups, their members and their contacts to keep people in touch with each other by telephone or emails. This not only included the regular church members but all those on the data base. The HG leaders and members rose to the challenge and it has been an amazing bringing together of people. Much more successful than we could imagine. There were some who didn't want to be contacted but by far the most were so pleased to have someone ring up to check how they were coping with the Covid disaster. It has been an impressive exercise.

It will be interesting to see how home groups develop in the future. Some have Zoomed, some have met up socially, others have not met. However, it seems that members have kept in touch with each other and supported one another in various ways. Generally, the reports back suggest that the HGs have played a vital part during this epidemic in simply caring and keeping in touch with each other. The pastoral side of HGs has come to the fore. Our faith has been expressed by works with faith .. not just words.

At the time of writing, it is difficult to see how our church life will develop. It will be different but what will remain the same, is the love between God's people for each other and for others in the neighbourhood. We've all learnt big lessons.

*All the believers devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching, and to fellowship, and to sharing in meals (including the Lord's supper), and to prayer. Acts 2 vs. 42 NLT*

Monday 7.30 pm Sea Road	Gretta Purgavie
Monday 7.30 pm Hurst Road	Terry/Ruth Bufton and Stewart/Libby Gillespie Smith
Monday 8 pm Park Court	Peter Tatlow/James Soper
Tuesday 10.30 am The Orchard	Douglas Marcuse
Tuesday 8 pm George Road	Colin Fry/Gill Murray-Walker
Thursday 10.15 am Firmount Close	Michael/Priscilla Johnson
Thursday 10.15 am Frys Lane	Jenny Lawford
Thursday 7.30 pm Victoria Road	Eddie Donaldson (Iron Sharpens Iron)
Friday 9.45 am Barnes Lane	Kate Pinnell

**Olga Soper**  
Home Group Co-ordinator

## 20. PARISH PASTORAL CARE

Pastoral care is there for anyone in need: if you are ill, in hospital or in a care home. If you need someone to listen to you when life is difficult, we will arrange to visit you to offer support and a listening ear for whatever is troubling you. We can pray with you, help you through these difficult times, until you tell us "I am alright now". Anything you tell is surrounded by confidentiality.

Our team meets about 6 times a year, to support each other, to be guided through safeguarding policies and to pray together. We have been called on more often than usual during lockdown and it has been a pleasure to help out. We are pleased to know that our Church Family has also been helped through Home Groups and personal contacts, and it is good to know that we have a caring congregation.

**Carol Tyler**  
Pastoral Care Team Leader

## 21. PRAYER MINISTRY

Praying for wholeness and healing: *"Praise the Lord, O my soul; all my inmost being, praise His holy name. And forget not all His benefits, who forgives your all your sins and heals your diseases, who redeems your life from the pit and crowns you with love and compassion."* **Psalm 103**

Our ministry is to pray in twos alongside those who come up after a morning or an evening Communion service, for those on the prayer chain (an urgent situation) and for those on the more permanent Healing Prayer List. In addition, there is the Prayer Request Box below the "Prayer Matters" board in All Saints, who are prayed for on a Tuesday morning by the staff. A recent addition is a Prayer Request Book on the Memorial Chapel Table in which names can be written, with permission, and prayed during the Intercessions in a morning service.

Last year we took part in a Reflective Service for Healing on the evening of 27<sup>th</sup> October and found the Taize chants with prayers for healing inspirational. Three pairs from the Prayer Team offered ministry for those who came up to the Communion Rails. It was much appreciated by those who came and we thank Florence for preparing the service on Easy Worship with the chants and images on the screen. We look forward to having more opportunities to explore the subject of healing for ourselves and for the church as a whole.

Since lockdown in March the Prayer Chain has been quite busy at times with requests concerning emergency visits to A&E, operations and bereavement. We keep in touch by telephone or e-mail at present. Each of us prays for the people on the Healing Prayer List which at present numbers at least 64 names which includes a single person, a couple or family.

My name and phone number and Mary Sergel's are on the weekly newsletters. We are willing to pray for anyone in need.

**Libby Gillespie-Smith**

**Prayer Ministry Team Leader**

## 22. MUSIC IN WORSHIP REPORT

Prior to lockdown, worship continued to develop with the working together of the Choir and Worship Band as we meet whenever possible on a Sunday morning before the 10am service to practise together. Also Band members have attended choir practices on a Friday night, especially before A-Live services. As in previous years, we would like to encourage anyone who likes to sing or who plays an instrument to come and join us.

I would like to say a huge thank you to all the local organists who have stepped in and helped us since the beginning of June 2018. Their continued support and expertise have helped us in our attempts to maintain our standard of worship in our regular services and also to celebrate special services during Easter, Advent and Christmas.

In late 2019 the PCC kindly agreed to employ an organist to play for choir practices and Leigh Jerwood joined us at the beginning of February 2020. Her talent and willingness to help has made a considerable difference, especially in raising choir morale.

We continue to pray that within the next year the right person will come to join us as Musical Director: someone who will bring out the best of both the traditional and the contemporary in our worship and who will work closely with the Choir and Worship Band.

**Valerie Kidd**

**Choir Leader**

## **SECTION D – THE COMMUNITY AND THE WIDER WORLD**

### **23. PARISH WEBSITE REPORT**

The current website has been on-line now since 2015 and prior to Covid-19 was regularly visited by some 50 'hits' a week for a variety of reasons. The number of visits rose dramatically in March 2020 and now averages over 250 per week, partly due to our weekly recorded video services, linked to the Milford All Saints YouTube channel, as well as links to other online facilities from the Diocese and wider sources. Because many of these are likely to be first-time visitors and may be interested in either coming to the church for occasional services or for the longer term, we do try to make the site as attractive and informative as possible. In addition to more long term information, we regularly update features of the site. These include the weekly Newsletter and the sermons recorded at the All Saints' 10am morning service, as well as special events taking place within the churches. Since lockdown we have also added a page of Village News, featuring the Good News Letter and adverts for the major food suppliers in the village. Since August 2020 the latest version of the monthly Parish Magazine has also been made available on the site.

We try to regularly update photos of church events and activities. We are always grateful for good quality photos of such events, provided of course that they comply with GDPR.

The site provides a source of official policy documents, such as Health and Safety, Safeguarding, Data Protection and forms such as the Electoral Roll Application Form. It also has links to the School and other Village websites, to the Diocese, to Alpha and the websites of some of the missions we support. While the Diocese is responsible for advertising the incumbent vacancy, there is currently a link to the Diocese Vacancies page from our Home page.

While we lost 3 of our most valuable assistants in the maintenance of the website with Alyson and Sheila moving in July 2019 and Phil in July 2020, I am most grateful that Rebecca has joined me in keeping many features up to date, particularly on the youth and family pages, as well as members of St Mary's fellowship who tell me when their regular events change.

It is your website, so I should be most grateful if you would make sure that posters of events which you are arranging are sent to Rebecca or myself in good time to appear on the site, as well as letting us know of any errors or omissions that may appear.

**Colin Fry**

### **24. CHRISTINGLE 2019**

Preparations for 2019 Christingle began back in September 2019 as publicity and musicians were organised, and resources ordered.

Christingle Workshops took place in the school on the preceding Friday afternoon. I led a Christingle reflection with each of the Y3/4 classes in turn which culminated in the production of approximately 90 Christingles. Thanks must be given to Milford Co-op who kindly donated all the oranges as well and to the team of volunteers who helped in the school: Imogen, Joyce, Kate, Mel, Phil, Rachel and Valerie.

Numbers were down on the previous year to 173, of which only 59 were children, continuing a downward trend since peaking at 324 (121 children) in 2012. Representatives attended from village Scouting and Girlguiding groups as well as All Saintly Youth. The reading was given by a pupil from the school, All Saintly Youth read prayers and the collection was gathered by Brownies, Cubs, Scouts and Guides. Music was provided by All Saints' band who were joined by Pippa Judson on the piano and

## **24. CHRISTINGLE 2019 (Continued)**

Sheila very kindly returned to speak. The school choir led the congregation in singing 'The Gift', a modern Carol, before the Christingles were distributed and a prayer said while the church was lit by the light of the Christingles. The service ended with refreshments from the servery, kindly prepared and served by the Pinnell family. £585.86 was raised for the Children's Society. All those who helped are thanked for the parts they played.

**Rebecca Webb**

**Volunteer**

## **25. CHRISTIANS TOGETHER IN MILFORD AND EVERTON**

As usual, representatives from the 5 churches in the Parish regularly met to plan events for the year. 2019 saw ecumenical events such as the 2019 Good Friday Service on the Green where Dominic Furness and David Helston shared the preaching and leading and the worship band comprised musicians and singers from All Saints' and Milford Baptist Church

Between 13<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> May 2019, for the week of prayer for Christian unity, which we renamed as Christians Together Week of Prayer, each of the four churches planned and delivered services in their own churches, ie St Francis RC, Milford Methodist, Milford Baptist and All Saints' on the theme of Justice.

Ecumenical Services in the Community Centre took place on the fifth Sundays of the month. The theme of the September 2019 service was Prayer and prayer requests as part of the National Prayer Weekend were laid out on tables and prayed for by members of the congregation.

The Autumn Bible Studies for Christians Together were held in the Methodist Church led by Martin Keenan and in St Mary's led by Gillian Peard. Based on the film Victoria and Abdul, themes such as loneliness and racism were discussed and related to our Christian faith. Pop in Coffee morning continued to be led by members of different churches and this year David Helston spoke at the Christmas Carols on the Green.

In March 2020 it was the turn of Milford Methodist Church to host the service for the World Day of Prayer. The content was provided by the Christians in Zimbabwe and the ecumenical group led us in a very moving service with the theme, "Rise, take up your mat and walk".

**Libby Gillespie-Smith**

## **26. MENMEET**

Menmeet had another interesting year in 2019, with a wide range of speakers, a good mix of events, and normally some new faces. We have walked, played skittles, and visited a delightful large private garden. We have regular Breakfast meetings at the "Beach House", where we also hold our regular winter meetings. Last summer we also had a meal at the now community run "Wheel Inn" in Pennington, after an evening walk up to and around the nearby bronze age fortress at Buckland Rings.

"Menmeet Plus" is an informal Bi-monthly meeting exploring questions of the Christian faith, normally introduced by a member of one of our local churches. We have a well-produced programme covering all our meetings and activities, copies of which are available in the local churches.

Menmeet has not had any normal regular meetings since lockdown, but we are now planning a limited programme that will commence when circumstances allow. This will, of course, take account of all the necessary formal health and safety procedures. Details will be given in the church weekly notices and e-mailed to members as before when we are ready.

**Mike Warren.**

## 27. LIGHT PARTY 2019

All Saints' offered a wonderful alternative to the darkness and sinister undertones of Halloween this year. On the afternoon of 31 October 2019 nine children (some dressed as super heroes) and their families were welcomed to the Church Hall for an afternoon of fun and food. Having registered and decorated their now empty party bags the children were free to explore a variety of crafts, games and challenges; making badges and lanterns, searching the sticky goo for stars and eating donuts suspended from string – not easy when you're only little. Before watching a short film we even enjoyed balloon races and pass the parcel in the Committee Room.

On our return to the main hall we discovered that the crafts had all been cleared away and a long table laid for supper where we were treated to a choice of three suppers, catering for all tastes followed by tasty cake for dessert. It was lovely to sit down altogether, families and volunteers alike, to chat as we ate – and miraculously the party bags had been filled with goodies to take home and enjoy too!

It was such a positive celebration with the hall being filled with twinkly lights and balloons with lights alongside the message that even if we go through the deepest darkness that we do not need to be afraid because Jesus is always with us.

The financial contributions received exceeded the costs and we have many crafts left over for when we repeat the event. Our learnings from 2019 are that the advertising needs to be more descriptive about what the evening will entail and we need to promote the event more in the weeks leading up to it. The food (although successful) could be a simpler choice of sausages (meat & veggie option), bread roll, jacket potatoes with cheese and baked beans. It would be also great to light up outside more to encourage folk in.

**Kate Pinnell**

**Volunteer**

## 28. PARISH MAGAZINE

The editors continue to ensure that the best possible magazine is produced each month. We are grateful to our regular and occasional contributors without which there would be no magazine. We would love to hear from anyone who feels they have something to share.

With the retirement of Bob Cockburn at our AGM in September 2019, two of the editors volunteered to take his place; Jackie Parker as treasurer and Gail Bown responsible for advertising. Peter Tatlow also retired as editor at the end of 2019. Grateful thanks are due to them for their past and present support of the magazine. However, with Gail reducing her time as editor, we now have only three regular editors so we would appeal to anyone interested in joining the editorial team to contact us to find out more about this interesting and rewarding work.

Lymington Printers made a small price increase so the price of the magazine for 2020 rose to £1 and the annual subscription to £10. We also reduced the number printed each month from 550 to 500.

Mark and his staff at Village News efficiently organise the distribution of the magazines each month, a very beneficial arrangement. Our many distributors continue to deliver the magazines around Milford and Everton. Thank you to **everyone** involved in the production of our magazine but also to everyone who purchases it. Please pray for the outreach it provides.

With the support of our many distributors and helpers we have survived the many challenges caused by Covid-19. Following C of E guidelines, the magazines could not initially be pushed through letterboxes so collection points have been set up around Milford and Everton to help both subscribers

## **28. PARISH MAGAZINE (Continued)**

and distributors. Having missed the May edition because of the guidelines, a joint May/June edition was published plus, for the first time, an August magazine, thanks to our willing contributors, so fulfilling our obligation to both subscribers and advertisers for eleven editions in the year. The magazine has also been made available on the church website.

The need for more editors has become even more vital as Colin Fry is now heavily involved with the weekly online service leaving only Jackie and myself to edit each month. So you are NEEDED!

**Valerie Kidd**

**Magazine Editor**

## **29. ALL SAINTS' MISSION REPORT 2019/20**

Our small team of Sue Forward, Mary Sergel and myself, were delighted when Jill Neill asked if she could join us to represent Mission Aviation Fellowship. One of the pleasures of being on the Team is to welcome the "workers in the field" from the six Missions we regularly support, ie. Hope Now in Ukraine, Word for Life in India, Lawrence Barham Trust in Rwanda, the Bible Society, Mission Aviation Fellowship and The Friends of Namawongu (formerly Ray of hope) to hear about their work and lives being changed.

In August 2019 Stephen, Diki Hawkins and their children from Word for Life Trust came to tell us about their new home in Wells, Somerset, having left the Indian team to continue the mission in CCPur with their oversight daily via the internet. Stephen gave an inspiring talk and was able to update us on the recent projects and his parents, founders of WFLT, came to a service in November and told us more about the plans for the mission in Wells.

Hope Now brought the talented Zozulenka singers and dancers to All Saints' for a joy-filled concert in October 2019 and gave us an illustrated update on the mission projects in Ukraine.

Sam Jaisunder from Scripture Union India, came to visit the Parish in November 2019 for about 2 weeks and gave an excellent sermon in All Saints' followed by a Tea and talk in the church hall.

Sandra Tebbutt from the Bible Society inspired us with her sermon at the 10am service in All Saints' in December and the future BS projects and in January Trevor Gaught gave a Talk on New Forest Basics Bank. Finally, in February the Brearleys gave us an update on the Namawongu School project in a Tea and Talk in the Church Hall. A good year for mission events!

The Mission Team has the responsibility of allocating the money from the church's tithed income to the six chosen missions to which we are committed on a yearly basis. Out of the £17,500 we sent £2,400 to each of the 6 missions (named previously) The remaining £3,100 was sent to the following: Deanery Lent Appeal £1,000, Deanery Homeless Project £200, New Forest Basics Bank £500, SU India £800 and Compassion £600.

Finally, we are always asked to decide to which Christian charities we can give from the Harvest and Christmas services collections. After Harvest 2019 we gave £236 each to Basics Bank and Tearfund, Yemen and after Christmas £972 each to Barnabas Fund and Faithworks, a Bournemouth homeless charity.

Undergirding these missions and charities is prayer, whether in intercessions on a Sunday morning, in private prayer (use the prayer diaries and newsletters by the Mission Board) or at Mission Team meetings, it is much valued by those on the front line.

## **29. ALL SAINTS' MISSION REPORT 2019/20 (Continued)**

Through the summer of 2020 we have received newsletters and reports from our six Mission partners. As the Lawrence Barham Trust has closed down we will continue to support the Cyangugu Diocese in Rwanda as part of the Lyndhurst Deanery's commitment to that Anglican Diocese.

In June 2020 we sent £1,000 to each of our 6 Missions from All Saints' for which we have received thank you letters.

If you have a heart for the needy and those in need of a Saviour why not take more information from the Mission resources and consider joining the Team?

**Libby Gillespie-Smith**

## **30. NEWCOMERS' SUPPER 2019 AND 2020**

The Newcomers supper was held in October 2019. As usual we held an exhibition in the afternoon for the village and in the evening for newcomers where they were welcomed, given a bag of village information and had time to look round the exhibition before coming over to the Church Hall for supper, chat and entertainment. We served about 125 people with the main course being made by All Saints' Church members, salads made by the Methodist volunteers, the potatoes prepared and served by the Baptist church volunteers and the desserts made and served by members of the RC church. The fabulous entertainment was by 'Straight Banana', a group of singers. I had many lovely cards of thanks for everyone's hard work in organising and preparing such an event. I took the opportunity to ask exhibitors what changes we should make should the new housing estate increase our numbers dramatically. However, I have been reassured that the estate will not be in full use before 2021, so we have another year to plan for the future of this event.

Because of Covid we have cancelled the supper for 2020. However, I have used David Long's web site to ask for information from the Clubs, Associations and businesses in the village to make up the Goodie bags for this year's Newcomers and anyone coming into the village in the next few months. These I shall arrange to be delivered to the Newcomers by the end of October. Please can I ask you to ask any clubs you are members of to supply 50 fliers to be brought to my house by October 15<sup>th</sup>.

I also advertised to the general public for help to organise the Newcomers' Welcome event for next year as I have not had any response from church people to help organise this event in future. I have had some suggestions as to what we could do in future years rather than do a supper in the church and church hall. If I can get a nucleus of helpers to form a committee to organise future events we will discuss these suggestions and decide how the event to Welcome Newcomers into the village can proceed in future years. I live in hope!!

May I ask for anyone willing to help with the organisation for next year to contact me as soon as possible. This event is unique to Milford-on-Sea and as such invites members of the public to see our church, find activities to do in the village and to perpetuate the special community spirit that Milford is so well known for.

**Ruth Bufton**

## **31. NEW FOREST BASICS BANK**

Basics Bank continues to run as a registered charity providing food and other essentials to families and individuals referred by social work agencies. Clients are identified by referral partners who signpost them to the food bank with a token. Cash donations from All Saints' have been £736, half from the 2019 Harvest collection plus £500, contributing towards these purchases. Thank you to the committed people who continue to donate items which are placed in the box provided in All Saint's Church and, since lockdown, in Hollands. These are delivered, weekly, to the rear of the United Reform Church in Lymington. A huge thank you to Jill Neill, Pat and John Brooks, and Val Butterworth for their ongoing commitment.

The goods are then sorted by volunteers, supplemented with fresh items purchased locally and made up into parcels of sizes designed to feed individuals or families for up to a week at a time. These are either collected or delivered by volunteers. We do need more volunteers for delivering to clients, mainly in Lymington and New Milton. The parcels are temporary stop gaps and occasionally grants of small amounts of money are given to people to feed their utility meters.

A recipe book is now included in the food parcels to show how simple meals can be produced using the contents of the food parcels, in particular where tins are used. This book was in collaboration with Alison Talbot (CEO at CAB), food writer Ester Davis and Basics volunteer Trina Hart. Funding was from the Joseph Rowntree Trust and the Good Things Foundation and the Community Challenge Prize was awarded to the team and presented at a function hosted in the House of Lords. New Forest West MP Desmond Swayne was present at the reception to champion the team's achievements. The book is called "Tin to Table."

Waitrose is a great support to Basics Bank and two members of staff from the Lymington branch spent 2 hours at the cabin to experience the workings of Basics Bank, from shelf stacking to filling the parcels.

New Forest Basics Bank was granted planning permission by NFDC to build a new modular building on the land at the rear of the car park of Our Lady and St Joseph's Roman Catholic Church. In 2018 Lymington and Pennington Local Authorities offered £50,000 in matched funding. This was achieved and the new building opened just before lockdown. It is nine times the size of the previous cabin and facilitated safe working during Covid which would not have been possible in the old cabin.

Demand peaked at a 600% increase but has now flattened to 200% of levels prior to Covid. A collection box for food items was put into place at Hollands, collected twice or sometimes three times a week and food was donated from government food boxes from those who were shielding. A relationship with Fair Share has been initiated so fresh fruit and vegetables are donated, along with a huge quantity of dried foods from supermarkets.

Basics Bank has been operating 5 days a week, volunteers have increased and a mobile app has been set up for volunteers to sign up on. Referral agencies such as Job centres, social services and doctors can now do this remotely. There has also been an increase in self referrals. The Council have provided transport for deliveries and people on Job Seekers Allowance (JSA) can now apply for voluntary work at Basics Bank.

**Sue Forward**  
**Volunteer**

## **32. THE CROSSINGS**

This is an extension of the Waterside project "The Crossings" Charity no.1175115 which we have extended into New Milton. After 3 months of operating the drop-in at The Nedderman Centre, New Milton it was decided that alternative premises needed to be found. Food continues to be collected from Greggs, New Milton and distributed to young people at the skate park, the adjacent Youth Club and the Youth Club run by New Life Church. £200 was given from All Saint's Church.

The Waterside project runs 2 mornings a week at St. John's Church, Hythe and is directed by Andy Clarke, project leader. Much work has been going on to further links with the New Forest District Council (NFDC) and regular forums are attended at Lyndhurst. It has been highlighted that as well as practical issues of clothing, hot meals etc. a service is needed to support people with housing, job issues and negotiating the welfare system. The Administrator of the United Reform Church, Lymington has been approached as to the possibility of using the cabin no longer needed by Basics Bank. An appointment is being set up to meet with the Job Centre Coach in Lymington.

During lockdown Andy Clarke, project manager, was furloughed. During that time it became evident that it would not be possible to continue to use the room at the back of St. John's church due to the inability to socially distance. Arrangements have now been made to use St John's Church Hall on a Saturday from 10am – 1pm. Volunteers have been asked for their availability. The Crossings must agree to Covid-19 operating constraints. This will be advertised and the NFDC will inform any existing Homeless coming out of hotels. Various funding is being pursued. A meeting took place via Skype on 7<sup>th</sup> September when 3 names and locations were given for follow up in the Lymington area. A meeting has not been held for the New Forest since before lockdown. It is necessary that we have new members for this group in order to move forward.

**Sue Forward**

## **33. STREET PASTORS**

Street Pastors have been in operation for 6 years and ongoing refresher training courses take place regularly. Street Pastors meet with people on the streets and those who are rough sleeping. Conversation and practical support is offered in a way that is fitting at that time. Sometimes community services are contacted as a follow up if necessary.

Just before lockdown it was decided to promote what Street Pastors (SPs) do by talking in the local churches. As a result we now have 1 new Prayer Pastor and two potential SPs. Bill and Agnes Maxwell have decided to stand down after many years of faithful service. SPs had just got underway again in March and then lockdown came about. Since then there have been no SPs out on the streets.

The AGM took place on 10<sup>th</sup> September. A new risk assessment is being drawn up. Due to lockdown patrols have been reduced to six and half months, but totalling over 330 hours. SPs have spoken to at least 500 people, just under 200 being under 16. This is an increase of 37% in contacts. Time has been given to rough sleepers, providing hot drinks, blankets and food etc Over 40 bottles have been picked up, broken glass swept up and rubbish cleared. There has been an increase in drug paraphernalia. .

New publicity flyers have been produced and displayed and a major recruitment programme is taking place each month in churches to get more Street and Prayer Pastors. The Chandlers Ford group has had to close due to lack of volunteers. Two Street Pastors attended the rally in Trafalgar Square against violence and knife crime. Night Stop has closed due to lack of funding.

**Sue Forward**

## SECTION E - Deanery Synod Report

### 34. MINISTRY AND MISSION

Waterside parishes have raised the opportunity to consider how they might work together more effectively as Parishes to deliver Mission and Ministry, by sharing resources and best practice. A church plant from St Mary's Southampton to St. Winifreds in Totton and a 1,500 major housing development in Fawley and Totton represent wonderful opportunities for Mission, hence the formation of The Totton and Waterside Deanery Working Group. TWDWG was formed to deal with all forthcoming changes in the area. Rev'd Jo Eldridge, Area Dean and Vicar of Hythe, is the Chairperson.

Following a Deanery Vision day, Waterside Parishes gathered to consider :-

- What are we here for,
- How can we be effective to deliver mission and ministry
- The PCC's submitted areas as to where they needed help and other areas where they had special expertise to share .

The Working Group collated and discussed all the suggestions and identified 3 areas which could offer greatest benefit to the Churches: Social Media and Communications, Resources Bank and Training.

Rev Barry Kent reported on the church Tent at the New Forest Show. About 2,000 folk visited the tent. Barry gave a 'Thought for Today' over the tannoy each morning. He also gave notice that he intends to retire at the end of the 2020 Show (100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the show itself). Prayers please for a worthy successor. Barry gave his thanks to everyone who had supported this venture over the years.

### 35. DEANERY MEETING ON 10 MARCH 2020

**Andy Saunders:** Children and Family Ministry Trainer and Consultant gave his presentation on Lighthouse Ministries. Andy worked within the Diocese and still has links. The website to follow is [www.lighthouseministries.co.uk](http://www.lighthouseministries.co.uk). Andy charges Deaneries £333.33p per term i.e. £1,000.00 per year. Any parish which buys him –half the fee is paid back by the Diocese.

**Andy Clarke:** Project Leader for "The Crossings" gave his presentation. This is the homeless ministry for the Waterside which has extended into the New Forest, led by Sue Forward (All Saints' Milford-on-Sea.) The community room is open in St. John's Church, Hythe on Wednesday and Saturday mornings as a drop-in. A similar premise is being sought in the New Forest and in the meantime food is delivered every Friday evening to those on the street or attending the 2 youth clubs in New Milton.

**Area Dean's items:** a suggestion to have alarms fitted if church has a metal roof. Safeguarding officer needs a separate e-mail account.

**Dmap:** Rev'd Jane Mitchell of Sway is dealing with ministry to Secondary Schools. Priestlands School, Lymington had been very receptive and it was suggested the church could help by providing parenting courses. She is building relationships and finding out what is already developing in schools. The dMAP is an organic document so can develop over time. She asked for all parishes to pray for the dMAP

**Ruth Liley:** reported that there will be co-ordination across the Deanery of Alpha and other courses. She asked parishes to let her know if they are doing Alpha and a point of contact.

## **35. DEANERY MEETING ON 10 MARCH 2020 (Continued)**

**Martin Taylor, Treasurer:** - was standing down after 35 years due to ill health. 2018 and 2019 accounts are not available but a new Treasurer, David Telling, was appointed.

**Committee reports:** A trip to Rwanda had been made in February. A presentation was given at St. Luke's Church, Sway on 13<sup>th</sup> March.

**Barry Kent:** is retiring from the Church Tent Committee at the New Forest Show and Rev'd David Potterton (Lyndhurst) is to be the new chair person. A larger tent is to be provided and 180 volunteers are needed

**Any other business** – it was decided that a small group would meet to devise what was wanted re Lighthouse Ministries. Parishes could give feed back as to their need.  
Next meetings Sway in June and Lyndhurst in October.

The Deanery Synod met once on Zoom during lockdown but it was the same night as our own PCC so none of our members were present. Much of the time was spent hearing how each Parish was managing during lockdown.

**Gillian Peard and Joyce Rhoden**  
**Deanery Representatives**