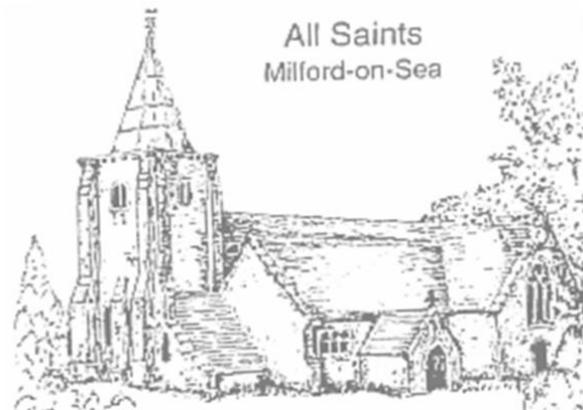


All Saints' Milford & St Mary's Everton

To know Jesus better and make Jesus better known



**Annual Reports for
the year ended 31 May 2021 and
Financial Statements for
the year ended 31 December 2020
of the
Parochial Church Council and
District Church Council**

Incumbent:

Revd Tasha Anderson

Bank:

HSBC, High Street, Lymington

Independent Examiner:

Hope Jones, Chartered Accountants,

Church Office:

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

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 Natasha Anderson (since 12th April 2021)
 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 Myra Campbell
 Mrs Katie Durrant
 Elected Members: Dr David Badham
 Miss Val Chalk
 Mr Bill Darley (vice chair)
 Mrs Sue Forward
 Mrs Libby Gillespie-Smith
 Mrs Val Hanson
 Mrs Kate Pinnell
 Mr Stephen Holt

Mr John Miller
 Mrs Jill Neill
 Mr Adam Smith
 Mrs Annabel Taylor
 Mrs Margaret Warren
 Co-opted Members: Mr Alan Chapple
 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 19th 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 Natasha Anderson (since 12th April 2021)
 Licensed Lay Minister: Miss Gillian Peard
 Churchwarden and acting Chairman: Mrs Myra Campbell
 Treasurer: Mr Chris Knox
 Elected Members: Mrs Di Fisher
 Mrs. Jenny Lawford
 Mrs. Marlene Avery
 Mrs. Linda Bettle
 Mrs Patricia Ellis
 Mr Andrew Ellis
 Mr Michael Easter
 Hall Manager: Mrs Vera Peters
 Vice-chairman of PCC: Mr Bill Darley

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1. PCC SUB-COMMITTEES

The DCC is responsible for St Mary's. It held 4 meetings between October 2020 and May 2021. Since May 2020, the DCC have met on Zoom. The Annual General Meeting of the District Church Committee was held on Saturday 17th 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 Support 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:

From October to December All Saints' had one service at 10am to which between 20 and 30 people came. This was the on-line service which had average viewing figures of 78. From January to Tasha's arrival in April the church was not open. Average viewings per week were 100. From April 18th the church was open and the maximum number allowed to conform with covid restrictions was initially 40 (booking only) but is now 57. Around 25 people were watching the live streaming with viewings later in the week averaging 120.

St Mary's Church Attendance:

During October we were able to have 18 in Church for Morning Worship at 10.0am.

In November we were in lockdown but on 5th Sunday we had our first Zoom service.

In December we were open again for 18 people at 10 am and at Christmas we had one service on Christmas Eve morning and two on Christmas Day, so many people were able to attend.

When lockdown began in January we started regular Zoom services at 10 am and these increased in number from 15 to 28.

On Easter Sunday we had a service which was relayed into the hall and nearly 40 people were able to attend by using both venues.

From April 18th we have had Zoom services at 10 am and Church services at 3 pm . Zoom numbers are now around 20 and Church services usually at capacity with 18.

As from June, on 1st and 3rd Sundays there will be a Zoom service at 10 am and Communion at 3pm. On 2nd and 4th Sundays the service will be outside at 10 am (weather permitting or limited numbers in Church.)

3. VICAR'S REPORT

Whilst the number of weeks I can contribute to in this report may be few, they have none the less held great significance for me personally and I hope us as a Church.

My licensing Service on the 12th April, although different, was welcoming and inclusive, which I believe is a picture of the Church communities here. The abundance of gifts, cards and vouchers I received during my early weeks were a beautiful demonstration of 'God's love in action' in this place.

In usual times, I would have hoped to slowly settle in, taking time to listen, look and learn and the Vicarage Garden Meet Ups have provided a wonderful opportunity for this. However, as Coronavirus

restrictions lessened, there was a need for us to actively respond, so with joy and thanks we began to gather again for worship within our Church buildings and moved to live streaming our service. The hope was this would provide an opportunity for as many as possible to continue to engage with worship. Encouragingly services in both Churches were often at full capacity during the month of May and the live-stream and subsequent online service continue to be well utilised. This has been hugely uplifting whilst adapting to so many other unknowns around us. God has enabled us to achieve much in a matter of weeks and it is a joy and privilege to see the passage of Ephesians 3, read at the Licensing service, being lived out in the life of our Church – *'I pray out of his glorious riches he would strengthen you... that you being rooted and established in love.....may be filled to the measure of all the fulness of God'*.

I look forward with hope to the journey God has for us ahead, living out our mission 'to know Jesus better and make Jesus better known'.

Tasha Anderson

4. ELECTORAL ROLL OFFICER'S REPORT

A revision of the Electoral Roll took place between Oct 2020 and July 2021. Three names were removed either because of death or they moved away from the parish. Three names were added leaving the number currently 253.

Geoffrey Birch
Electoral Roll Officer

5. SAFEGUARDING

This period covers another difficult time for the national and local church with an intense period of Covid restrictions affecting All Saints'. Inevitably there has been a crossover between Health and Safety Covid precautions and Safeguarding and all new Safeguarding Role Descriptions and risk assessments now include a reference to this.

On a positive note, our new Vicar, Tasha, brings a desire to incorporate Safeguarding into the essence of parish activities in a way which comes alongside people inside and outside of the church and emphasises the value of Safeguarding practices to all. All churches, both Anglican and other, are now required to follow safeguarding practices for the benefit of all and there is a huge amount of information and instruction on the C of E website which is overlaid with further Diocesan instruction. This can be daunting but it is important that this filters down to parish level in a way which reflects the words of 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 set out below various key headings with the work undertaken in the report period:

Safeguarding Training:

In addition to Basic training (C0), all relevant roles in the church are being overviewed to ensure that the correct level of training has been undertaken.

PCC:

All members have undertaken Basic training (C0) and at the time of writing there is 80% compliance with Foundations training (previously C1). The first level is mandatory by the C of E and the second level is desirable and previously approved by the PCC to reflect the leadership position of the members.

LLMs:

All LLMs have completed the required Leadership level of training.

Safer Recruitment:

The C of E has set out a structure for the appointment of both paid and volunteer roles in the church. This is currently being processed to ensure that both new and existing volunteers meet the C of E requirements. As well as the essential steps to be taken this takes into account the need for each volunteer to receive support and guidance in their role.

Safeguarding Helpline:

This continues to be checked once a day. No actual incidents have come through via the Helpline in this period.

Key safeguarding contact information:

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

6. PCC REPORT

It is only 8 months since our last Annual Report in October 2020 . Our Annual Church Meeting should have been held by end of May 2021 but we were given special permission by Bishop Tim to delay until the end of July.

The PCC has continued to meet on a monthly basis via Zoom. After a lengthy delay, last November we were allowed to advertise for a new Priest in Charge, with interviews taking place in December. This produced a very strong field of candidates. We were delighted when we could finally announce in January that our new Priest in Charge would be Reverend Natasha Anderson who moved into Milford in March 2021.

Tasha's licensing service was held by Bishop Debbie on 12th April and conducted on Zoom which did mean this was accessible to many more people than would have been able to attend in person.

From 6th December to the beginning of January, All Saints' re-opened for public worship at 10am where the on-line recorded service was shown again. However with the rapid rise in Covid infections the PCC met specifically on 7 January and made the decision to suspend public worship and close the church for private prayer with immediate effect.

The wardens agreed that should anyone really want to pray in church, they would be available to supervise such a session. There was very little uptake for this facility and Matt Allum kindly offered to open the church Sunday afternoons between 2-4pm for private prayer as from 24th January which was then utilised. The on-line service continued to be very popular and Tina and Francis Cumberlege continued to provide spiritual support and teaching until Easter Sunday which was their last Sunday. A cheque for £2,000 was given to them as a thank you for all their hard work over several months.

Once again we were indebted to Colin Fry (and Pam) who continued to collect the recordings and edit them together to produce our excellent online services every week. We are also grateful to Terry Bufton who stepped into his shoes to give him the occasional week off.

Once Tasha had been licensed she wished to provide “live” services at 10am each Sunday. It was essential to book if you wanted to come as we had a maximum capacity of 45 people. As we had moved away from the pre-recorded service, the PCC agreed for some technical equipment to be bought to enable live streaming of the service. Our grateful thanks go to Terry Bufton and Colin Fry who have worked tirelessly to adapt to this new technology to make the services accessible to those who have not yet ventured back to church. The £1,800 cost of this new equipment was totally met by donations and we thank those donors for what they have made possible for us all.

Another initiative was to provide a coffee session via Zoom after the morning service to enable members of the congregation to have an informal chat with others from the convenience of their own home which proved very popular whilst the church was closed.

With some easing of restrictions in April, Lesley and the volunteers have returned to working in the church office but they would appreciate it if appointments were made if you wished to visit.

The Health & Safety and Safeguarding policies have been approved.

Bill Darley, our Vice Chairman, has been chairing our meetings during the interregnum and has continued to do so for the time being to give Tasha time to observe and listen.

At our May meeting the PCC unanimously agreed to move to two morning services. One would be of a slightly more traditional style, the other a slightly more contemporary service. A working group was set up to make sure all resources and personnel were in place before we moved to a start date which we anticipate being in September.

Our Churchwardens, Olga and Matt shouldered a huge amount of responsibility during the interregnum which was compounded with the Covid 19 pandemic. We thank them most sincerely for all their hard work.

Beverley Smith
PCC Secretary

7. CHURCHWARDEN'S REPORT

Last October, the advertisement for our new incumbent was placed online and in the Church Times and other papers. What a relief it was to see it at last! Interview day was set for 8 December. An awesome responsibility for Myra, Bill and me but we were trusting that God would make clear to us *His* choice. The interviews were Covid friendly – the interviewers sat socially distanced in our very cold Church Hall (open windows), we wore scarves, coats and even hats to keep warm, with an electric heater under each of our individual tables! The PCC came together on Zoom the night before to meet the candidates. This proved to be a most successful exercise as being divided into ‘rooms’, the PCC was able to talk with each candidate and ask questions.

Tasha accepted our invitation to become our next priest-in-charge. We do believe that God has heard our prayers and I do know that His help was palpable during this whole process. We prayed that God would call someone to come to Milford and that we would discern His will. That is what happened.

Meanwhile, the Services flourished online with Francis and Tina’s commitment and willingness to get to grips with the technology. We are so grateful to them for leading our worship which gave us not only good teaching but continuity. We are also grateful to Graham Fairbairn, Kate Pinnell and Eddie Donaldson for their contributions. Pressure came from time to time to open the church but it was

important to play safe. Colin Fry has done an amazing job seeing that each Sunday we had a Service online. Terry Bufton brought wi-fi into the church and gave Colin the occasional week off. We have all learnt new skills and have learnt to work together in a new way.

Tasha moved into the Vicarage in March. She has transformed what became a rather sad house due to being empty for so long, into a welcoming and charming house and garden. Many of us have benefitted from her generous hospitality at the Vicarage tea parties. Again an innovative way for the new vicar to meet her flock.

Francis and Tina led us online until Easter which was their final service for us. The following Sunday, we opened the church for our first church Service since the New Year – social distancing, sanitizing our hands, open doors, service on the screen and still no singing.

Tasha's licensing service was on April 12th by Zoom. We were full of gratitude to God for bringing us thus far.

It is possible that by the time we have our APCM in July, we might be doing services and living in a more normal way. As I am writing this at the end of May, the future is still a bit uncertain.

I have decided that, after five years, it is the right time for me to retire at this meeting. It has been an enormous privilege to be church warden particularly at such a time as we have had. It couldn't have been done without a most supportive and united PCC and a colleague such as Matt. I am also so grateful to those of you who have prayed for Matt and me particularly during the interregnum and lockdown and have sent lovely messages which have been so encouraging.

Olga Soper
Churchwarden

8. ALL SAINTS' CHURCH HALL

There was minimal activity in the church hall during the period of this report due to the Covid 19 lockdown. Expenditure was £4,978; income was £1,558. We anticipate bookings will return over the coming months.

Stewart Gillespie-Smith
Chair of Hall Committee

9. FABRIC REPORT

The quinquennial report is still outstanding. It has been several weeks since the inspection but there was nothing serious to mention at that time.

Lockdown procedures were implemented: tape on the floor to show movement direction: tape across the pews to isolate because of ongoing two metres restrictions. Throughout the pandemic government restrictions have been strictly adhered to.

The churchyard maintenance has been kept to a good level of tidiness and my thanks to all the volunteers both inside and out for their sterling work to keep us tidy and safe.

Matt Allum

Churchwarden

10. ST MARY'S REVIEW

At the end of our AGM last October, Jenny Lawford spoke about the need of many families in our own country, mentioning especially Liverpool. From this comment at the end of our AGM, the Holy Spirit guided us to have a prayer and gift day on Saturday 31 October. As a result of that day we sent £1,890 to St George's in Liverpool, a Church with whom we had already had contact many years ago. Gillian had kept in touch with John who had visited us carrying his cross from St George's Everton in Liverpool to St Mary's ,Everton in Hampshire.

Revd, Canon Ray Hubble led an outdoor act of Remembrance on Wednesday 11 November as services were stopped in November so our planned outdoor service did not take place.

All our necessary electrical tests were carried out in November, and our three yearly tree inspection also took place.

An outdoor sale of Vera's jams and chutneys took place in December as we had not had the bazaar and they needed to be sold. £300 was raised through the sales on the day and some personal sales before the day.

We experienced another answer to a time of prayer when, due to the financial situation, the DCC decided to give less to our 5 missions in our annual mission allocation but to give the Christmas collections to pay some of the deficit. The deficit on the amount given in 2020 was £3,000 and by the end of the Christmas period, and our time of prayer, £2,825 had been given. The DCC agreed to give the extra £175 to wipe out the deficit, so each mission had £1,600 as in 2019.

In January, the long awaited re-roofing of the foyer roof began and was completed in about 3 weeks as the weather was quite wet. The old shingles were available for people to take if they wanted but due to the damp very few were taken. We stored them in an old "stable" and some are still available and now quite dry .

At our time of prayer about our mission giving, the final prayer had been that we might even be able to increase our giving on 2019 as we had normally done in previous years. Early in the new year we had an anonymous gift which enabled us to give extra to each mission as well as pay for the new foyer roof and other extras for some of our own activities. We have had many, many instances to praise and thank God for His financial blessings to us from Harvest to Easter and answers to our prayers.

In Lent a group of us followed one of the Holy Habits series from BRF and we did these studies on Zoom.

On Mothering Sunday, as it was the 2nd year we had not been in Church, Jan and Gordon made 70 posies and about 10 people delivered them to members of our Church family and some of our Friendship lunch attendees on Mothering Sunday itself.

We took part in the National Day of Reflection on 23 March 2021 and it was a moving moment at 12 noon as the CD stopped playing quiet music and, after the minute's silence, Myra tolled the bell. On Good Friday we had a large cross standing outside the Church and people came and paused at the cross and laid a stone at the foot of the cross.

On Easter Sunday, Mike Johnson arranged for the service to be relayed into the hall enabling twice as many people to attend. After the service everyone assembled outside and sang the first verse of Thine be the Glory. Gillian was then given a surprise, arranged by Myra, and she was presented with a beautiful picture and a book by local artist Aimee Durnell, as well as an extremely generous monetary gift to be used for a holiday after the busy period of interregnum and the pandemic.

On Sunday 11 April we had our normal Zoom service but the speaker was Ann Hatton from Send a Cow, the mission we have supported for many years at Harvest Festival time.

The following day on Monday 12 April many of us were delighted to join Tasha Anderson's licensing service on Zoom and then on the following Sunday to welcome Tasha to join us at St Mary's at our 3.00 pm service.

On Monday 17 May the hall re-opened for exercise classes and our Art class.

We have begun a monthly prayer meeting on Zoom and 10 people have expressed an interest. The 3 homegroups were invited to the Headlands Adventure Centre at Ringwood and Tasha was able to join us on a warm June day.

Gillian Peard
Leader for St Mary's

11. TREASURER'S REPORT

I am pleased to present my report on the accounts for the year ended 31 December 2020. This has been a most unusual time in the life of All Saints', with the closure of both church and hall in late March 2020, a very limited re-opening of the church in early August, closure again in early November, and a brief re-opening in early December. Then closure again from early January to the beginning of April when we re-opened, and thankfully, as I write this, we remain open, albeit still with a restriction on numbers of people able to attend.

All of this has of course had an effect on our finances, principally a loss of collection monies and income from the hire of our church hall, and a reduction in fees for funerals and weddings. For me, as your treasurer, this has been a period of careful cash management, but I am pleased to report that the financial outcome for 2020 was a small surplus. It is recognised of course that for the whole of 2020 we were without a family worker and an organist, and since July of that year we have been without a youth minister following Phil's move to pastures new.

However, we are now well into a new year, and after a very long interregnum Tasha Anderson was appointed as our new Priest in Charge in early May. We are also seeing a relaxing of the restrictions related to the Coronavirus, so we can now begin the process of rebuilding, which we all long for.

We have clearly been through very difficult times, but through it all I have been so moved by the way you, our church family, have maintained your regular giving. We send you our warmest thanks, as always, for your loving and generous support, providing both your money and your time, and we will do all we can to honour the trust you place in us as we face the challenges of another year.

Alan Chapple
Church Treasurer

SECTION B: Families and Mothers Union

12. FAMILY TEA AT ST. MARY'S

The highlight of these last 9 months has been the outdoor Nativity on Christmas Eve. All 7 families were able to take part and the story was videoed and a little of it was shown in Church on Christmas morning.

On Mothering Sunday we had Family Tea on Zoom and it was a time of thanksgiving as well as enjoying being able to see each other again, even if only on Zoom.

On Easter Sunday afternoon we were able to have 3 families at a time to make Easter Gardens in the Copse and then have an egg hunt in part of the car park. It was especially good to have three young people helping us on this occasion.

In May we were delighted that Tasha was able to join us for Family Tea,. Once again we were outside and telling the story of Jesus on the beach after his resurrection. Boats were built from cardboard and then many fish caught in a variety of nets. The story was acted out with one of the Dads being Jesus. Sadly the rain arrived just as the families had begun a picnic tea but it had been a very successful afternoon.

We are very grateful to Myra and Debbie Hogg who work so hard to prepare for each of our monthly Family Teas. We hope to be outside again in June, and maybe July, before we have a break in August and then prepare for Harvest Festival in September.

Gillian Peard

13. FAMILIES REPORT (All Saints')

Our main focus since the Autumn was to engage with the families of younger children, who missed being able to attend Toddler Groups. The Toy Library, launched in September, has been through various guises as we've been subject to different regulations. Numbers dropped off after the final lockdown, but we have seen an increase in new connections as we've launched our 'Get Outside With Toddlers' sessions twice a month. It has been a real joy to witness children and families being able to engage together once again. Requiring input from a larger team of volunteers, we hope that in time this group will grow and we can encourage some of the parents/carers themselves to become part of the wider church community.

We have also worked hard to continue to engage with some of the families we already know. Our village Pumpkin Trail and Advent Windows project were particularly exciting ways of drawing them into community-wide outreach opportunities, where we were able to utilise social media as a helpful tool to

engage with a younger demographic than usual. We continued to honour these families by delivering Mothering Sunday posies, and Lent Packs.

The recorded assemblies for the school at Christmas and Easter hopefully continued to retain awareness of the Church, when it wasn't possible for the school or families to worship in the building. The Churches Count on Nature initiative has provided another way of enabling the church and school to link up.

Rebecca Webb

14. MOTHERS' UNION

This is a summary of events from October 2020 to May 2021

October 14th 2020: A service via Zoom on the theme of Love.

November 11th: Sharing latest MU news from the Diocese.

December 16th: Carol Service via Zoom.

2021 MU Theme is "Rebuilding Hope and Confidence"

January 13th: Wave of Prayer for MU Worldwide, via Zoom.

January 20th: AGM via Zoom.

February 17th: Ash Wednesday Meditation, via Zoom.

March 17th: "Events in our Christian Journey" (led by our own members).

March 25th: Lady Day Prayers.

April 21st: "Thoughts, books and pictures" (led by our own members).

May 19th: Our speaker, Christine Clode, led us through the 2021 theme "Rebuilding Hope and Confidence". (Using the Parish Zoom licence).

Our Zoom committee meetings have continued.

As some members cannot access Zoom we have kept in contact with each other through a phone contacting system. We are looking forward to an outdoor meeting in June (weather permitting) or meeting in homes in groups of 6. In July we will be in Church for a service led by Tasha.

Thank you, Gillian, for guiding us through this year.

Val Butterworth and the MU committee.

SECTION C: Our Worshipping Life Together

15. BELL TOWER REPORT

There really isn't very much to report at all from this very strange period.

We were able to commence ringing again, in a very restricted form during the summer. With one metre plus distancing, we could ring four spaced out bells, which sounded a bit odd, but did mean we could make a noise to welcome the congregation that came to church for the screened services.

This continued until the November lockdown.

Christmas morning was greeted with four bells again, not as cheerful as it normally is, but better than the silence of the previous Easter. For Easter 2021, Milford was able to have the front four bells rung, thanks to the Ingram family, who also rang for a wedding in May, before the lockdown restrictions were eased.

Now we are back to the socially distanced bells and keeping our fingers crossed to be allowed to ring all eight in June or July.

Meanwhile, the enforced silence has meant Frank has been able to do quite a bit of maintenance on the bells, and we are very grateful to him for that.

Once we are able to restart Monday practice nights, we would welcome anyone interested in finding out more about this ancient and very enjoyable exercise.

Maggie Cobb – Tower Captain

16. FLOWER GUILD

Following Government and Church edicts we have not been able to arrange flowers in Church since March 2020.

However we did put some flowers in Church at Christmas and have managed one pedestal in recent weeks for the Sunday service.

We also hope to arrange wedding flowers in June. Hopefully once Church re-opens fully we will start our normal rota.

We would love to have some more arrangers as our number has dwindled, anyone interested please let us know.

**Andrea Fitz-Gibbon and Jackie Parker.
Flower Guild.**

17. WORSHIPPING LIFE

Learning a new language is supposed to be good for your brain. We hope that's so for learning the language of technology!" iPad," "YouTube" "WE TRANSFER" were the words that just flew off the tongue in the 20 months we had the privilege of leading the 50 pre-recorded on-line services we did for All Saints' Milford.

God is so gracious and it was by His grace and His spirit and much prayer that we were able to put together and execute this new way of leading us all into His presence. We were so fortunate with having had some experience in choosing liturgy and songs, but we felt that the Father was wanting all of us to enjoy Him, perhaps in new ways. For us it was a time of rich blessing and we pray that as we move into this new season, we will all understand what it is to worship a loving and faithful God.

Francis and Tina Cumberlege

18. HOME GROUPS

Some Home Groups have been meeting via Zoom and others have been keeping in touch with each other by other means. All the leaders are getting together with Tasha on June 28th. The hope is that we will be starting up again in September with fresh vision and energy.

I am very grateful to the Home Group Leaders and members who have been helping to hold together our community through the phone calls to those who are not part of the Home Groups. This has been important work throughout the pandemic, and much valued by some of those more alone in our community.

**Olga Soper
Home Group Co-ordinator**

19. PARISH PASTORAL CARE

This group has not been used through lockdown as Homegroups became responsible to look after anyone.

Carol Tyler

Pastoral Care Team Leader

20. PRAYER MINISTRY

We continue to meet monthly on Zoom to pray for those bereaved and ill. Our list usually has about 50 names of those connected with All Saints' and St Mary's which is amended 4 times a year. Each member uses this list for prayer during the week in their homes.

The Prayer Chain is used for urgent requests and now that All Saints' has reopened for Sunday Services since 18th April people are invited to put requests in the Prayer Request Box. Mary Sergel's and my name is on the Notice sheet and on the Sunday services notices inviting people to contact us for prayer over the phone: a safe way for person to person prayer which we can't do on Sunday morning after a service just yet.

We remain nine in number and intend to plan some events, when safe to do so, to encourage others to consider joining us.

Libby Gillespie-Smith

Prayer Ministry Team Leader

21. MUSIC IN WORSHIP REPORT

We've been unable to use vocals and wind instruments for a year, so the worship group has been restricted to solo guitar in church. However recently we have led the congregation in a final hymn sung outside after the service. As the rules ease we hope to assemble a group this summer, and if you are a musician or singer and would like to contribute, please contact the church office.

As to the future, we are stirring into life, but we really need some more musicians and singer

I think the outdoor band and singing will continue now until there is clearance to sing indoors.

Pete Hanson

CHOIR

Since the last APCM there has been no live singing in Church. However 6 members of the choir were able to get together to sing well-known carols which were recorded for the on-line Christmas services. We had a few practices with Leigh Jerwood, the Pennington Church organist and our own Terry Bufton did the video recording which was a laborious task. We were very grateful to both of them. The carols were much appreciated. Our hope was to do something similar for the regular services and for Easter services. Unfortunately this was prevented by the severe lockdown in the New Year, but as things now ease, we hope to re-gather and to find an organist to help lead us and the whole church in worship again.

David Badham

Choir member

SECTION D – THE COMMUNITY AND THE WIDER WORLD

22. PARISH WEBSITE REPORT

As reported in 2020, the website has played a major part in church life since the first lockdown in April 2020 with the embedding of recorded services from All Saints', from 8am each Sunday morning. Numbers of views of each service are recorded on our YouTube channel and since the beginning of December have averaged 104. These are views, of course, not individuals which may be considerably higher. Since April this year, the 10am services have been streamed directly from the All Saints' Church and, rather than falling due to the 30-40 who physically attend, the numbers watching have fluctuated between 100 and 200, perhaps due to interest in the streaming process. While streaming is still a work in progress to improve reliability and quality, the interest in this mode of worship seems unlikely to evaporate when the physical restrictions are fully lifted (see Tech Team Report).

The website itself continues to attract regular interest, with close links developed with ChurchSuite for events publicity and registration, for information on Milford Village news, such as the monthly Good News broadsheet, links to Diocesan and National church information and the Parish Magazine. It is at present a major route to the Church notice sheet, saving a considerable quantity of paper in the process. It is viewed on average some 35-40 times a day with clear spikes on the Sunday as this is the main route for watching the Sunday service. It also aims to provide a channel of communication for interested families and individuals by encouraging enquiries and other feedback.

I am grateful for Rebecca's help in maintaining the flow of information and help in editing and to others from both All Saints' and St Mary's who contribute information and keep me informed of changes. Together with the more dynamic flow of information through the church's Facebook page, the church aims to provide a vibrant and up-to-date presence of the Kingdom of God on social media.

Colin Fry

23. TECH TEAM

This is a young team in experience if not entirely in age! From two rather informal groups of Easy Worship projectionists and sound mixer assistants, since the introduction of service streaming we have had to develop into a more well-trained group of AV specialists, linking the screening of services and the provision of sound re-inforcement to the output of our services on YouTube and the church website.

While the process has meant learning new territory for both of us, we have endeavoured to build a team of younger members who can produce a regular rota of assistants to cover the main services on a Sunday morning in All Saints'. We are most grateful for those who have stepped up to the mark to develop some expertise in this field.

With the proposed introduction of a second service on a Sunday morning we will need to re-evaluate how such a team can best be used. Above all, we will need many more members to adequately meet the needs of both internal AV requirements and streaming outreach.

The current situation and interest in viewing services online is indicated by viewing figures of over 100 weekly, even during the current period when some 40 people are physically in church. This is likely to change, not least as the church becomes fully accessible; but the use of streamed services can still be viewed as an outreach to those physically unable to attend as well as a wider audience of interested folk.

It is, however, only a part of the overall aim to make the whole of each service as clearly audible and helpfully visual as we can make it, to the blessing of the church fellowship and the glory of our Lord and Saviour.

Colin Fry & Terry Bufton

24. CHRISTINGLE 2020

This year at 4pm on Christmas Eve our Christingle service was streamed via Zoom from All Saints' Church and local families joined in from home. Packs were given out in advance so the Christingles could be made at home rather than at the usual workshops at the Primary school. Each pack included an orange (kindly donated by The Co-op), a candle, red tape, sweets, cocktail sticks and foil and lots of fun activities and information from the Children's Society. They also included a lovely book called The First Christmas Song which has a rather catchy tune!

During the service Tina Cumberlege spoke about Jesus being the "Light of the World" whilst she used some everlasting candles. Kate Pinnell demonstrated how to make the Christingle whilst people at home also made theirs and she explained the significance of the different elements of the Christingle: It was so fabulous to see the 43 households participating (which included 55 children) and to raise money and the awareness of the work of the Children Society especially during these challenging times. It was also a really special start to Christmas.

Kate Pinnell

25. CHRISTIANS TOGETHER IN MILFORD AND EVERTON

There were none of our usual activities during the pandemic until April 2021 when we met on Zoom. It was decided to compile a letter to express our thanks to all the key workers in our community eg.: NHS staff, teachers, delivery drivers, shopkeepers, volunteers, neighbours and emergency services. A brief account was included of how our churches were still very active using technology with online services and keeping in touch with members in different ways. The letter was published on the village website, the Lymington Times and the Village Voice. As there was no service on The Green, as a result of Terry Bufton and a few others' suggestions, a wooden cross was made by Terry and erected on the Green on Good Friday with Dennis Steadman putting up a banner with HOPE inscribed. Ladies from the four Milford churches placed some beautiful flower arrangements at the foot of the Cross on Easter Sunday.

More events will be taking place this year as restrictions are lifted.

Libby Gillespie-Smith

26. MENMEET

For obvious reasons not a lot has happened in the life of Menmeet during the last year. We try to keep in contact with our members by email or telephone and we do have several new members! We are examining our current pattern of meetings, but will remain with outdoor events in the Summer months and indoors at the Beach House for our Winter activities. Our first outdoor activity will be at the end of May of this year (a local morning walk and pub lunch) with speakers arranged until the end of this year.

Mike Warren

27. PARISH MAGAZINE

Grateful thanks are due to our regular and occasional contributors who enable the editors, Jackie Parker and Valerie Kidd to ensure that the best possible magazine is produced each month. However it is now vital that more editors join the team so please contact us for details if you would like to know more about this interesting task.

With the retirement of Gail Bown, we wish to thank her for her hard work in organising the advertisements. We are very pleased to welcome Jill Neill to the team as she has volunteered to take on this responsibility.

We understand that the final figures for 2020 (provided by Alan Chapple) were as follows: Total income in 2020 from sales (subscriptions and sundry cash sales) and advertisers was £7,930.14, total costs were £7818.39, leaving a surplus of £111.75 for the year. Not surprisingly given the Coronavirus pandemic, cash sales of the magazine, usually generated by Village News, Milford News, All Saints' Church Hall and All Saints' and St Mary's Churches, are down.

Mark and his staff at Village News have continued to organise the distribution of magazines each month but the number of magazines collected has fallen so the monthly print run was reduced from 500 to 400 in April. The magazine has been available online, but we do not at present have any means of encouraging or receiving payment for this. However it does mean that the advertisements are being seen by online readers which is essential. Our many loyal distributors continue to deliver the magazines around Milford and Everton.

Thank you to everyone in the production of our magazine but also to everyone who purchases it. Please pray for its future and the outreach it provides.

Valerie Kidd (Chairman)

28. MISSION SUPPORT COMMITTEE REPORT

In December 2020 to each of the 6 missions to which we are committed we gave £1,200 out of the second half of our mission tithe to Barham Rwanda, Word for Life Trust, Hope Now, MAF, Friends of Namuwongo and the Bible Society

The remaining money of £800 was divided equally between Christians Against Poverty and Tearfund.

There were donations of £137.40 from the Christmas Collections which we gave to New Forest Basics Bank.

£1,000 was given to the Deanery Lent Appeal for Rwanda in April 2021.

£56 per month is given to Compassion for one child.

We've organised no events because of the pandemic but each member of the Committee has kept in touch with the Missions they represent.

Newsletters from Hope Now and Word for Life have been sent to Libby Gillespie-Smith and articles have been in the Parish magazine.

Sue Forward has organised a report from Friends of Namuwongo, Jill Neill from MAF and Mary Sergel keeps in touch with the Rwandan Deanery Links and the Barham Fund's activities including supporting the Bible College in Cyanguu.

Libby Gillespie-Smith

Compassion is a Christian organisation which allows children to receive educational support and school uniforms. The love of a local church allows the child the opportunity to hear the gospel. Letters are translated into the child's language and there is a one to one relationship with the sponsor/person writing for an organisation. It provides medical care and nutritional support.

Four children were originally sponsored by Satellite (The service held in the church hall simultaneously to the service in All Saints'. When the two congregations united, 2 were taken over totally by members of the congregation and 2 continued to be funded by All Saints'. Although funded by All Saints' the letters /birthday cards were written by members of the congregation and are now sent on-line. Sponsorship runs until the person is 22. Innocent graduated from this project Christmas 2020. Gisele is 7 and lives in Rwanda. Costs are approximately £361 annually including birthday and Christmas gifts.

As sponsorships were started by Satellite, they have not traditionally formed part of our tithed giving through the Mission Team. However as sponsorship is a long term commitment we have continued to sponsor Gisele.

Jill Neill

29. NEWCOMERS' WELCOME

Obviously, we were not able to have a Newcomers' supper last year. For a while I left the advertising hoping to have the supper at a later date in the year but of course that was not possible. Whilst we were all 'locked down' the duty on house purchases was removed by the Government so there has been a house selling boom and all the Estate agents have been very busy! I decided that it would be good to welcome all the Newcomers with a bag of information so I contacted the charities, clubs and agencies as well as some of the shops and eateries for advertising information. I have a very good response and to date have made up well over 100 bags and distributed them to the Newcomers via my lovely volunteers. We visited almost all the homes on the new estate by the school. Most of the people there are new to the area wanting to get out of places like London.

I have always relied upon the estate agents in the village to keep me updated with which homes had been sold but this seems to be difficult so I have been advertising in the Village Voice for Newcomers as to what goes on here when life gets back to 'normal' whatever that looks like! I have had 6 people this week. We do need to remind the congregations of the churches to inform me of newcomers in their roads or apartments blocks.

Going forward it would be great to have a day of stalls and information tents on the Village Green later in the year. Perhaps the WI or the churches would provide teas and the whole village could be reminded.

Ruth Bufton

30. NEW FOREST BASICS BANK

Basics Bank continues to serve the community in an ongoing way although demand has flattened. A stand was in place on Milford village green in October, organised by All Saint's Church and a second one in April run by Milford W.I. both of which were well supported. A pattern has been created to make reusable bags in order to reduce the use of plastic bags. South Lawns hosted a fund raising event to support Basics Bank.

The amount of food being left in the box at Hollands has decreased noticeably and it would be good to restart being able to drop food off in the box provided in All Saints' as and when able to do so.

Sue Forward
Volunteer

31. THE CROSSINGS

Continued search is being made for premises to use as a Drop In and possible charity shop in the New Milton area. Links have been made with Step Up, Safe Space – a Community Interest Group who has been using the Pergavie room, at the back of the Church Hall. During April and May contact has been made with clients at the back of SCRATCH in New Milton. Due to the closure of SCRATCH a room has been offered at New Milton library for one hour on a Saturday 10am – 11am. A mobile phone has been donated and flyers are being put together.

A fund raising event was hosted at South Lawn Hotel, Milford-on-Sea. The Lions have been approached for support. A 20 foot container has been offered for conversion and storage – a place to park it has to be found!

Contact is being made with Nick Ralph – Winchester Social Enterprise.

If a conversation takes place with a rough sleeper their name can be put on the StreetLink www.streetlink.org.uk. This will then be followed up by New Forest District Council.

A video on The Crossings is available for churches to share.

Sue Forward

32. STREET PASTORS

Street Pastors (SPs) have not been on patrol during this time but are starting on 21st May after further easing of lockdown. Documents have been written in line with COVID risk assessment alongside a COVID Safe Working Practice document. Prayer Pastors are praying via Zoom and are able to go in whatever time the SP patrol starts. The Cottage at the United Reform Church is not being used yet.

Sue Forward

SECTION E

33. DEANERY SYNOD REPORT

Both the October and the March synod meetings were held on Zoom.

Assistant Area Dean, Jo Aldridge, has retired and had not been replaced at the last meeting.

After many years without one, a Finance Committee has been formed.

Deanery Action plan has been on hold due to Covid.

Once a term a meeting is held for Family and Children workers and is led by Andy Saunders from Lighthouse ministries. Andy was the diocesan Children's worker.

As in other areas of the diocese, discussions have been taking place about clergy deployment but at the March synod no decisions had been announced.

The Waterside plans were still ongoing in March but the Totton scheme now has a new incumbent

This is the second year that there will be no New Forest Show so consequently no Church Tent. A list is being collated of everyone who has helped at the Church Tent so we need to compile a list from this parish.

Links with Rwanda have continued but Dibden have had to cancel their planned visit. Brockenhurst Parish managed to raise £12,000 to support the desperate food shortage in Rwanda. The Lent project was for Covid recovery as well as Pastor training.

Many Churches are closed in Rwanda and it has made the financial position of the Pastors extremely difficult. Pastors rely on the Church collections for their personal income so many have needed support to feed their families.

In October there was a presentation by a member of Synod from Dibden Parish who spoke about being connected with God in a secular work environment and how to work for God in all we do, He had run a course in the parish and details are available if anyone is interested.

In March there was no speaker but we were told about the Church of England “Living in love and Faith” project. This project has been three years in the making and consists of a set of resources commissioned by the Archbishops and commended by the House of Bishops to invite the whole Church to reflect deeply on issues relating to identity, relationships, sexuality and marriage. Bishop David is leading the project in our Diocese.

The next Synod meeting is on June 17th 2021.

Gillian Peard