

Celebrating 2021



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Wareham's Church of England Family Annual Report 2021

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Welcome...

Dear Friends,

Welcome to the annual report for the year 2021 a reflection of life within Wareham parish over the past year. Like the previous year it was rather disjointed, the lockdowns put in place by the government meant that our services were often affected, and new ways had to be found to minister safely and effectively. However, unlike many parishes in the land we continued to offer worship within our churches, and sometimes outside them, which was appreciated by a good number; although there were others who, for various good reasons, chose to worship in the comfort and safety of their own homes, following the Team YouTube services.

The past couple of years have certainly presented their challenges and with a lot of help from God and our church members, the Ministry Team has managed to rise to these. The numbers attending services has fluctuated depending on the health of the nation, and this in turn has affected the numbers of people watching our online services. In this present year (2022) I hope that, with the vaccination programme, herd immunity and improved public awareness we can begin to return to some sort of normality and see more and more parishioners return to worship in our churches. This said, we know that for some the YouTube service is their only means of worshipping with friends from around the parish and so we will continue to offer this.

Although certain church activities may have been curtailed by circumstances, this is not so with acts of generosity. Church members have continued to give generously both financially and in kind. The idea of parishioners being able to give unused/unwanted items to be sold for church funds continued from the previous year and raised a significant amount; also, during the year a Stewardship campaign was run, and both of these have helped us meet all our financial outgoings and more. I am delighted to say that we reached the end of 2021 with a small profit. Praise the Lord! And many thanks to all who have helped achieve this.

With the economy taking a hit from the pandemic and now financial austerity accompanied by high inflation, times are going to get even harder for many, especially those on benefits and low income. And so, it is good to know that church charities, the 'Blessing Fund' and the 'Wareham Relief in Sickness and Need Charity' have been able to help many and supplement the Food Bank. Many thanks to the trustees and those who support these good causes. Please do inform the clergy if you know of anyone needing financial or practical help.

Often times of upheaval can be a precursor for times of change, and so maybe we should be asking is this so in God's Church? Is this so in Wareham? And if it is, what does the Lord expect from us, individually and as the body of Christ? As Søren Kierkegaard said, *'Life can only be understood by looking backward; but it must be lived looking forward.'* And so, as we reflect on the past year, let us seek to explore what God has taught us so that we can look forward with confidence and excitement to walk in the ways of God this current year.

Yours ever in Christ,

Simon Everett - Team Rector

Churchwardens Report

2021 was my first full year as Church Warden and I happily welcomed Mike Quinlan as my fellow Churchwarden. Mike has been stalwart in managing the fabric issues. We have had a few challenges! He is a great moral support to me, and I think we represent a great team. The year 2021 saw more lockdowns and restrictions, but as the vaccination programme created confidence, we saw our friends and members returning to the Church, although many people still value the online services. We resumed coffee after Sunday services and Nick Burden and his wife Issy have been very proactive in establishing a new rota and keeping the teams on the go. I extend my thanks to Nick and Issy for promoting the after-coffee service so competently and allowing us all to meet, chat and network once again.

The numbers of the attendees at Sunday services, both 8.00am and 10.00am increased. As restrictions were lifted over the Summer, we reintroduced the soft furnishings back to the Church, namely prayer cushions, carpet on seats, and banners. Jeanette has set up her book stall and lending library again. The Church is now beginning to look more like its old self! However, we have been aware that visitors and locals preferred the Church open as much as possible, so we have a rota for opening and closing the Church daily. Special thanks go to Merville Gover and Debs Barclay for making this happen. A new payment point has been put in place to allow cashless donations to be made. Our visitor book shows the appreciation for the Church to be open in these anxious times.

Although the restrictions were gradually lifted towards the end of the year, we had to be aware of the sensitivities of others, allowing fresh air to circulate during services and masks were encouraged to be worn in line with government guidelines. Those who were anxious could sit near the back of the church where the door is open to allow ventilation. The great joy was that Christmas services could again be conducted, and we were pleased to note many newcomers attending the seasonal services. The return of the choir has lifted our spirits and with Nick Burden and Bob Day running the overhead presentation we have been truly blessed with some wonderful services. Indeed, the different variety of services has welcomed new members to attend with very positive feedback. A Carol singing event outside the Church on the Green was an extra attraction for which Pat and Clive Cherrett supplied candles. I have to mention Pat and Clive's continued support throughout the year is very gratefully acknowledged.

As the year drew to a close, we began to look forward to a more familiar normality returning.

Hilary Goodinge Churchwarden

Our worshipping communities

St Nicholas, Arne



Ginny Collings

St Nicholas Church Arne has enjoyed the opportunity to have services twice a month again. Although some members of the congregation are still not able to attend for a variety of reasons, a small, loyal attendance has been maintained and appreciated. Responsibilities have been shared and a sense of co-dependence has developed which means everyone can contribute and be involved. We are grateful to the Men's Shed for the production and fitting of our new church gate. We are considering the purchase of a picnic table to enhance our outdoor space and continue to remain open to welcome the many passing visitors. The visitor

book is well used for comments and prayer requests and suggests an appreciation of the reminder of God's presence the church gives. Standing in the depth of the countryside it continues to provide a visual reminder of peace and hope at a time of great uncertainty. I don't think we should underestimate this permanent witness to those on holiday or sight seeing in the area at a time of turmoil and change.

Lady St Mary, Wareham

The Church faced another year of uncertainty with lockdowns and government regulations. Masks and social distancing became normal behaviour. Services were said rather than sung. However as more people became vaccinated, we saw the Church attendees and visitor numbers increase. One positive result of the Covid experience was that we realised that opening the church was a great comfort to all and so we now continued this practice even as normality returned. The cashless payment point was initiated as folk carry less cash. Drainage problems continued to affect the fabric of the church with one monument coming away from the wall. This is to be addressed as soon as possible. Parking around the church became a problem so a meeting was held with the Priory Hotel, and it was agreed the owners would monitor the situation. As we emerged the other side of the pandemic, we were pleased to welcome back the choir and full services for Christmas. Liz Day stepped down from the role as secretary to The LSM Committee for whom we duly thank for her service, and Pat Cherrett has stepped up to fill her place going forward. I am grateful for Pat's expertise and efficiency in aiding me to chair the Committee overseeing the Church. I look forward to reporting a more familiar pattern of services for the next year as we hopefully have now faced the worst in 2021.

Hilary Goodinge



Sandford St Martin's Church

Stuart Cocksedge

As the pandemic continued into 2021, we adapted the pattern of services at Sandford as appropriate. Going back into lockdown in January 2021, a regular Sunday Zoom service was established, with both young and old taking part, and with sung worship, prayers, and Bible readings shared from our homes. This proved to be an important point of connection for many folks in Sandford and other parts of the parish, and took place alongside the weekly pre-recorded parish YouTube service, and services at Lady St Mary Church.



With the easing of restrictions, Easter services were held in person at Sandford, including an outdoor celebration on Easter Sunday afternoon. Then, in May, we established a new pattern of in-person Sunday services with a short all-age outdoor service at 9.30am, followed by an indoor service alternating between Morning Worship and Holy Communion. This pattern continued through the summer until the end of September, and we enjoyed worshipping out of doors in God's creation, whether in sunshine, clouds, or rain! A large gazebo gave shade from the sun or shelter from the rain, as needed!

Then in October we re-started Breakfast@9, rebranded as Breakfast Church, back in the school hall at 9am on Sundays, followed by either Morning Worship or Holy Communion at 10.30am. Having worked out how to serve food and drinks in as safe and simple a way as possible, it was good to re-establish Breakfast Church and welcome people in to worship God together, young, and old. It has been encouraging to see the numbers rising for those attending both services at Sandford, as we have emerged from the pandemic.

However, opportunities for outdoor worship have continued, with the Remembrance Sunday service at the Sandford War Memorial in November well supported and appreciated by the local community. There was also another fun and festive outdoor carol service on the school playground in December, with the Christmas story expertly told by Hilary Bond and acted out by many of the children present!

We are very grateful to all those who give their time to help in the life of the church, including those helping with prayers and readings, music, and worship, welcoming and hospitality, setting up and down, and in many other ways.

As we look forward in 2022, we pray for the guidance and inspiration of the Holy Spirit as we seek to grow and to reach out to the community with the good news of Jesus.

Parish Prayers

Dave Kimble

Weekly Parish Prayer meetings began on 6th November 2018 following recognition of the insufficiency of organised Parish prayer which at that time was limited to once-monthly meetings held in the St. Edward Chapel at 9am on the first Saturday of each month. It was agreed to meet in a home in Sandford Road each Tuesday evening at 7:30pm for a solid hour of prayer. Clergy were, of course, invited but prayers would be led by others in order (amongst other things) not to add to clergy burdens.

Meetings continued weekly without any breaks except where public holidays intervened. Attendance was very consistent at between 10 and 15 members.

Mission and Worship - Worship

Covid affected our ability to meet together but, after a brief period during which the time was dedicated to personal prayers in our homes, the meetings have continued to take place on Zoom at the same time each week and, largely with the same, faithful few in attendance. Numbers have neither increased nor decreased to any significant extent. These attendance features may be seen as encouraging by some but sadly disappointing to others.

Covid has, for the time being, seen an end to the monthly Saturday morning prayers.

As might be considered normal for such small groups, leadership of each prayer time has to some extent seen some reluctance as the burden can often fall to the very few, but this is being addressed by the use of a rota system. Furthermore, other features of the original vision for prayer have occasionally been diluted for example by slowly starts and early finishes; lack of leadership; and technical issues with Zoom. However, the original vision remains.

If you believe, you will receive whatever you ask for in prayer. Matthew 21v22.

St John the Evangelist, East Holme

Jonathan Moulton



After another strange year and COVID restrictions being lifted we finally started to get back to some form of normality. Starting with one service a month and eventually two beginning in July with our ever-growing successful, Hymn's and Pimm's service, this was attended by The Choir, and Bridget who kindly selected the hymns which were all connected to The Lord's Prayer with readings and poems interspersed throughout the service, it was a lovely evening and the service took place in the church yard with a good number of people attending, Ruby Selby commented to myself after the event

that it was a most uplifting evening and much needed after such a difficult few years.

Communion has been taken with infused wafers and this will continue for the foreseeable future, our thanks go to Bridget for making this happen.

In September we opened the church for Ride and Stride, offering refreshments and a book stall, although we only had a few cyclists we did however attract some visitors who had never been to the church before, and this raise £80.

We now have new signposts both at the crossroads and at the entrance to the drive which is all thanks to William Bond and hopefully will make it easier for people to find us.

At the end of November, we had the Christening of a member of the Allan family which had been delayed due to COVID and the church was full and had been decorated with flowers, it was a very entertaining service as we had a Sermon about the advent ring and its origins.

The Carol service took place in the village again this year, with carols and readings, mince pies and mulled wine were served after and again people generously donated gifts for under the tree for Julia's House and the collection of £94.00 was given to the charity as well, thank you to Nigel Webb for playing the keyboard and to all those who read and Michael Young for taking the service.

Christmas morning was a lovely service taken by Hilary Bond and were able to partake in hymns inside the church.

Mission and Worship - Worship

After a short period of illness sadly Ruby Selby passed away and on the 3rd of February 2022 her funeral was held in the church which she loved and had dedicated most of her life to, she will be greatly missed by all, as she was such a pillar of the community, and I spent many an hour listening to her tales of days gone by and how church life used to be. It is hoped that her son Lesly Selby will take over the roll and carry on the family tradition.

We are hoping to get back to doing some much needed fundraising in the near future, hopefully starting this Easter with a coffee morning on Easter Monday and a Flower Festival on August Bank Holiday Monday.

We would like to thank Nigel and Graham Selby for the upkeep of the Church Yard, and to the Moulton family for the general cleaning and help with the preparation of services, Nigel Webb for continuing to attend the services even when unable to play the organ but also for playing the organ now restrictions have been lifted and finally to those who read lessons in the services.

St Martin-on-the-Walls, Wareham

Di Beaumont

We have had another strange year in all our Churches under the dark cloud of Covid 19. This virus has altered how we worship in our little church, just as it has in others. We still do not go up for communion but have communion brought to us. We use gluten free bread that goes too soggy when a drop of wine is added so we receive only the host. We have, however, been able to meet regularly remaining extra cautious as several of our congregation are at higher risk themselves or care for people in this category. Most of our regulars from before Covid are now attend services when they can although some are now suffering from poor health so come irregularly or not at all. As a church we keep in touch with those who are struggling and pray regularly for those who have still been unable to return.



Our millennium celebrations stalled through Covid, but we have been able to move forward with commissioning a plaque to go on the outside south face of the tower. Fundraising for it has been successful and a faculty granted. It is hoped that plaque will be completed by Easter 2022 and installed soon after. Hopefully Bishop Karen will be able to attend one of our Wednesday services to dedicate it. The concert that was planned to be in SMotW by Canzonetta was transferred to LSM and the music, wine and canapes evening has been delayed until 2022, the date is still to be arranged.

We had many visitors, despite Covid, during the year and a lot of positive comments in our visitor book. It is not unexpected that the numbers of foreign visitors have been lower but more from the UK. We find most visitors give what they can but often in change rather than notes. Covid has been difficult for many, both psychologically as well as financially. There has been a continued problem with money being taken from the "black box" safe by the door. The police have been informed but they have not investigated the incidents. The safe is now chained as well as locked and its replacement is being investigated.

On a much more positive note, our worshipping congregation on Wednesday, although lower when we first started services again, continues to grow steadily. In addition to our usual services, we had a service

Mission and Worship - Worship

with the imposition of ashes on Ash Wednesday and enjoyed harvest festival in the autumn with all donations to the food bank. We have had some wonderful celebrations in SMotW this year - Kay Austin and Gary Piper were married in July, and Nancy and Freddie Jenkins were baptised in November. The Royal British Legion Ladies celebrated their Carol Service in SMotW, and we ended the year in church with a Watch Night Service. We were lead Brigid saying goodbye to the old year.

During the year we co-opted Divina Thomas onto our local church committee, and, at the APCM, I am planning to hand over the role of local church warden. We have a small but enthusiastic committee who are happy to continue their work for the church and Becky Green has volunteered to take over from me so hopefully, by the time this report is published the changes will be ratified. St Martin on the Walls is a small but welcoming church, a refuge for many who struggle and a quiet meditative space for worship. Those who come just to visit the Lawrence effigy often are struck by the church itself – they meet God – even if they do not recognise it as such, may this continue for the next 1,000 years – at least!

Bell Ringers

Phil Stephens



Throughout the year, when Covid restrictions allowed, we have rung for Sunday services. On very few occasions we managed to ring all ten bells but mostly the ringing was on eight. Clearly, due to Covid, our practice nights have been confined mostly to our local ringers. In the latter part of the year, we have had a few more visitors which has been very much appreciated.

Following the advice from the government SAGE team we purchased a meter and made some measurement of the CO₂ level in the ringing chamber. It was soon clear that, even though we have a large chamber, the level soon rose above the recommended level of 800 parts per million (ppm). We found that we could keep the level below 800ppm by having the door and window open.

We have rung for a few weddings throughout the year, including the wedding of Lizzie Salter, Tim & Angela's daughter. Another wedding ringing special was when six of the Guild's young ringers rang. Unfortunately, we have not even attempted to ring any quarter peals since the beginning of the pandemic. Getting back to ringing was much harder than we thought. We will be working hard in 2022 get back to ringing a few quarters.

Phil Stephens, Tower captain.

Choir (Lady St Mary)

William Day



The lengthy periods of lockdown through 2021 again reduced demand for the services of the choir. We were limited by regulation to just a few singers for a while and a rota had to be produced each month to fairly spread the singing opportunities amongst choir members. Also, safe distancing between singers and mask wearing limited us a little.

I would again like to thank choir members who felt able to sing and Maurice for playing the organ for services and Friday practices that took place in the periods when choir singing was permitted in church.

Mission and Worship - Worship

In July we sang for the outdoor Hymns and Pymms service at East Holme. This was well supported with a substantial congregation. Thank you to East Holme for inviting us to take part.

We were able to start singing the 10:00am Sunday Eucharist at LSM in the second half of the year as the congregation were permitted to join in wearing masks.

The Advent service of light, and the usual Christmas services all took place.

I would also like to thank the small band which normally loyally plays with the choir and organ on the second Sundays of each month. In 2021 they played on Sundays when permitted, including the Christmas carol service.

It has been heartening and encouraging receiving messages of support and appreciation from congregation members, the Ministry Team and Church Wardens.

Pioneer Ministry

Hilary Bond

I was licensed back to Wareham as a pioneer priest in September 2020, coming with a vision for a place where there is always room for someone else, no such thing as a silly question, and everyone is valued. I was also determined – and still am – not to inflict any of my own bright ideas on other people, but simply to be present and to see what God would do with that. A few weeks later lockdown two started, and life was firmly back online. I restarted the daily Facebook live streamed thought for the day that I had done at the beginning of lockdown one, and put in a few extra zoom meetings; tea and a chat twice a week at 5 pm, and contemplative prayer twice a week at 12 noon. I also wrote a lent course “Get Outside in Lent” that I ran on zoom as a virtual fire pit gathering. The advantage of doing something like that on zoom is that people from all sorts of different places came and I think that those who joined in got something from it – I certainly did.

At the end of May, Not Just Sundays reopened and the table where there is always room for someone else began to re-form. Many people were, and still are quite twitchy about sitting around a table with different people from different places, but God is doing something with it and so we sat and talked and listened to one another, valuing all that everyone had to bring to the table.

Something that started growing last summer is the fire pit gathering. About once a month a group of us that can be anywhere between 5 and 25 people meet in my garden around the fire pit. The gathering is rooted in Christian community, but people come from all sorts of different world views and spiritualities. We share words, silence, the meditations of our hearts, and of course food and drink. It is a beginning, and we are excited to see where it will go.

Sandford Men's Breakfast

The autumn of 2021 saw the return of men's breakfasts, with events in October and November held at Not Just Sundaes. These breakfasts were enjoyable and well attended by men from several different churches. NJS provided an excellent cooked breakfast which was enjoyed by all. It is hoped that we can build on this good start during 2022, encouraging men from across the churches to come together for fellowship, to invite friends along, and also to hear from guest speakers on some occasions.

Stuart Cocksedge



Home Groups

Home groups have run throughout the year, except during Lent when a good number of people joined in with our Lent groups 'Caring for Creation' which ran on zoom. For the rest of the year, between 40 and 50 people met in six homegroups, in a variety of virtual and in person ways as covid allowed. One group completed The Bible Course, produced by the Bible Society, and many different books of the Bible were studied, along with thematic studies on topics such as prayer. Some groups met weekly, others fortnightly, and some alternated meetings for study with saying evening prayer together or with social events. Please contact Helen if you would like to join a group.

Helen Williams

Christian Aid

Angela Salter

We thank all who have supported Christian Aid by collecting house to house for so many years. Your efforts are so much appreciated by all in the poorest countries overseas who benefit from Christian Aid. Due to the national fall off in income from churches Christian Aid is struggling and making many of its staff redundant. It is very sad that our churches seem no longer able to support this extremely necessary and worthwhile work overseas as unable or unwilling to engage with the local community in the way that we were 20 years ago when in Wareham we were raising between £8,000 to £10,000 each year. Please continue to support the work of Christian Aid during Christian Aid Week In 2022, Christian Aid Week will take place from **15th to 21st May**. This year Christian Aid Week will focus on the plight of drought which numerous countries around the world face. You can give online either regularly or as a one off <https://www.christianaid.org.uk/give/ways-to-donate>



Flower Arrangers

Pat and Clive Cherrett



Our thanks go to our loyal group of ladies who undertake the arranging of flowers in Lady St Mary in the Sanctuary throughout the year. For Festivals of Easter, Christmas and Harvest we ask for as many volunteers as possible. Up until now we have managed with the rota of being on duty twice a year but unfortunately some people have had to retire so we are asking for anyone who has a love of flowers to come and join us. No previous experience necessary.

Mission

Stuart Cocksedge

In 2020 we continued to support our four mission partners through prayer and financial giving. These are: Malcolm and Yanet Taylor working with YWAM in the Dominican Republic, Ruth Guinness serving with SIM in Malawi, Terekeka Diocese and St Stephen's School in South Sudan, and Andy Bowerman working for the Mission to Seafarers in the Middle East.

Tearfund was our guest mission for 2021, and we held a Mission Sunday service in Lady St Mary Church on Sunday 23rd May (Pentecost Sunday), with a guest speaker from Tearfund, Dr Wonuola Nwisi, who delivered a pre-recorded talk on video. She focused on the work of Tearfund partners in the Middle East, bringing practical help and hope to the people of Lebanon. A Mission Sunday service was also aired on YouTube for those unable to come in person. People were encouraged to give financially to our mission partners, either in person or online, and once again the response was an encouraging one, with a total of £11,149.99 given (including gift aid).

One of our mission partners, Ruth Guinness, spent several months in the UK on sabbatical and home assignment during 2021, and we were able to hear Ruth preach at Lady St Mary Church in November, as she prepared to return to Malawi to take up a new role there with SIM.

The Mission Committee also agreed to make up the amount given at carol services in the parish in December 2021 to a total of £1,000, to be given to St Stephen's School Terekeka towards the salaries of teachers. This was once again due to the fact that our usual Advent collections for Terekeka, particularly at school carol services, were not possible due to the pandemic.

The Mission Committee consists of Stuart Cocksedge, Simon Everett, Garry Guinness, Judith Holmes, Mike Quinlan, and Eddie Taylor. Please continue to pray for each of our mission partners.



Saturday Morning Coffee in the Parish Hall

Jennifer Haworth



After a cautious opening in October, we are happy that we are now back to running as normal and our regulars are beginning to appear in greater numbers. Hopefully as the weather improves, we will see greater numbers.

As well as most of our regular volunteers, we have managed to recruit two more to our kitchen rota, but still more would be helpful. Contact Jennifer if you wish to help. Our thanks to these people, without whom we would not survive.

In addition, I wish to thank all who provide us with delicious cakes on a regular basis. I am sure that these make our Saturdays more enjoyable. We are pleased to say that from October to April we have made a profit of approximately £2,500. This is very much in line with previous years.

If you have not previously been involved as staff or visitor, please put it in your diary and enjoy the excellent atmosphere we offer. 01202 621294 or jackjenhwrth@gmail.com

Sunday morning refreshments at LSM

Nick and Issy Burden

Coffee or tea is served in the parish hall after the 10 am service but this unfortunately had to be stopped in March 2020 due to the coronavirus pandemic. However, because of the improving situation it was possible to restart it in August 2021 after a break of some 17 months. Thanks to the team of volunteers a new rota was put in place and continued until December when again, due to the coronavirus situation, operations had to be suspended. It is hoped that this time the break will be much shorter. All was proceeding well, with the supplies of coffee, tea and some biscuits being Fair Trade. A big thank you to all the volunteers. All donations received are passed onto charity and church funds and hopefully 2022 will be a year when this opportunity for the congregation to get together to socialise and get to know each other will resume and continue unrestricted.



Care Homes

Stuart Cocksedge

The pandemic has made visiting our local care homes very difficult, but as restrictions were eased during the Spring and Summer of 2021, we were able to re-start monthly services at Pine Martin Grange, some of which took place outdoors in their lovely patio garden area in good weather. These services have been well received by residents and staff, giving the opportunity to sing some familiar hymns, as well as readings and prayers. It has not yet been possible to resume services at Anglebury Court, but we hope to do so in due course.

Mission and Worship - Outreach

Sudan Link

Mike Quinlan

The parish of Wareham has been supporting Christians in Sudan for over thirty years as part of the Salisbury Diocese partnership. Since 2005 this has been focused on the Diocese of Terekeka in South Sudan and on St Stephen's School, which is a primary and secondary school run by the Diocese. I visited Terekeka in March 2020 and met Bishop Paul Modi and teachers at St Stephen's School.

I have kept in regular touch with Bishop Paul Modi during the year via email and Facebook. Bishop Paul has posted pictures of activities that he has been involved with during the year. This has included attending Peace Conferences in different parts of the Diocese, initiating a Theology Training Programme in Terekeka, Training conferences for Pastors and Evangelists and ordaining deacons to work as Chaplains in the army. He is regularly visiting different parishes in his diocese, which may be over 100 miles from the town of Terekeka. The diocese has also started work on building a Cathedral (up till now they haven't had a cathedral) and a small Diocesan Office.

St Stephen's School is run by the Diocese and provides education at Nursery, Primary and Secondary levels to around 800 children. More than 60% of the pupils are boys and the proportion of girls decreases in the higher classes as some girls are taken away by their parents to get married. Although the school is private and charges fees (£12 to £30 per year) about 50% of parents cannot afford to pay.

Wareham Parish sends money each year to support teachers' salaries, to build and repairs classrooms and to provide teaching materials. In 2021 we sent £1,200 in April and £3,000 in July. Much of this money was donated at Mission Sunday in May. Historically we have also given 50% of the money collected for coffee after church in Lady St Mary's and money collected at school carol services. However, these events were suspended during 2021 due to Covid. We are very grateful for those who give generously to support the work in Terekeka. In March 2021, Bishop Paul wrote: 'I want to update you on the results of Primary Class 8. 101 Sat for exams. 84 passed to join the senior school. Congratulations to you and PCC for the support.'

South Sudan continues to suffer from communal violence, political instability, famine due to failure of harvests and flooding, which can be attributed to the effect of global warming. There is also a chronic shortage of medical facilities and access to clean water. About 70% of the population are illiterate. Please continue to pray for South Sudan, for a lasting peace settlement and an end to tribal violence. Pray too for the Diocese of Terekeka, Bishop Paul Modi and St Stephen's School.



New Cathedral



Ten army chaplains ordained



Peace programme in Tali

Wareham's Church Family and ecumenical activities

Stuart Cocksedge

With restrictions in place and concerns about Covid for much of 2021, it was not possible to hold the ecumenical events we would normally hope to have in Wareham, such as united services and the Good Friday walk of witness.



Throughout the pandemic, the important work of the Blessing Fund and the Foodbank which is run out of Purbeck Gateway Church have continued to provide vital support to local people in need. Clergy and church leaders also continued to meet for prayer, support, and encouragement during 2021. This was through a combination of virtual Zoom meetings, in-person leaders' lunches as restrictions were eased, and Wareham's Church Family meetings held in Not Just Sundaes, which has provided a wonderful venue since its re-opening after the lockdowns.

Although the youth group which began prior to Covid in Not Just Sundaes has not re-started, youth work has continued with a group led by Helen Williams (see separate report).

We are thankful that forward to the time when, as the situation eases, we can once again work more closely together as Christians from across the churches of Wareham to advance God's Kingdom and serve our communities in this area and beyond.

Environment Report

Helen Williams

The Environmental Subcommittee of the PCC was formed after the 2021 APCM and I was asked to chair it. We believe that we have a range of functions including:

- presenting ideas and recommendations to the PCC and holding the PCC to account on environmental matters
- raising awareness of environmental matters in the church and beyond
- emphasising that creation care is an integral part of our worship

Here are a few highlights of things that happened during 2021.

Lady St Mary Church was awarded an A Rocha Eco-church bronze award, largely due to Hilary Bond's efforts. We are now looking towards gaining the same award for East Holme and Arne, and thinking about how Lady St Mary can gain silver.

We organised surveys of the wildlife in the churchyards at Lady St Mary, East Holme, and Arne. These were submitted by Nick Burden to the National Biodiversity Network as part of the Churches Count on Nature initiative to find out what is living in burial grounds across the country and what needs to be done to protect it.

During Creationtide, instead of the usual Green Tips in the weekly pew sheet, Naomi Gates collected some first-hand accounts from people in the churches of what they personally are doing for the environment.

In November Linda Everett organised for our local MP, Michael Tomlinson to come to Lady St Mary Church for a question-and-answer session about environmental issues. There was a lively discussion, and it was good to see how seriously he takes environmental issues and for us to be able to show him that the church cares deeply about this.

I wish to record my thanks to the rest of the subcommittee and to all who are working hard to cherish our planet.

Mission and Worship - Outreach

Ladies that Lunch and Pray

Linda Everett

Despite the lockdowns and constant threat of Covid, 'Ladies that Lunch and Pray' met nine times during 2021 and despite this creating some difficulties the group has grown and continues to do so, with numbers presently standing between 17 and 20. Some of the meetings have had guests leading us in reflection and others are in-house but fellowship and prayer remain paramount. Anyone interested in joining should contact Linda Everett or the Parish Office.

Ladies that Lunch and Pray – Meals

Linda Everett

During the Covid epidemic many of the members of 'Ladies that Lunch and Pray' made meals that were given to those who were sick and unable to get out, or feeling too unwell to cook. This has now been formalised and others have joined in continuing to provide meals for those in need. If you know of anyone who could benefit from this, please contact Linda Everett or the Parish Office.

Newcomers Teas and Lunches

Linda Everett

Between Covid lockdowns and when government guidelines permitted the Rectory hosted garden teas and lunches for those new to the parish. These enjoyable times provide an opportunity to get to know newcomers and to inform them of what goes on in the parish and what the different churches have to offer, as well as finding out if they would like to be involved with any parish activities.

Visiting Speaker

Linda Everett

In November we hosted one of our local MPs, Mr Michael Tomlinson, in Lady St Mary church, so that church members and others from around the parish could listen to what he had to say on environmental matters and have an opportunity to question him about government policy. We hope to be able to host other speakers (quarterly) covering a variety of topics and will give due notice of these once they are confirmed.

Outreach to Children and their families

Stuart Cocksedge

In the early months of 2021, we found ourselves in lockdown once again, and it was hard to keep up contact with young families. As a result, we organised several monthly online Zoom services specifically for children and families, including a Zoom Christingle at Candlemas, and a Zoom Mothering Sunday service. These services drew together families connected with Angel Voices in Wareham and Breakfast Church in Sandford, with craft bags delivered to their doors in advance, to be used on Zoom. Coming together online, we sang, prayed, told Bible stories, and did craft activities. This helped to build up contact with families until the Spring when we were able to do more in-person services once again.

During 2021, the baby and toddler groups in Wareham and later in Sandford adapted to the frequently changing Covid restrictions, and outdoor services at Sandford provided a safe and accessible way for children and families to worship (see separate reports for more details).

Following the success of the previous year, in Advent we set up another Christmas Trail around the shop windows of Wareham. Families could follow a trail sheet around the town to find each of the characters in the Nativity story. There was a Fairtrade chocolate prize for completing the trail, and an invitation to Christmas services. This was once again enjoyed by many local families. Additionally, a very successful Christmas craft afternoon was organised by Linda Everett and Mary Appleton in the Parish Hall in early December.

Angel Voices

Mary Appleton



This report covers April 2021 –April 2022. What a roller coaster it has been again due to the pandemic but hopefully we are now on the other side.

Angel Voices meet on the First Sunday of the month. We meet in the Parish Hall at 9.15 am to sing and then walk over to LSM for the 10 am Family Communion Service where the children play an active part in the worship.

For May, June & July we could not meet in person, but we gathered virtually with the blessing of zoom.

May 'I am the Good Shepherd' Zoom service with church families was well attended and the marshmallow sheep were a yummy hit.

Back in LSM

Sun August 1st 'Alleluia! Family of God Together Again'

Sun Sept 5th 'New Beginnings' followed by a BBQ at the Rectory

Sun Oct 3rd 'Harvest'

Sun Nov 7th 'Love of All God's Creatures' with photos AV and their pets

Sat Nov 27th Workshop to make Christmas Decorations for our churches

Sun Dec 5th 'Christingle Service'

Fri Dec 24th 'Crib Service'

Sun Jan 9th 'Epiphany Service' with Drama

Sun Feb 6th 'Will you come & Follow Me'

Sun March 6th 'The Temptations'

Sat April 2nd Workshop to make Easter Decorations for our churches

Sun April 3rd 'Knowing You Jesus'

Angel Voices has managed to thrive thanks to the support of the clergy, members of the congregation (esp. Bob Day), parentsand most deservedly of all..... the children. We thank you all for the support.

Thank you too to Debbie Davis, a long-standing member of the AV Team who has stood down this year. Thank you, Debbie!

We extend a warm welcome to Anne Laking who has joined the team.

Mary Appleton, Anne Smith, Eve Baker, and Anne Laking

Children and Young People

Handbell Ringers

Angela Salter

We moved to the Scout and Guide HQ last year so that we had more space and have regularly met each week since September. We did manage to ring carols one Saturday morning in December standing outside the parish hall which people at the market could listen to and join in with and we were glad to be able to do this. We also rang on the stage for the Father Christmas parade and at the start of the Purbeck Village Quire concert in February. Anyone who would like to join us on a Wednesday afternoon would be very welcome.

Jenny and I were very pleased that the junior team have been able to ring for the first Sunday of each month in LSM. We now have a really good group of children and young people who practice for an hour before the service and have progressed amazingly over the last few months.

Baby and Toddler Group

Sandford Seedlings

Wareham Baby and Toddler Group

New Wareham Mum and Baby Group

Rachel Cocksedge



2021 was a year of continual change and adaptation for our work with young families. The year started with taking our newly formed Wareham Mum and Baby Group online and we ran on Zoom for a term. This worked ok for continuing to support regulars but did not attract any new members. However, for the summer term we were able to return to the Parish Hall and gradually reduce some of the restrictions.



The Summer Term also enabled us to offer in person group for parents with older babies and toddlers for the first time since the pandemic began. With the need to try to remain socially distanced we introduced a bookable Rhyme Time style session with families sitting on socially distanced mats and having a personal bag of props which was built up over the weeks. We used predominantly recorded music due to the restrictions on the number of people singing. It was far from what we normally offer but so lovely to finally be able to connect in person with families with toddlers. Pine Martin Grange care home supported us by making some star props (for twinkle twinkle little star).

Over the summer holidays we continued to meet on Thursday mornings at the Rec. Attendance was very



variable, but it was great to be able to get to know some of our families better over leisurely outdoor meet ups and also connect with others who happened to be at the Play Park! This is something I'd like to continue in the future.

September saw the biggest changes. We were able to restart Sandford Seedlings in Sandford St Martin's Church for the first time in 18 months but now on a Tuesday afternoon. We also moved back to having a



regular toddler group session in the Parish Hall on a Thursday morning. We decided that having two mixed age groups at the two sites was the best way to serve as many families as possible, so this saw the end of our Mum and Baby Group. To make sure that the groups were as covid safe as possible and to avoid overwhelming children who were not used to socialising, we introduced a weekly booking system and strictly limited numbers (8 families at Sandford and 16 in Wareham). This has enabled us to really get to know those who come along, and it has been a joy to rebuild the groups, meet new families and help them to make connections with each other. We hope and pray that we can also help to connect them with the wider church family. We have a weekly faith linked theme which we use to inspire the craft and songs each week at both groups.

We have made a number of changes to how the Wareham Baby and Toddler Group operates to adapt to the fact that the average age of children attending has decreased (due to more older toddlers being in nursery more of the time) and to encourage parents to move round with their children trying different activities and meeting new people.

Thanks are due to Becky Green, Mary Appleton, Heather Rose, Charlotte Barber, Alison Quinlan, and all of those on the refreshment teams for all your help and support whilst coping with constantly evolving ways of working. Thank you all.

Schools Work

Stuart Cocksedge

Despite continuing Covid restrictions during 2021, we maintained our work with our three church primary schools in various ways. The clergy team continued to produce regular Collective Worship videos which were posted on YouTube for use by the schools as needed. At times, we also led Collective Worship live on Zoom or Microsoft Teams as requested by the schools, which enabled some degree of interaction, when the technology worked properly! Then, as restrictions were eased, in-person Collective Worship became possible once again, often with smaller numbers of children in attendance (e.g., individual year groups or classes). It has been good to be back in schools in person.

Additionally, following the success of a shared schools Christmas Zoom service in 2020, we held a Zoom Easter service in April 2021, in which children from all three schools took part, sharing songs, prayers, and readings to tell the Easter story.

Schools Work

Hilary Bond

The beginning of 2021 saw the start of lockdown three and so schools work went online once again with weekly videoed assemblies and occasional class discussion sessions on zoom to fit in with specific topics in the RE syllabus.

At the beginning of May Sandford school invited us back to do collective worship in person, with two-year groups at opposite ends of the hall and us in the middle. It was nice to be back in school, but was certainly nowhere near back to any sort of normal.

Also in May, Stoborough school ran a nurture through nature week and as part of that I ran a session with each class in turn about soil and seeds, based on the parable of the Sower - all outside and no indoor mixing allowed.

By halfway through the summer term, we were back doing collective worship in all three of our primary schools, and a few classes were visiting the church as part of their RE curriculum.

The beginning of the autumn term started off much more as it had been pre-pandemic. Collective worship in every school every week, class sessions about harvest, and preparation for a possible SIAM's inspection. In November I headed off to Glasgow for a week for COP 26; I was going to keep vigil outside the entrance to the blue zone with a multifaith group. All three schools were very interested as I helped them to make the link between Christian faith and care of creation. One School joined me in Glasgow for half an hour via a zoom link, while others held their own mini climate summit, made related artwork, and wrote prayers. On my return good conversation was had as I shared some of the things, I had been part of in Glasgow and what it had to do with Christian faith.

2021 has definitely had its challenges, but good connection has been maintained with all three of our primary schools in and perhaps the children and staff have seen something of how Christian faith can sustain us when things are difficult

Youth Discipleship Group

Helen Williams

A small youth discipleship group has been meeting either on zoom or at the curate's house for young people between about 9 and 13. We have played lots of silly games, studied the Bible, and prayed together. The leaders have learnt so much from the young people and we hope that they have learnt from us too, as together we try to work out how to live as Jesus' disciples.

Children's craft Afternoon

Linda Everett

In the build up to Christmas a craft afternoon was organised by Linda Everett and the Angel Voices Team to encourage children to make Christmas decorations for the church. These included Angels, Father Christmas' and snowflakes, and a lot more besides. There were a great many helpers and plenty of children from all corners of the parish attended with their parents and a great time was had by all. The next day many of the decorations were hung on the Christmas tree in Lady St Mary church (and some were taken to the other churches of the team). This proved so popular that another event will be organised ahead of Easter.

Angel Voices and Children's Barbecue

Linda Everett

This took place in the Rectory garden in July and was well attended by children and their parents (grandparents). Everyone had great fun as well as being well fed!



Foundation Governors

Stuart Cocksedge

The links we have with Stoborough, Wareham St Mary, and Sandford St Martin's Church of England Primary Schools are of great importance. Vital to these links with our church schools are the Christians serving them as Foundation Governors. Our local church schools are looking for Foundation Governors, offering excellent opportunities to serve and encourage the schools, to continue to develop their Christian ethos, and to strength the links between church and school. If you feel that you, or someone you know, would be interested in becoming a Foundation Governor, please contact the Parish Office on 01929 550905.



Lay Pastoral Assistants

Brigid Barrett

Our LPAs (Lay Pastoral Assistants) are an invaluable part of the ministry team. Some have undertaken this voluntary work, supporting the pastoral care offered in the parish, for many years.

The range of assistance they provide includes visiting the sick and housebound at home and in hospital, offering support to the bereaved, supporting baptism families, leading home groups, working with children, assisting with services both in church and at local care homes, Several took personal responsibility for keeping in contact with local congregations during the lockdowns, ensuring people had food as well as reassuring them. Some have further training to take communion to those unable to attend church, All LPAs feel they are called to offer pastoral care and they do so following training and commissioning by the Bishop. All are DBS checked and undertake Safeguarding training.

We celebrated this ministry during a service in Lady St Mary on 30th January 2022

Thanks were given for Ann Bashford, Di Beaumont, Pippa Cracknell, Maxine Humphries, Maureen Lever, Ron and Ann Lewis, Joan Podger, and Mary Simmonds, who are retiring.

Mary Appleton, Eve Baker, Debs Barclay, Jean Dixon, Merville Gover, Becky Green, Margaret Harris, Elaine Orchard, were re-commissioned at the same service, the Cathedral service being cancelled due to COVID, The clergy lead for our parish LPAs will pass to the Rector as I am planning to move to Ringwood later this year.

Baptisms and Thanksgivings

Debs Barclay



Once the easing of restrictions after lockdown in 2021 were lifted we were able to offer Baptisms again in the Parish. All parents are invited to an informal meeting to meet a member of our clergy and an LPA before the service. Each family is supported by one of our LPAs from the first meeting to the Service and are then welcomed back at a later date by the church family.

Funerals

Debs Barclay

During 2021, our clergy team were still present at 55 funerals, within our parish church and at the local crematoriums or at the Cemetery Chapels.



Marriage

Stuart Cocksedge



With the continuation of the pandemic in 2021, and a gradual easing of restrictions, we were pleased to be able to 9 weddings taking place in our churches, although some couples still chose to postpone until a later date. In May 2021 we held a marriage preparation morning at Sandford St Martin's Church for couples getting married in the months that followed.

Wednesday Group

Nancy Baynes

No meetings have been possible this year. We hope to restart when conditions allow. Contact Nancy Baynes, Tel 551050

Resources and Support

Guardians and Guides

Susan Stuart

Our parish churches of Lady St Mary and St Martin-on-the-Walls attract many thousand of visitors each year because of their historical and architectural interest and their beauty, although during the last year or so both churches suffered closures at times with the resultant loss of visitor numbers.

Where possible teams of volunteer Guardians and Guides have been in attendance on most days in the week and visitors often comment how much they appreciate seeing a friendly face and learning more about the church and the town of Wareham. Unfortunately, our numbers are falling, and new volunteers are urgently sought. One hour in the week, either on a permanent basis or on a list of reserves, is all that is required.

Our Parish Bookstall

Jeannette Guinness

Our parish bookstall based in Lady St Mary, continues to be a valuable resource for books, cards, and little gifts for both worshippers and visitors. The bookstall suffered because of lockdown, and was only reinstated in church in September. My trading total this year was £800. Profits enable us to buy Life Word booklets offering them free for visitors and others.

A good number of folks continue to have Bible Reading notes and in December 100 people were stimulated by Tim Chester's Advent book, 'Radiant Dawn'. I have on occasion taken a selection of books to Sandford services, which has been appreciated by families and older folk. Many of our Home Fellowship groups order their course material through me. I am very happy to take orders, especially by phone.

Please look at the bookstall regularly and enjoy the many bargains both for yourself and to lend to others, enabling us to be encouraged and grow in knowledge and loving service of our risen Lord.

Parish Hall Management

Carol Turner

As you are all aware the Parish Hall has not been used since early last year only opening for a very short while once lock down eased but then closing again. This has caused a severe loss of income for the hall maintenance and running costs although low these still need to be met. After the outside surrounding listed wall was completed last year, our funds plummeted to Zero but there is still the general maintenance and running costs to be found. Thankfully these have been low as Zoe has been furloughed and I have continued to clean the hall (especially the toilets) once a week without remuneration. I have however recently received the sum of £10,000 plus gift aid from a lady who I have been looking after for a very long time in recognition of all the help I have given her. This as you can imagine was the windfall that was needed to enable us to keep "ticking over" until the hall can one again be open for hire. Many of our regular hirers wish to resume their bookings as soon as Covid rules allow but we may lose some due to clubs closing down etc. during the pandemic (watch this space). Fortunately, there haven't been a lot of difficulties during shut down. The boiler and central heating system had its annual check and there were a few difficulties which have now been resolved. (I have recently realised that the heating system is now 18 years old having been put in when I did the major refurbishment of the hall back in the early 2000's) time marches on!! We had a leak in the roof during the gales which Spillers checked and remedied, and I have kept the heating on low during the severe cold weather to protect the fabric and of course the heating is on in the offices when Debbie is in. Also, Pat has been in the hall every Saturday morning providing coffee to the market traders, so the heating is on then as well.

At this time, I can't think of anything further to report only that I hope to see everyone back in the hall again as soon as permissible for Saturday coffee plus any other occasion which can be organised.

Carol Turner Chair Parish Hall Committee

Resources and Support

Parish Hall Bookings

Debs Barclay

Bookings for 2021 had as and when restrictions lifted, and most groups are now meeting regularly again. Many groups and clubs have still not restarted, and some have cancelled permanently which has led to a loss in revenue for the Parish Hall.

We look forward to welcoming our regular bookings and new bookings in 2022.

Parish Office

Debs Barclay

We have had a varied year in the Parish Office of but after the restrictions of the first part of the year, we were once again able to open up the Parish Office. I now have two volunteers helping me in the office, Gay and Alison and I am so grateful for when they were volunteering in the office for all their support which is truly appreciated. The Parish office is open for external enquiries on Monday, Wednesday, Friday from 9.00am until 1.00pm and at all other times email enquiries will be dealt with as soon as possible.

Fairtrade

Judith Holmes



When, in the Autumn of 2021, it became possible to have a weekly stall on a Saturday morning, I made the decision not to do so, mainly because of lack of regular help in running the stall. Instead, I would set up a stall at significant times of year, notably in the three weeks leading up to Christmas. This proved both popular and profitable for the selling of cards and small gifts. Loyal customers have continued to support by buying one or two items on a regular basis for which I am grateful. I would welcome others, as purchases of Fairtrade items do really make a difference to farmers who are facing the challenges of climate change. I continue to provide coffee and tea for Sandford and LSM refreshments. My total sales from April 2021 to now total £2021.

Fabric Report

Mike Quinlan

Clive Cherrett resigned as Fabric Officer in July 2021. Clive has been Fabric Officer for 16 years and we are very grateful for his diligence and hard work in looking after our buildings for so many years. Mike Quinlan has taken over responsibility for the Fabric of our churches (except for East Holme) and has formed a Fabric Committee with the other members being Alan Green, Tim Salter, and Phil Stephens. This has met several times in the year.

Lady St Mary's Church

There have been ongoing discussions regarding the ownership of the land round the church. This has included discussions with the Priory Hotel over parking and discussions with Wareham Town Council about the church's ownership of Church Green. In November at a meeting with Debbie Weller from the Wareham Burials Board it was discovered that the church still owns the Churchyard (the area immediately to the north of the church), though it is maintained by the Burials Board.

In April a lump of mortar fell from the chancel arch onto the Rector's Stall. This was inspected from a scaffold tower in July. Fortunately, there are no other loose pieces and repairs can be left till the church is next re-decorated. In May there was water penetration into the clergy vestry through the roof though the exact area of the leak was difficult to identify. Certain items were cleared out of the vestry and there appear to have been no further leaks. The clergy vestry needs redecoration, but this has been delayed pending decisions on reordering of the church. A Planning Application and an initial application to the Diocesan Advisory Committee have been submitted for adding a zinc covering over the Becket Chapel roof.

Resources and Support

Discussions are still ongoing. A scheme was drawn up for surface water drainage to a soak away on the south side of the roof and a planning application was submitted in October. This has now been approved with two conditions, but the work has been delayed till January 2023 during a planned closure of the Priory Hotel.

New LED floodlights have been installed. PAT testing of appliances has been carried out. The five-year electrical inspection and testing was carried out in October and the condition was assessed as being satisfactory. The next inspection will be due in October 2026.

The Anthony Tew monument on the south wall of the nave was noted in May to be moving away from the wall. This was inspected by a specialist (Sally Strachey Historic Conservation) and a report produced stating that it was likely that the original fixings had failed and that the whole wall was extremely damp (probably due to the lack of drainage on this side of the church). Temporary propping has been installed and a Faculty application has now been submitted.

A Faculty was obtained in December for repairs to the Church Organ.

St Martin on the Walls

A Faculty has been obtained for a stone plaque to be fixed to the south porch of the church to commemorate the millennium of the church in 2020. This is being made by sculptor, Jonathan Sells, and will be installed shortly. A scheme has been drawn up by our architect for installation of new heating, replacement of the electrics and new stone flooring. This has followed a report on the conservation of the wall paintings carried out in 2015 and a Geophysical Survey Report carried out in 2018. The PCC has given approval for us to proceed with applying for a Faculty, obtaining quotations and fundraising for this work. However, the electrical and mechanical designs need to be drawn up by a Building Services consultant and this will be commissioned shortly. The five-year electrical inspection and testing was carried out in October and the condition was assessed as being satisfactory. The next inspection will be due in October 2024 (this is a shorter period probably due to the age of the current equipment). The Quinquennial inspection was due to be carried out in 2019 (the last report inspection was in 2014). A new inspection was carried out in February 2022 and the report is awaited.

St Nicholas Church Arne

A new timber entrance gate has been made and installed by Phil Stephens and Wareham Area Men's Shed.

Re-ordering Committee

Canon Simon Everett

Due to the Covid epidemic and our energies being required elsewhere the re-ordering committee only met once and that was to decide exactly what work should be carried out in Lady St Mary church and in what order. However, a few months after this meeting it was discovered that the churchyard to the north of Lady St Mary was owned by the PCC. This meant that we might be able to build a new parish hall on this site and, if this were so, we would probably need to change the re-ordering required. It was decided to explore the options with the Diocesan Advisory Committee (DAC) and a site visit was booked for February 2022.

Report on Parish Finances for 2021

Mark Lapper (PCC Treasurer)

Review of the Year

Reserves Policy

We try to hold a balance in Unrestricted Funds equal to at least 4 months of our annual expenditure to smooth and cover future fluctuations. At the end of the year this cover was approximately 6 months.

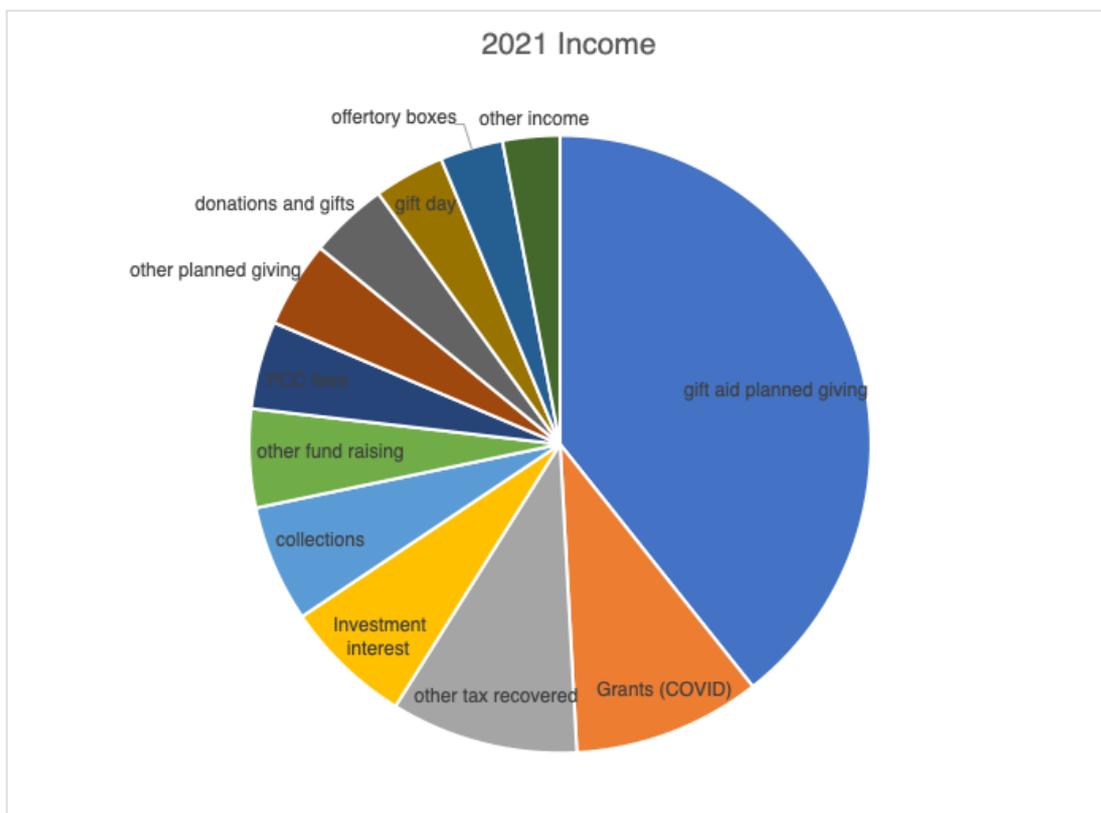
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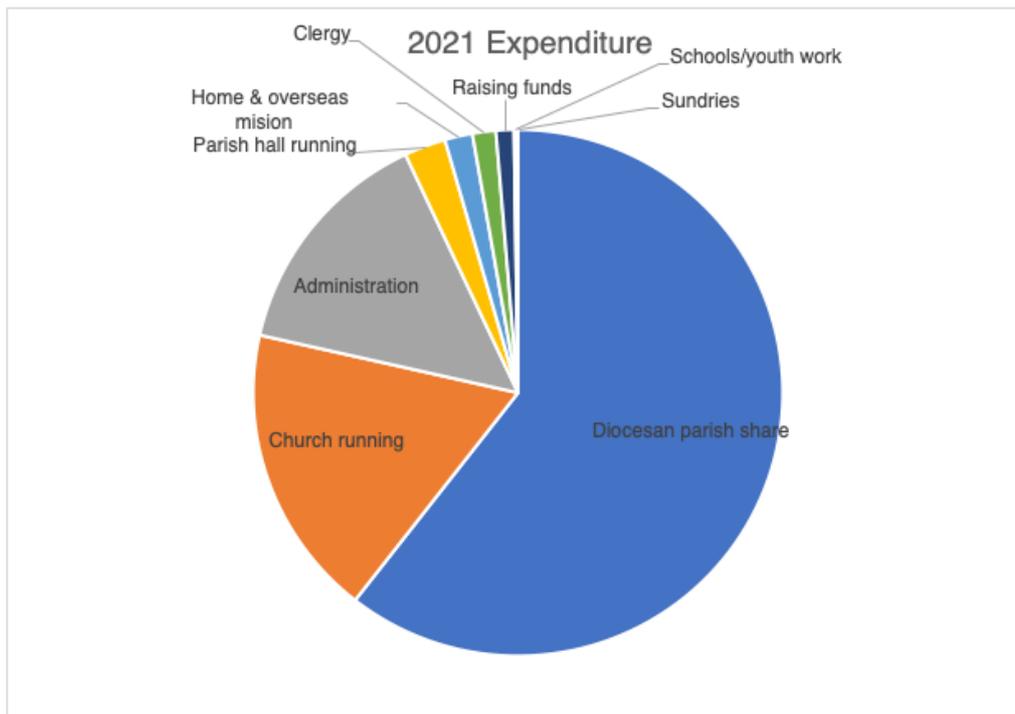
The PCC makes policy decisions, deals with legal issues, and controls the finances of the Parish. It is our policy to invest funds in the CBF Investment Income Shares.

Position of our funds at 2021-year end

	Unrestricted & designated funds (general funds)	Restricted funds	Endowment funds	Total funds
Income	185,628	56,494	0	242,122
Expenditure	179,300	26,346	0	205,646
Surplus before investment gains/losses	6,328	30,148	0	36,476
Carried forward	130,590	168,351	48,761	347,702

Income and expenditure analysis





INCOME 2021	Amount	Percentage	EXPENDITURE 2021	Amount	Percentage
Gift aid planned giving	73052	4.3%	Diocesan parish share	108565	60.5%
Grants (COVID)	18160	15.4%	Church running	32226	18.0%
Other tax recovered	18084	15.4%	Administration	25986	14.5%
Investment interest	12438	10.6%	Parish hall running	4541	2.5%
Collections	11344	9.6%	Home & overseas mission	3035	1.7%
Other fund raising	9575	8.1%	Clergy	2550	1.4%
PCC fees	8522	7.2%	Raising funds	1967	1.1%
Other planned giving	8404	7.1%	Schools/youth work	320	0.2%
Donations and gifts	7610	6.5%	Sundries	110	0.1%
Gift day	6840	5.8%	TOTAL	179300	100.0%
Offertory boxes	6085	5.2%			
Other income	5514	4.7%			
TOTAL	185628	100.0%			

Comments

For a second year we were living under the restrictions arising from the Covid 19 pandemic. Vaccinations successfully held the most serious ill-health at bay, but there was only a gradual loosening of the controls implemented in 2020, which meant that normal activities did not resume quickly and fundraising events during the summer were often curtailed. We ended the year with a small increase of income of **0.4%** in

unrestricted funds (investment interest not included). Thanks, must be given to all those who responded so well to the 'Generous Giving' scheme in the autumn, to mission Sunday, and who gave donations or gifts throughout the year. This latter income increased by a mighty 62%, although most of the funds received are restricted. There was also a welcome increase in donations through offertory boxes. However, parish hall income remained depressed, together with the associated refreshment take. We are hopeful that the recent hire of a card reader in Lady St Mary will enable those without cash to still make a donation.

Our expenditure from unrestricted funds increased in total by **3.5%** (not including mission funding). Significant increases came in church running (15%), which may be linked to returning to normal services in the latter part of the year. The diocesan parish share was up by only 0.5%. We have carried forward a respectable £130,590 in our general fund.

Once again thanks is due to Debs Barclay for the work, she put into preparing the accounts and to David Cracknell for carrying out the independent examination.

Note: It is important to mention that we continued to support our regular mission partners (M Taylor, R Guinness) and St. Stephens School (South Sudan, and some small local charities, through donations totalling £15081, made chiefly from restricted funds. This is a significant increase on 2020.

The outlook for 2022

Our original budget for 2022 anticipated a deficit overall of £19846. At the time of writing, with 2 months actual figures available, this has been reduced to £19010. It remains difficult to predict what will happen as we hopefully shed remaining Covid precautions and move towards a 'normal' year from summer onward. Fresh ideas for raising income- or cutting costs- are always welcome. We will, as ever, trust The Lord to provide what is needed to continue His work in the parish.

Finance Committee

Canon Simon Everett

The Finance Committee met four times during the past year. Apart from monitoring our income and expenditure against our annual budget the largest amount of time was given to running our parish-wide stewardship campaign. Originally this should have taken place in 2020 but due to the Covid epidemic it was postponed and eventually took place in September and October of 2021. We largely followed the Diocesan programme entitled 'Generous Giving'. Explanatory leaflets were given or delivered to all who regularly attend worship in one of more of our churches, as well as others on the electoral roll. This was accompanied by a sermon series on Stewardship. The result was rather mixed. Several people generously increased their giving and some parishioners signed up to regular giving via the Parish Going Scheme, which was most encouraging. However, there were also some significant losses from our regular giving scheme due to parishioners moving to pastures new and others going to be with the Lord. Therefore, there was not a great overall gain, nevertheless less we are most grateful to all those who do give regularly, and those who give what they can when they can, thus supporting the life and ministry of the parish. As a result of this outcome finance and fund-raising will remain high on our agenda, especially as there are a number of outstanding repairs required in Lady St Mary church for which we do not have the necessary funds.

One exciting innovation was the decision to install a contactless giving machine in Lady St Mary church which, it is hoped, will be used by visitors and others attending our various church services. The Finance Committee decided that the best option was for us to lease this on a three-year contract. Hopefully we will see the full benefit of this when the tourism picks up in the Spring and Summer.

Information about the PCC

Objective and Activities

The Parish of Wareham's PCC has the responsibility of co-operating with the incumbent, the Reverend Canon Simon Everett, in promoting in the ecclesiastical parish the whole mission of the church, pastoral, evangelistic, social, and ecumenical. It also has the maintenance responsibilities for the Parish Hall, Wareham.

PCC Statement of Purpose

"We are a group of Trustees who, together with the Clergy, oversee the life of Wareham Parish to ensure that we are focused on what Jesus Christ is calling us to do. In all that we do, we aim to seek God's will, work well with one another, reflect our values, and take positive action for the future."

PCC Mission statement

We are here to show God's love and to make Jesus known by reaching out to our local community in the power of the Spirit, prayerfully meeting the needs of the parish, and enjoying fellowship, feeding on God's word.

This mission statement is not just for the PCC but for all parishioners, for we are a parish that encourages all members to live out their faith in the community, workplace, and family home. Being a Christian means being Christ-like and we know that Jesus came, *'not to be served but to serve'* and so it is our responsibility to serve those around us as a demonstration of Christ's love.

The parish church has always belonged to the people residing within its boundaries (and on the electoral roll) rather than the Church members (the members simply make most use of it!). However, it is the responsibility of the PCC to ensure that the church is well run, financially viable, in right relationship with the Bishop of

Salisbury and the wider Church of England through Deanery and Diocesan Synod. At the same time making sure that all legal and Charity Commission regulations are complied with, and Canon Law. Especial attention is paid to ensuring that we provide a safe environment for all those who worship, visit, or attend our churches and to this end the PCC have adopted and implemented the House of Bishops' Safeguarding Policy 'Promoting a Safer Church' (Mrs. Debs Barclay being our Parish Safeguarding Officer).

Here in the parish of Wareham we have responsibility for five church buildings, four of which are of historic significance. These were built to give glory to God and to be the spiritual home of the communities in which they are set. The PCC tries to ensure that they still witness to God's glory by the worship that takes place within but, also by being open for prayer. We seek to maintain them as holy places. But if the past year has taught us anything it is chiefly that, whilst our church buildings are glorious and inspiring, the Church in reality is the body of Christ, the people of God, who can worship and witness online, over the telephone or wherever God chooses.

We also recognize that the Church exists for all people and the worship that we provide within our five churches seeks to meet the needs of all traditions and all ages. We believe that the strength of the Church of England is its breadth and depth, providing a welcome for all.

In short, we seek to fulfil our vision by:

- Reaching out to our local community in the power of the Spirit.
- Prayerfully serving those in need.
- Enjoying fellowship together.
- Growing as disciples of Christ as we feed on God's word.

Information about the PCC

Structure, governance, and management

The method of appointment of PCC members is set out in the Church Representation Rules. All church attendees are encouraged to register in the Electoral Roll and are welcome to stand for election to the PCC.

During the year the following served as members of the PCC.

Incumbent: The Reverend Canon Simon Everett

Team Vicar: The Reverend Stuart Cocksedge

Assistant Curate: The Reverend Dr Helen Williams.

Pioneer Priest: The Reverend Hilary Bond.

Wardens: Hilary Goodinge and Mike Quinlan
East Holme - Jon Moulton Ruby Selby

Members: Sue Bartholomew *Until 2024*
Carol Turner *Until 2022*
Paul Harrison *Until 2023*
Judy Leach *Until 2023*
Virginia Collings *Until 2024*
David Kimble *Until 2022*
Simon Lathwell *Until 2023*
Di Beaumont *Until 2022*
Nick Burden *Until 2024*
Barbara Wells *Until 2024*

Treasurer: Mark Lapper

Deanery Synod Representatives: Until 2024
Elizabeth Day
Jon Moulton
Paul Harrison
Rebecca Green
Hilary Goodinge

Electoral Roll Secretary: Deborah Barclay

PCC Secretary: Deborah Barclay

Committees and subgroups

As with previous years, the PCC elected a number of sub committees to act on their behalf. These groups are as follows:

Standing Committee:

2 Clergy (The Reverend Canon Simon Everett and the Reverend Stuart Cocksedge)
2 Churchwardens (Hilary Goodinge) (Michael Quinlan)
PCC Treasurer (Mark Lapper)
PCC Secretary (Debs Barclay)

Fabric Committee:

Fabric Officer (Mike Quinlan)
Phil Stephens
Alan Green
Tim Slater
Health & Safety Officer (Mike Quinlan)
Team Rector Canon Simon Everett

Finance Committee:

Team Rector (Canon Simon Everett)
Team Vicar (Stuart Cocksedge)
PCC Treasurer (Mark Lapper)
Arne Representative (Nick Greenwood)
East Holme Representative (Jon Moulton)
Sandford Representative (Barbara Wells)
Lady St Mary Representative (Hilary Goodinge)
St Martin-on-the-Wall Representative (Di Beaumont)

Parish Hall Sub Committee:

Parish Hall Manager (Carol Turner)
Booking Secretary (Debs Barclay)
Caretaker (Zoe Gover)
Hilar Goodinge (Churchwarden)
Team Vicar (Stuart Cocksedge)
Maurice Lumber
Rebecca Green

Mission Committee:

Team Vicar (Stuart Cocksedge),
Team Rector (Canon Simon Everett)
Mike Quinlan, Judith Holmes, Garry Guinness, Eddie Taylor

Information about the PCC

New Hall and LSM Re-ordering Committee:

Team Rector (Simon Everett)
Team Vicar (Stuart Cocksedge)
Alan Green (Secretary)
Hilary Goodinge
Mike Quinlan
Phil Stephens
Sue Bartholomew

Alan Southam
Heather Duncan
Jane Ambrose (Secretary)

East Holme

William Bond (Treasurer)
Gillian Christopher
Venn Goldsack
Jon Moulton (Chair)
Ruby Selby
Stuart Cocksedge

Environment and Eco church:

Assistant Curate (Helen Williams)
Hilary Bond
Nick Burden

Lady St Mary

Clive Cherrett
Hilary Goodinge (Chair)
Pat Cherrett (Secretary)
Phil Stephens
Simon Lathwell
Liz Day
Jean Dixon
Carol Turner
Paul Harrison
Sue Bartholomew
Canon Simon Everett

Children and Youth Committee:

Team Vicar (Stuart Cocksedge)
Hilary Bond
Becky Green
Helen Williams
Simon Lathwell

Sandford

Team Vicar (Stuart Cocksedge)
Maureen Lever
Lesley Milsom (Secretary)
Erica Payne
Joyce Austin
Diane Kimble
Barbara Wells
David Kimble
Adrian Hale
Betty Bingham
Joyce Austin
Steve Wells

FROG (Fundraising committee)

Pat Cherrett (Chair)
Gay Young
Liz Day
Paul Harrison
Carol Turner

Children's and Young People's Worker

The Reverend Hilary Bond

Parish Safeguarding Officer

Deborah Barclay

Congregational Committees:

Arne *The Reverend Michael Young*
Judy Leach (PCC Representative)
Nick Greenwood (Local Treasurer)
Virginia Collings (Chair)

SMoW

Di Beaumont
Davina Thomas
Becky Green
Hazel Walters (Secretary)

Information about the PCC

Minutes of the Meeting held in 2021

Wednesday 21st April 2021
in the Parish Hall at 7pm Annual Vestry Meeting followed by the
Annual Parochial Church Meeting

ANNUAL VESTRY MEETING

1. **Opening Prayers:** Canon Simon Everett
2. **Apologies:** Pat and Clive Cherrett, Linda Everett, Val Yates, David Cracknell, Rachel Cocksedge, Ann Mills, Erica Payne, Lesley Milsom
Apologies from the floor: None

There were 61 as attached list.

3. **Minutes of the meeting held on 30th September 2020:**
All agreed who were present at the last APCM that these minutes were a true account of this meeting.
Proposed by Maureen Lever and Seconded by Carol Turner – All Agreed

5. **Election of Churchwarden Results:**

Nominations received from:

Ruby Selby and Jonathon Moulton for the Parish of St John the Evangelist, East Holme, Wareham.

Due to the 6-year maximum term and under exceptional circumstances. All agreed that there would be of a suspension of the Churchwardens Measure 2001

Proposer: Lesley Selby

Seconded: Rachel Gamble

Proposer: William Bond

Seconded: Joy Allan

Nominations received from:

Hilary Goodinge and Mike Quinlan for the Parish of Wareham.

Proposer: Di Beaumont

Seconded: Merville Gover

Proposer: Hilary Goodinge

Seconded: Di Beaumont

All were duly elected as Churchwardens, unopposed and a unanimous decision

Canon Simon Everett thanked all the Churchwardens for all they do for the Parish and are churches and they have been a great support to Simon and the Ministry Team.

Merville Gover is stepping down as Churchwarden and has been a part of the PCC for more than 50 years, SE thanked Merville and said that he needed a long-term medal for working with us for all those years.

Information about the PCC

Annual Parochial Church Meeting

1. Minutes of last year's APCM – Wednesday 30th September 2020

All agreed who were present at the last APCM that these minutes were a true account of this meeting and were duly signed by the Chair, the Reverend Canon Simon Everett.

Proposed by: Canon Simon Everett and All Agreed

2. Treasurer's Report and adoption of the Accounts for 2020

Report on Parish Finances for 2020

Mark Lapper (PCC Treasurer)

Review of the Year

Reserves Policy

We try to hold a balance in Unrestricted Funds equal to at least 4 months of our annual expenditure to smooth and cover future fluctuations. At the end of the year this cover was 5.7 months.

Financial

The PCC makes policy decisions, deals with legal issues, and controls the finances of the Parish. It is our policy to invest funds in the CBF Investment Income Shares.

Position of our funds at year end

	Unrestricted & designated funds (general funds)	Restricted funds	Endowment funds	Total funds
Income	174,579	34,532	0	209,111
Expenditure	171,249	21,554	0	192,803
Surplus	3,330	12,978	0	16,308
Carried forward	118,607	128,907	42,631	290,145

The table below shows a breakdown of the Unrestricted Income and Expenditure by percentage.

Income			Expenditure		
Planned giving	112,532	64%	Diocesan parish share	108,020	63%
Gift day	14,346	8%	Church running	8,015	16%
Government or LA grants	13,530	8%	Administration	4,549	14%
Fund raising	11,046	6%	Parish hall running	6,024	4%
Collections	8,636	5%	Clergy expenses	2,560	1%
P.C.C. fees	5,414	3%	Fund raising costs	988	1%
Parish hall rental	4,320	2%	Home & overseas mission	500	0.3%
Investment Interest	2,064	1%	Schools/Youth work	452	0.3%
Refreshment income	1,383	1%	Other	141	0.1%
Offertory boxes	828	0.5%			
Other	480	0.3%			
Total income	174579	100%	Total expenditure	171,249	100%

Information about the PCC

Comments

At the end of a difficult year, we reported a small surplus. This is an exceptional result in view of the restrictions placed on our activities from March until the year end, because of the Covid 19 pandemic. The church was often closed, with services only possible on-line, the parish hall lettings were curtailed along with Saturday refreshments, and summer activities such as the Creech Grange event were impossible. The reduction of our total income was 24.2% compared to 2019. This income shortfall is significantly less than we expected in September 2020, in no small part due to the exceptional generosity shown during the Gift Weekend. On the expenditure side, a reduction of 34.2% was achieved mainly through reduced running costs associated with the both the church building and the parish hall. So, we ended the year with the unrestricted fund carried forward standing at **£92,113**, which remains for now above our safe level of £60,000.

In addition to the surplus mentioned above, we have been blessed this year by an increase in the values of our CBF (Church Board of Finance) Investment Fund. This had increased the level of our General Fund, at the end of 2020, by £3,037. As ever, we should note that the value of the investment can fall as well as rise.

Heartfelt thanks is due to Debs for the work she put into preparing the accounts and to Michael Wardle for guiding me through the intricacies of Finance Manager. Additional thanks to Debs for successfully seeking emergency funding, available to assist organisations hit by the Covid 19 pandemic.

2021 projection

Our original 2021 budget assumed Covid restrictions continuing through part of this year, which leads to the unhappy situation of a deficit at year end of **£29345**. It is not easy to see how further reductions in expenditure could be achieved. The following plans from last year have been brought forward to begin to address the deficit but other proposals will be welcome.

Proposed action plan to eliminate the deficit in 2021 and subsequent years

We need to act urgently, and to do this the Parish needs to come together and reconsider ideas put forward last year but which we could not action because of the pandemic:

- a) **The Parish Wide Stewardship Campaign - with a suggested target of raising £10,000 in 2021.**
- b) **Additional Parish Wide Fundraising - with a suggested target of raising:**
 1. an extra £5,000 for General Funds,
 2. another £5,000 to replenish the Parish Church (LSM) and Parish Hall Fabric Funds.
(The coordination group will bring forward several proposals, in due course.)

Note: It is important to mention that we continued to support our regular mission partners (M Taylor, R Guinness) and St. Stephens School (South Sudan) through donations totalling £11,430, made chiefly from restricted funds. Some smaller donations have also been made to local charities.

The Parish Accounts for 2020 were Adopted as below

Proposed by: Robert McLeish Seconded by: Mike Quinlan All in favour

3. Appointment of the Independent Examiner or Auditors for this year's accounts

David Cracknell was appointed as Independent Examiner

Newton Magnus Accountants were appointed as External Auditor

Proposed by Canon Simon Everett and seconded by Jack Haworth - All in favour

4. Team Vicar's Report

Stuart read out his Power point report and thanked everyone for their support encouragement especially in these difficult times over the last few years. SC thanked Maureen Lever for all her work as the Local warden for Sandford.

Information about the PCC

5. Churchwardens Report

You will all be aware that due to the pandemic we went into lock down on March 23rd, 2020. In consequence all churches were to close with only funerals allowed to take place.

With the inspiration and input from Simon and Stuart most services moved online with YouTube and Zoom, these included Easter day and our regular Sunday services. How thankful we all were to be able to stay together in fellowship and worship as a new order came into our church life. I believe this will continue in some form for the future – a great opportunity of outreach for those who are unable to visit our churches for worship and prayer. Deliveries began throughout the parish of the weekly and monthly news sheets, keeping those without the necessary technology in touch with parish life.

Fundraising had to take on a different approach as lockdown restricted the usual fundraising events that take place i.e., Grand day out at Creech. However, the sale of antiques, the parish jigsaw puzzle, and the gift day which you all very generously supported, this enabled us to continue our parish outreach and commitments, a special thank you to Gay and Michael Young and all of you who helped bring these ideas together.

January saw further lockdown restrictions; however, places of worship were allowed to remain open for private prayer and church services. Extra precautions were put in place, the choir were not able to sing but again I felt we were all very safe.

It has been an unusual year with lots of frustration, but also many positives with possibly a different looking church in the future which I am sure will take us forward in Christ.

I will be retiring as your parish warden after the APCM as I have completed my allocated six years in office. Back in the late 1960s our then Rector the Reverend Canon John Wallis requested that younger members of the parish should consider becoming members of the PCC; I was just eighteen when I was voted on. This year I have completed five decades as a member of the PCC this has been a very memorable and joyous connections with all aspects of our Parish. I believe it is time for me to step back and let new blood and new ideas come forward; I'm not going anywhere, and I will be present in church most Sundays sharing the readings and intercessions with you and hopefully returning as a subdeacon in the not-too-distant future. I would like to take this opportunity to offer my sincere thanks to our Rector the Reverend Canon Simon Everett, the Reverend Stuart Cocksedge, the whole ministry team, and you the parishioners for your support that has been very much appreciated. I wish the new wardens and all who are taking various offices good luck and my very best wishes to them and every blessing to you all.

Yours in Christ

Merville

Merville thanked the Ministry Team and his fellow churchwardens.

Fabric Report from Clive Cherrett

ARNE

Storm damage to roof tiles has been repaired by Griffen & Sons.

The entrance gate has become very unstable, and a replacement has been investigated and it is proposed that this will be constructed of red cedar.

SMOW

It is proposed to erect a Purbeck stone sculpture depicting St Martin on the outside south wall to celebrate 1,000 years of worship. A Faculty has been applied for.

The window on the East side of the church was damaged by vandals and reported to the police. This has now been repaired by Spiller & Son and Wimborne Glass.

LSM

The water ingress to the Becket Chapel roof is still being investigated. It has been proposed that the roof should be covered with lead or zinc. I have written to Dorset Council Conservation Planning to establish if planning permission is required as it is external work.

The surface water drainage on the south side of the church is also still under investigation and a

Information about the PCC

test hole has been dug to establish if a soakaway in the driveway would be viable. If this is not possible then we will have to connect to Wessex Water Sewer as a last resort. I am awaiting a report. There is also some water ingress to the south side of the East window.

The flood lights installed for the millennium paid for by the Wareham Council Millennium Committee are now failing. It is proposed that these should be replaced by ECO lighting. This also applies to the flood light at St Martin's.

The five-year electrical test and inspection is due in September. It is proposed that the failing internal lamps in the Chancel should be replaced at this time. The PAT testing is now also due.

Damage to some of the walling has been repaired by Wareham Burial Board.

Clive Cherrett Fabric Officer

6. Deanery Synod Report

The Purbeck Deanery Synod met twice during the year of 2020.

7. Electoral Roll Officer's Report *Electoral Roll*

Electoral Roll

Our Electoral roll currently stands at 269 persons. We have had **7** new members added to the roll since last year (**LSM 7**). Taking into account those who have left the church or died this gives an overall increase to the Parish Electoral roll of 3.

Individual church memberships are as follows.

The Priory Church of Lady St Mary, Wareham 163

Sandford St Martin's Church 36

St John the Evangelist Church, East Holme 24

St Nicholas Church, Arne 32

St Martin On the Walls Church, Wareham 14

At this time, we take a moment to remember all those who are no longer with us.

Let us pray.

Heavenly Father we give thanks for the lives of those who have died, and we now miss from our church communities.

Kenneth Hayes, Neil Bennett, Josephine Johnson, Elizabeth Savage

hear our prayers and thanksgivings for all whom we remember this day;

fulfil in them the purpose of your love; and bring us all, with them, to your eternal joy;

through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

8. Appointment of Electoral Roll Officer for 2021

Deborah Barclay to be appointed as Electoral Roll Officer

Proposed by Simon Everett and seconded by Liz Day - All were in favour

9. Team Rector's Report:

The Rector's Address to the 2021 Annual Meeting

This Sunday past the theme was one of my favourite Gospel verses, John 8:12, Jesus saying, "*I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness but will have the light of life.*"

This past year there has been much darkness but, I am pleased to say, there have also been great shafts of light that have shone in individual lives and communities. For those with eyes to see, ears to hear and hearts to understand there has been a great many things happening around us that can teach us a great deal. Jesus often taught in parables and similes and the reason for this, it is often said, was to make people think and engage with

Information about the PCC

him, and therefore his heavenly Father, at a deeper level, rather than superficially. The Kingdom of heaven is all around if we are prepared to look, but it is all too easy to make do with the ordinary everyday view of things. I wonder how you see the Kingdom of heaven encroaching into life around you, and impacting in your life? Maybe that is something to think and pray about.

Hopefully we have all learnt a great deal from the past year, certainly one thing that God has shown me during the lockdown is that if the Church of England, and in particular our parish, is to have any sort of future we need to go onto a mission footing. I have shared some thoughts with the PCC about this and with a new PCC forming following this meeting, it is in the coming months that we will think more deeply about this and put thoughts into action. It is also something that the church committees will engage with because let's face it if we don't our churches will be empty within ten to twenty years! Some of the church committees have vacancies, which also means that there will be some vacancies on the PCC, and so if any of you are interested in serving and being part of this mission initiative why not find out more?

But maybe first I need to outline what mission is and isn't:

- Mission does not mean that I want everyone in our churches out on a soapbox at every opportunity!
- It does not mean that you have to try to mention Jesus in every sentence you utter!
- It doesn't mean that you have to go around with a cheesy grin on your face and pretend that everything in the garden is rosy and you don't have a care in the world.
- It doesn't mean that you have to speak with a mild American accent and develop a new vocabulary of pious clichés.
- It doesn't mean that you have to be in church everyday.

Believe it or not, it actually means you being you in the purest sense! One of the things I discovered when I became a Christian was that it meant becoming who God had made me to be. I didn't have to try and act a part, or put on different masks for different situations – God wanted me to be me! Christians should be people who show humanity in its purist form and not try to be something they're not.

The Bible tells us that we are made in the image and likeness of God, but it can also mean we are the image and likeness of God, which means that in Christ people will see God in us and working through us. I think this is in part what Jesus was talking about when he told his followers, to '*let your light so shine before others that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.*'

At our sermon discussion group on Monday, we talked about the fact that absolute darkness is the absolute absence of Light. Darkness is a negative that blinds and restricts (both in physical and spiritual terms), and it was this light that Jesus was sent to overcome. The light shines in the darkness but the darkness has not overcome it (or understood, as some manuscripts say). Mission is helping people see and understand the Light of Christ, and the difference it makes. It only needs the smallest amount of light to break the hold of darkness – the light of a small candle can make a huge difference in a dark room. Lots of small candles can make a huge difference. Now imagine each and every one of us, along with our other brothers and sisters in Christ, all shining, and the difference that can make. This is what a church should be a glorious light that dispels darkness.

So, what is mission? Going back to my list:

- *It does not mean that everyone in our churches should be out on a soapbox at every opportunity!* but what it does mean is that we can offer to pray for our neighbours or our friends, or those we know who are in need of any sort.
- *It does not mean that you have to try to mention Jesus in every sentence you utter!* It does mean that you actively seek to be more like Jesus, shining ever more brightly.
- *It doesn't mean that you have to go around with a cheesy grin on your face and pretend that everything in the garden is rosy and you don't have a care in the world.* It does mean that you are true to your God given self and that you seek the joy and contentment of the Lord in your heart, even when the going gets tough. And when you can't manage on your own seek out the help of your brothers and sisters in Christ.
- *It doesn't mean that you have to speak with a mild American accent and develop a new vocabulary of pious clichés.* It does mean that, as St Pauls says you should, "Let your conversation be always full of grace, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how to answer everyone." (Colossians 4:6). Be humble, gracious, loving and kind and not critical, negative, or superior in any way.
- *It doesn't mean that you have to be in church everyday.* But being a Christians means that you are part of Christ's body here on earth, and one part of a body on its own is not much good! Remember, lots of lights shining together illuminates far more than an isolated candle!

Information about the PCC

This is very much mission in its basic form, but light attracts, and God's light attracts even more, so let us all go out and shine.

Just before I arrived here in Wareham I had a dream, I don't have many, at least not many that make such an impact that I believe they must be from God. But in the dream, I had there was a bright light that came from the causeway, over the bridge and proceeded up South Street, all the while getting faster and brighter. It was like a mighty torrent, except it was light. When it reached the crossroads in the middle of town it fanned out in all directions so that the whole town and parish was flooded with light. I wonder if now the time for this vision is to take effect – it will depend on you and me playing our part. Let's all shine!

Rector's Report Thank yous 21 April 2021

As I have already said in my letter to the Annual Reports it is great to see the parish gradually changing and growing and this is thanks to everyone playing a part in showing God's love and a good many serving God in many different ways. Our Annual Report, 'Celebrating 2021 highlights many of those ways and there are too many people to thank in person, although I would like to mention.

To start with there are some thank-yous that need to be said:

Ministry Team: Stuart, Michael, Brigid, and Hilary
and to Debs for all her work behind the scenes.

Local Wardens doing what they can, especially Maureen Lever

Clive as Fabric Officer

Steve Wells and Anne Smith for their musical contributions to the online services

Mary Appleton for keeping in touch with the Angel Voices and their parents

Ringers who have rung when they can

The choir who sang when they could be accompanied by Maurice.

For the House Group Leaders who have provided support and fellowship for their members.

Special mention to Jill Burroughs who is stepping down from cleaning LSM, which she has done for I don't know how many years, but has done a splendid job, often coming in more often than she was required to. SO, I want to publicly record my thanks.

Bob Day who has done sterling work on the AV and sound desk, often ably assisted by his assistant Liz!

Last but by no means least the Fundraising Group, especially Gay and Michael Young who by encouraging us to clear out our homes and donate any spare items of jewelry or other collectibles enabled us to raise in the region of £13,000, with still some to go. And a big thank you to everyone who gave so generously to this collection and financially to the various collections we had. It is wonderful to see

Reading the Annual Report, it is clear that there is a huge amount going on in this parish and I would like to thank all those who play an active part within the church and community. There are too many people involved to thank them all by name, but please take it from me that I am both impressed and truly thankful for all that you do. The Bible says that Christian Disciples should be salt and light in the world and it is clear that many of you take this seriously, (both in the church and community). Thank you.

10. Election of members to serve on The Parochial Church Council:

PCC Nominations:

Lady St Mary Church (2 places vacant) – 2 applications received from Sue Bartholomew and Nick Burden

Sandford St Martin's Church, (2 places vacant) – 1 application received from Barbara Wells

Information about the PCC

St Nicholas Church, Arne (1 place vacant) 1 application received from Virginia Collings

The above members were duly elected.

11. Election of members to serve on Deanery Synod

2 Vacancies to serve at this time

Nominations from Paul Harrison and Hilary Goodinge

The above Elections were proposed by Rebecca Green, seconded by Simon Lathwell - All were in favour

12. Closing Prayers and Blessing

Meeting finished by 8.00pm

Signed..... Chair..... Date

Agenda for the APCM Meeting to be held in 2022

**THE PARISH OF WAREHAM ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING
WEDNESDAY 27th APRIL 2022 at 7.15pm**

AGENDA

ANNUAL VESTRY MEETING

1. Opening Prayers
2. Apologies
3. Minutes of the Meeting held on 21st April 2021
4. Election of Churchwardens for East Holme and Wareham

ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING

1. The Minutes of the Meeting held on 21st April 2021 (Please read prior to meeting)
2. Treasurer's Report and adoption of the Accounts for 2021
3. Appointment of the Independent Examiner or Auditors for this year's accounts
4. Team Vicar's Report
5. The Churchwarden's Report, including Fabric Report
6. The Deanery Synod Report
7. Electoral Roll Officer's Report (Debs Barclay)
8. Appointment of Electoral Roll Officer for 2022
9. The Rector's Report
10. Election of members to serve on The Parochial Church Council
 - 1 Vacancy - Lady St Mary Church, Wareham*
 - 1 Vacancies - St Martin-on-the-Walls*
 - 2 Vacancies - Sandford St Martin's Church*
11. Election of members to serve on Deanery Synod
 - 0 Vacancies at this time*
12. Closing Prayer and Blessing

