



**Reports to the 2021  
Annual Parochial Church  
Meeting  
For January to December 2020**

## **Supplementary Reports**

These reports are supplementary to the Annual Report approved by the PCC and presented at the APCM on 28 May 2021. They are provided by individuals within the congregation rather than being PCC reports.

## **ST MARY'S CHURCH VISION**

### **LOVING GOD, LOVING COMMUNITY**

St. Mary's parish church, planted over 1000 years ago, exists to reflect God's glory back to him and to be useful to him, preparing his people for service in the church and community. We see it as a place where heaven and earth touch, a place of God's presence, always open to his Spirit. It is a focus for worship and reflection and a safe refuge where anyone can draw close to him.

As God's children, we know that he loves us very much and as Christ's followers we want to use our hands, talents and personalities for works of service in his name and to spread the good news of his saving grace in our parish. We try to be a faithful, united community within the larger community of Walberton and Fontwell: we are ordinary people with faith in Jesus, God's son. We do pray for our community and want to be a blessing to those outside the church, serving them face to face, being prepared to sacrifice time and encouraging them to join God's family.

We know that prayer and respect for God's word are key to our faith. We seek to build people's confidence, enabling them to talk about our Lord, promoting discipleship and aiming to turn faith into a real passion for God, both here and in overseas mission. We want our church family to be aware that all they contribute is greatly valued. We treasure, in Christ, both young and old, and want to grow with them in trust.

# **1 Children's Ministry**

## **1.1 Sunday School and Shrove Tuesday Pancake Party (Rev Tim Ward)**

Sunday school was able to meet for the first two and a half months of the year. About 10 children were attending each week before the pandemic usually in two groups with 23 on register. Groups met in the vicarage the church room and the small hall of the Village Hall.

We hope that as leaders get their double vaccines we will be able to return. In the meantime we have held a series of interactive children's services at the major festivals which have been well received.

The Shrove Tuesday Party at the school was a great success in February attracting 34 children for fun games and an explanation of what Lent is about. Thank you to all the adults to helped.

## **1.2 School Church Links (John Wiles)**

The last 5 months have proved to be an incredibly challenging period for our school. Children returned at the start of the Autumn term, much to their relief and their parents! Strict rules were in place to keep the children safe, so kept in class bubbles etc. Despite all the concerns felt by everyone involved, the school enjoyed full attendance. Much credit must go to our Head, Laura Brockhurst, who has remained positive

throughout the pandemic and has led her team in exemplary fashion.

The wellbeing of the children on returning to school was a major concern. As part of teaching Christian Values, there was a focus on 'Fruits of the Spirit'. It was felt that it was an ideal time to think about patience, love and kindness in each class bubble. Whole school worship was not possible throughout the Autumn term so a weekly rota was organised so that a different class could attend 'live' worship with the Head Teacher each Monday. This was recorded, thus allowing the rest of the school to join in at an appropriate time. On Wednesdays our vicar Tim, Ray Brinkley, or Hugo van Driel sent in recorded worship or attended in person to lead worship for a class, some being held outside when weather permitted. A huge thank you must go to them and to Peter Allday for his work in preparing the online worship. In November, Tim was able to lead a special Remembrance Day service and at Christmas the Christingle service usually held with the school in church, was held at the school.

In September, the governing body was sorry to see Sandra Cooke leave. She has devoted a huge amount of time and effort during her time as Foundation governor and will be missed greatly. However, we are delighted that Di Rogers has agreed to fill that vacancy, she brings a vast experience of teaching and governorship and will be a great addition to the school.

Governor meetings, which had last year taken place in the school playground or in a very socially distanced way in the school hall, have once again had to revert to the online zoom variety. Although not as desirable as 'in person' meetings, it does allow us to keep up our

monitoring and supporting role and to keep up our links with all the staff and children.

As I write this at the end of January, most children are once again at home, enjoying online learning and home teaching by their parents. The school staff are extremely busy, splitting their time between providing lessons online, giving feedback for work submitted online or physically teaching at school. We all hope and pray for a speedy return to a more normal form of schooling!

### **1.3 YPTIF (Young People Together in Faith/Fellowship/Fun) (Rev Tim Ward and Sandra Cooke)**

YPTIF met five times during the first ten weeks of the year. We enjoyed three trips to Laserquest in Portsmouth Bowling in Chichester and Indoor crazy golf at Hunston. In between we talked about how to relate to parents and celebrated Pancake Day. A total of nine girls and two boys were on the register with an average attendance of eight. We were delighted to welcome Caroline Thorne, a former member, to our team as a junior leader.

### **1.4 Safeguarding (Rev Tim Ward and Kasia Nichols)**

The first two months of 2020, before the pandemic, saw a lot of activity as we prepared for our Diocesan Safeguarding audit with the Diocesan Safeguarding Adviser Colin Perkins in March 2020 which we passed with flying colours. All the DBS checks were brought up to date. PCC members undertook their Basic Awareness

training. The children's registration forms were all checked and up to date. Gaps in the training were addressed. All the policies were reviewed and brought up to date.

Alas, after March 2020 children's work was suspended although we did have a successful Christingle service with 10 families present. But much work was done in safeguarding from the pandemic with risk assessments being produced for all the various activities undertaken by the church in line with government requirements and Church of England guidance.

Leadership C2 Leadership training is presently suspended by the diocese for everyone except clergy, licenced readers and safeguarding officers and is now done remotely by Zoom. The Basic CO and Foundation C1 courses are only available digitally online which presents a problem for some.

Where possible everyone's DBS checks including those for the PCC have been brought upto date. Jean Strickland is taking on the role of second recruiter so that we can check those whom the vicar cannot check. There will be some training needs to be addressed before Sunday school can resume.

## **2 Worship (Rev. Tim Ward)**

Our public worship at St Mary's is aimed at providing different services to enable people to approach God in a setting which is familiar to them. We also have some united services where we try to draw the whole church community, which is Christ's body, together in the presence of God. We want our worship, whatever its style, to remind us of our strap line Loving God Loving Community. Our worship is both a response to our loving

God and expression of our love as a community which overflows into our relationships

In the first three months of 2020 the regular pattern of worship remained the same. In the Music group Gaye Reynolds played piano supported by John Wiles on guitar and Ben Ward on violin during vacations and Alison Robinson on flute. There was a joint school services in March for Education Sunday at the school.

After that we rapidly moved online with the help of the communications system which had been set up in 2017/18. Peter Allday also set up a YouTube channel which he edits. Jill uses the Churchsuite system and the website to remind people what is happening and Helen and Carole kept Facebook upto date. It is very much a team effort. We are grateful to Andrew, John and Ben for their musical recordings. Each service takes hours of preparation. In October 2020 the average number of views was 58 per week whilst the average attendance in church was 36 during the same month.

When we returned to church on 12 July, one week after restrictions were lifted, we were grateful to Simon Horne for setting up our PA system so that we could relay to people outside the building. Worshipping outside soon became the preferred option and we were able to continue outside until early October. A big thank you is due to those who help set up and put away each week, especially Chris Dart.

During the November lockdown we had a day of individual prayer attended by 30 people which was run by Bishop Michael. During this second lockdown the church was kept open each day for private paryer which required daily cleaning: this was initially popular until the weather changed.



We are also grateful once again to Julie Allday, Esther Langrish and Kevin Durban Jackson our Readers for ministering regularly to us throughout the year and to Bishop Michael for his contributions.

In first 10 weeks year at Walberton the normal (median) Sunday attendance at worship, was 87 adults including Home Communions and 10 children. In the benefice, including Binsted, the average weekly attendance was 89 adults and 10 children.

### **3 Pastoral Action Group (Andy Blumer)**

There are eight members of the Pastoral Action Group namely Revd Tim Ward (Chair), Andy Blumer (Convenor), Jean Strickland (Churchwarden), Sally Amesbury, Gaye Reynolds, Scilla Page, Caroline Sewell, and Helen Pilling.

During 2020 members of the PAG have contacted and spoken to 40 people on the phone during the pandemic to check on their well-being and to reassure them. All the contacts made have been appreciated.

There was one Home Group of three which has been active on Zoom throughout 2020 and two which did not meet due to Covid-19. [However, a second has since started meeting again.]

The Parish Prayers continued to meet each Tuesday from 8.30 – 9.00 AM via zoom attracting about 15 people per week and anyone is welcome to join.

The RAFT Group continues to meet regularly via Zoom. The Mothers' Union's reports to the PAG.

#### **4 Outreach Action Group (Julie Allday)**

In December 2019, the group had put together a programme of activities for 2020. The Alpha course started in late January and continued to mid-March. We also held an After-School Pancake Party at the Primary school on Shrove Tuesday. Other events were unable to go ahead.

The group reconvened in July and met four times during the latter half of the year. In August we set up a dedicated Helpline number which is monitored by members of the group. We can take requests for practical help, direct callers to the Sick Poor Fund or to other organisations which can offer specific support. In the run up to our Harvest Festival in October the Village Florist agreed to have a box to collect goods for Littlehampton Food Bank and this has continued.

The Welcome Booklet was updated towards the end of the year and will be used to welcome residents to new houses in the Parish. In December small groups sang carols round various roads in the Parish and volunteers delivered Christmas services leaflets. Plans to hold a Crib Festival in church had to be changed and this became an online presentation instead. The Parish News remains a much-valued resource and we are grateful to John for his involvement in the Outreach group to the end of 2020. We would welcome new members if anyone would like to become involved.

#### **5 St Mary's Communications Group (Ian Senior)**

In the concluding paragraph of last year's report {2020} we said *"....To repeat a paragraph from last year's {2019} report "Communication is a two way process and we need constructive feedback from you all to*

*help us to promote St. Mary's to the community as we strive to live up to our strap line "Loving God – Loving Community".*

The past 12 months, with the Covid-19 pandemic and the restrictions imposed on our lives, has been unusual. Yet, nothing has been forthcoming in terms of feedback, no request for action, and so there has been no reason for the group to meet.

In 2017 one objective given to the Communications Group was 'to take St. Mary's out into the community'. The group created the foundation tools needed as a prerequisite for that process, set out a communications strategy, and appointed a Communications Officer to enable its implementation. After 18 successful months the PCC decided not to continue the funding of the role, a number of recommendations on internal communication were not acted upon and the Communications Group largely ceased to be proactive.

Now it has ceased to exist. St. Mary's should be thankful for Jill Whitelock's vital support on maintaining the Website and ChurchSuite, John Pilling for the dynamic Parish News, Bishop Michael for his very encouraging work in promoting prayer initiatives through the year and Peter Allday for his invaluable support in delivering online services during the pandemic.

It is sad to report that St. Mary's is not the beacon into the community we should expect it to be. So, in this final report, the Group, asks the PCC to consider how best now to facilitate the quality of communication, both

within the church and to the wider community, in order to serve our vision for *'the use of the gifts each has been given; growing in love for our community as we grow in service, in sharing the Good News of Jesus Christ'*.

## **6 Mothers' Union (Jean Lane)**

Walberton MU began 2020 with our usual branch meeting. Our speaker on that occasion was Revd Celia Woodruffe, who entertained us with a talk entitled 'How I became a Vicar'. Our AGM was held in February. Sadly, the arrival and escalation of the Covid 19 virus in March meant that we had to curtail/postpone/cancel the rest of our year's planned programme, hence no monthly meetings, charity lunch, parenting classes, prison visits, helping at mother and toddler etc. The branch did manage to have an outdoor garden gathering in September and a Zoom informal meeting with many members in February 2021.

The committee have kept in touch with everyone by phone and we also decided to produce a newsletter which we aimed to email or post to everyone around our normal monthly meeting days. This included elements we would have had in a conventional meeting, prayers, bible extracts, any housekeeping matters, and in place of a speaker, members contributed their favourite poetry, carols, recipes, jokes etc.

The committee members also began a project which filtered down from a Lincolnshire MU Branch: Lovely homemade, knitted items, new and pristine second-hand baby clothes, as well as other mother and baby

essentials which were given or we bought with the very generous money gifts that were received from members, the village community and other Branch friends. Everything was arranged in pretty Moses baskets and these we gave to a local enterprise in Littlehampton called Little Bundles (affiliated to the National Childbirth Trust). Little Bundles are then able to provide support to families in need. Our gifts were gratefully received by this organisation.

Overseas: Caroline Sewell has managed some contact with our linked dioceses. Mundi, S. Sudan, is recovering from civil war. Mardi & West Niles, Uganda, is experiencing unrest following contested elections. Contact was achieved with our link branch in Seoul S. Korea and Isikuatu in Nigeria.

## **7 RAFT (Julie Allday and Sandra Cooke)**

The only in person event which went ahead this year was a Soup and Sweet social evening in January at Julie's home. Other plans were put on hold. Members of RAFT were invited to join in Zoom get together towards the end of the year which attracted 6-7 people each time. We circulated email information about projects which people might like to support and were able to contribute several shoe boxes to the Link Appeal in November.

## **8 Living Waters (Martin Sewell on behalf of Carolyn Phillips)**

Our family is growing and this past year we had 40 staff.

### LIVING WATERS PRE, PRIMARY AND SECONDARY SCHOOL

The number of students registered in, pre, primary and Secondary in 2020 was total of 392 students. Pre and primary 338 plus 54 in secondary school

- A new class was started form three.
- All 19 students in form two did well in their 2020 National Examinations we had 13 first division, 5 division two and 1 division three
- All our 43 Standard 7 students passed their 2020 National Examinations to go on to Secondary School
- A continued need for teachers and students Transportation: To buy a bus, Insurance, maintenance and to hire a driver/mechanic
- A long-time prayer and dire need are still to be able to serve lunch to all students, approximately @£4.00/\$6.00/€5.00 per month per child. Total 5 million Shillings per month. The playing field was severely damaged and has cost enormous fees to repair even still to date in 2021.

### MAX TEAMS, VISITORS

It was limited because of Covid 19

Agricola Malila and Carolyn Philpott were unable to travel as they usually do twice a year.

Living Waters ministered in EAGT Church in Busisi.

Laura Dlugokinski from Germany came to help in the children's home for six months.

Stacy and Christie (Crandall) came to help for one month (they were intending to join Living Waters), and they helped in the task of annual school student registration and in the children's home.

In March, we began the construction of the staff house for the Crandall's. Funds are being raised for that purpose. We are very grateful for St Mary's contribution of £2900 to this project

There was a donation for shoes for the 38 children in the children's home.

Living Waters greatly appreciates all that the Trustees in UK, Germany and Canada do for the ministry of Living Waters.

We are looking forward to a great year in 2021!

## **9 Barnabas Fund (Irene Howell)**

The love and help Barnabas Fund give to suffering Christians around the world is immeasurable and Covid 19 has added to the despair of so many people. Yet our support for Barnabas Fund is strong and has helped to pass on that aid to our brothers and sisters in Christ.

We had a special gift of £50 to help in the Covid 19 crisis and £35 was donated to the Abba Girls Home in Pakistan. It has been a difficult year in collecting for our five families in Pakistan, but I sincerely thank you for your faithfulness in prayer and giving, bringing them hope for a better future.

There were few greetings in our Church Christmas Card, but we still raised £125 for the starving children in Zimbabwe. Thank you for each life saved. In the past the proceeds from our Christmas Card were for the bakeries in the Far East, feeding hungry children, but this came to an end due to sanctions against the country.

The good news from Pakistan is that 1261 families were freed from debt and bonded labour in the brick kilns. But there are seven Christians sentenced to death for blasphemy and about twenty in prison on blasphemy charges. How cruel this Law is, that people are imprisoned for years without trial. Pray also for young Christian girls, as young as thirteen, abducted and forced into marriage with Muslim men.

The Barnabas Magazine is inspiring to our Christian life. We need to know what is happening to the Church worldwide, not just in Pakistan. We need to pray and support those less fortunate than ourselves. There is joy in knowing we can change their circumstances and hope for the future. Contact Barnabas Fund for your own copy by post or online.

## **10 Churchyard (Peter Brown)**

Following a wet winter, spring, and summer 2020 were remarkably dry and almost miraculously, the change coincided with the Covid shutdown. The regulations led to new working practices to avoid grouping and so our volunteers worked separately on three days a week; in some cases, ably assisted by their wives. The grass grew much more slowly than usual and so the churchyard was maintained in a safe and attractive condition.



We are lucky to have such a keen and reliable team of volunteers; we lost two members during the year but recruited one new member making nine regulars.

Following a successful public appeal, two new benches were installed – by Steve Napier Raikes - in the autumn and the circular tree bench has been particularly admired as being a positive addition to God's Acre.

The annual safety inspection of the trees and gravestones was completed in December, with no urgent work required.

## **11 Choir & Music (Dr Andrew Naylor)**

'I am writing this whilst we are still in lockdown. Such very strange times, particularly for church musicians.'

This was the very first sentence in my Music Report for the 2020 APCM. One might be tempted to think nothing much has changed. However, with much prayer and the hard work of so many, I think we all have a spring in our step and are looking forward to 21 June 2021.

### **CHOIR**

Obviously during 2020 the choir has not been meeting. I thus have nothing to report. Be reassured we will be singing just as soon as we are allowed!

### **ORGAN**

The work on organ remains on the backburner. The organ builders I have been in contact with have essentially not been operating, although I heard from one of them in February saying they were planning to start-up again.

I would like to extend my thanks to all those who have been involved in the on-line services. These were started on Mothering Sunday 2020 – we have just passed our 12-month anniversary. Producing much of the music for these services, I have been touched by the feedback from so many – thank you. I have just been a small cog in a big wheel. It has been a great privilege to be involved and it has certainly kept my hand(s) and feet working!

And quoting again from my previous report .....

‘... and let us hope and pray that it will not be too long before we all meet and make music together once again.’

## **12 Bell Ringing (Colin Spencer)**

The past year has been a great disappointment for bellringers and all other clubs and societies who could not meet and carry on with their activities from the first coronavirus lockdown in March. The bells were rung until the middle of March and then have been silent, apart from the use of the chiming apparatus for the times that limited Services were allowed, and it is likely to continue that way until June 2021.

We hope that all our ringers will be able to come back to ringing when it is possible to restart. It could be a time of rebuilding as well because some people may be looking for new activities after a long period of near isolation, we will welcome any new recruits and hope for a settled life again. Our thanks again to Tim and the churchwardens for their support.

### **13 Churches Together in the Six Villages (Vanessa Church)**

The group met together in January 2020 to share the midweek service for the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic there were no further face-to-face meetings in the year. The World Day of Prayer was not held, and the yearly Fair-Trade Coffee Morning in July was also cancelled. However, the members of the committee continued to meet regularly together via Zoom to pray and to share lockdown 'best practice' in our churches.

### **14 Sidesmen (Jean Strickland)**

For most of 2020, the running of the Church changed. However, to all the original Sides people, I do thank you very much.

With different restrictions in place throughout the year, the Churchwardens did most of the bookings and supervising. Many thanks to Catherine for supervising outside services when the weather permitted. Also, to Ben who assisted Tim with the cleaning and setting up of the church after lockdown.

I also thank all who have helped in many ways, in such difficult times.

## 15 Deanery Synod (Susan Martineau)

Deanery Synod met just once in 2020, by Zoom. As is usual in the Autumn Synod, business was chiefly financial. We received a report on Deanery Finances for the year then the pledges towards the Parish Share from each parish in the Deanery for 2021 were presented and commented on. As ever, these were the cause of much angst on all sides.

Before the Business part, the Rt Revd Ruth Bushyager, the new Bishop of Horsham, gave a lively introduction to herself and then answered some questions.

She said she was an 'Essex girl', although born in Fiji, where her father had been a Magistrate. For her then, church was simply an hour on Sunday, no more, but as she grew up she travelled through a broader church, including Methodists and Evangelicals and learnt to love them all. She read Geography at Bristol and her first job was in Tony Blair's Cabinet office as adviser on Environmental Protection but she became disillusioned with politics as nothing got resolved. An Alpha course at Holy Trinity Brompton set her on the path to ordination. She served her curacies in Nottinghamshire, moved on to be a School chaplain, Area Missioner in London then Parish Priest in St Paul's, Dorking.

Her Vision for Deaneries: Partnership and Fellowship will enable us to help each other flourish. Generous, sacrificial giving is needed. All Deaneries are struggling financially so wealthy parishes must subsidise poorer ones.

Questioned on leadership and the lack of it during the Covid pandemic, she said that at first, Bishops knew very little about Covid so 'we did as we were told'. She admitted that this was very controversial and with hindsight they could have done better. However, outsiders do not see what Bishops are doing to engage with the government and for the next lockdown there had been much more push back from them. Even so, they were just one of many voices, amongst hospitals and schools, etc.

Why is Government so indifferent to the C of E ? Answer: because we do not now speak for all the people. The C of E increasingly represents less & less people so our leverage is less. Churches have been running foodbanks, giving debt advice, and engaging with the community in many ways during the pandemic but Christians just quietly getting on with the job is hidden work. The public perception of us springs instead from the media who base their stories on *conflict*. So as a church we must think hard about Mission and how we can change this.

## 16 Outward Giving Report (Tom Evans)

Action around Bethlehem	£150.00
Barnabas Fund	£59.04
Barnabas Xmas Card	£25.25
Bishop of Horsham Fund	£45.80
Bognor Food Bank	£300.00
British Legion	£85.37
Childrens Society	£50.36

Childrens Society (Carol Singing)	£86.60
Christian Aid	£143.89
CPAS	£200.00
CYE Sailing	£200.00
Embrace Middle East	£126.25
Farm Africa	£184.35
Heart of Sussex	£100.00
Littlehampton Foodbank	£700.29
Living Waters	£3,931.45
Media Serve	£200.00
Mothers Union	£12.04
SGM Lifewords	£100.00
SIM Niger	£200.00
Snowdrop Trust	£421.16
St Wilfrid's Hospice	£289.26
Stonepillow	£102.03
Sussex Historic Churches Trust	£72.23
UCB	£104.08
Worldshare Beirut	£278.00
Grand Total	£8,167.45



