

ALL SAINTS PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL (PCC) ANNUAL REPORT

2020



Introduction:

2020 presented us with a great many challenges and a great deal of uncertainty as we navigated our way through Covid 19 regulations, closing of churches, reopening safely and managing bookings for services along with cleaning, social distancing, mask wearing and handwashing.

Many activities either had to be suspended or were transferred online. Due to the amazing way the church community came together, we have successfully navigated these difficult times and learned some new skills and valuable lessons along the way. It is not possible to name everyone, but there are a few who have really gone above and beyond the call of duty and I'd like us to recognise them at the beginning of this report.

We all owe a huge debt of gratitude to our churchwardens Meg Bennett, Bill Mitford (who stood down in October 2020) and Emily Fabricius (who became churchwarden in October 2020) for their faithful service, long hours and the many responsibilities they have taken on, for the benefit of us all. Our thanks also to Peter Fabricius who has been an invaluable interpreter of Covid 19 regulations and informal adviser on safety, Paul Timms who with Grace and Alice have supported our services on line and in person so ably and Administrator, Sarah Derbyshire who has enabled the ministry in so many ways behind the scenes.

Special thanks also to our two LLMs Peter Eastwood and Tim Tayler and our Assistant Priest, the Reverend Nicky Judd. They have ably adapted to online worship and activities, embraced every new challenge they were presented with and supported us in our life as a community of faith.

I hope you enjoy reading this report.

Reverend Katrina Dykes
March 2021

1. ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

1.1 All Saints, Upper Clatford is situated on Church Lane SP11 7HB. All Saints church is part of the Anna Benefice together with St Peter's, Goodworth Clatford and St. Mary the Virgin, Abbots Ann in the Diocese of Winchester.

The living was put in suspension by the Bishop of Winchester at the end of September 2015. The Revd Katrina Dykes is the Priest-in-Charge.

1.2 The PCC is a body corporate (PCC Powers Measure 1956, Church Representation Rules 2006) and a charity currently excepted from registration with the Charity Commission.

1.3 The correspondence address is normally: The Rectory, Upper Clatford, ANDOVER, Hampshire SP11 7QP.

1.4 PCC members who have served at any time from 1st January 2020 until the date this report was approved are:

Ex-officio members:

Priest-in-Charge The Revd Katrina Dykes

Assistant Priest The Revd Nicky Judd

Licensed Lay Ministers Mr Peter Eastwood
Mr Tim Tayler

Churchwardens Mr Bill Mitford (retired 29th October 2020)
Miss Margaret Bennett

Mrs Emily Fabricius (elected 29th October, 2020)

Treasurer Mr Neal James-Crook (appointed 10/02/20)

Deanery Synod members Mrs Emily Fabricius (elected 27 April 2017)
[1 vacancy]

Elected PCC members: Mrs Nicki Crosthwaite-Eyre

Mrs Lynda Gent

Mrs Eleanor Jakeman

Mrs Emily Fabricius

Ms Susan Ingham

Mrs Sylvia Kennedy

Mrs Sally Spencer

Mrs Katherine Fitzgerald

Mrs Jane Wilson (Hon Secretary)

1.5 The day to day management of the church is delegated to the Priest-in-Charge and the churchwardens.

2. STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

2.1 The method of appointment of PCC members is set out in the Church Representation Rules. At All Saints the membership of the PCC consists of the Priest-in-Charge (our vicar), churchwardens, the Assistant Priest, two Licenced Lay-Ministers, a Deanery Synod representative and members elected by those members of the congregation who are on the electoral roll of the church. All those who attend our services/ members of the congregation are encouraged to register on the Electoral Roll and stand for election to the PCC.

2.2 The PCC members are responsible for making decisions on all matters of general concern and importance to the parish including deciding on how funds of the PCC are to be spent.

2.3 The full PCC met five times during the year, with only the first in February being in person and the rest by Zoom due to Covid. Given its wide responsibilities the PCC is developing a number of working groups each dealing with a particular aspect of church life and some of these groups work across the benefice. The groups are all responsible to the PCC and report back regularly to the full PCC with a record of their decisions and recommendations. The PCC receive these, discuss and approve as necessary.

The PCC Standing Committee: The only committee required by law; it can transact PCC business subject to any directions given by the Council.

The Fundraising & Social Committee: This Committee organises fundraising and social events.

The Fabric Ministry Group: This group oversees the internal and external fabric of the church, and the churchyard (set up November 2018). Also Roofurb was a separate committee set up September 2019 to raise money for repairs to church roof.

Mission Action Planning Working Group: This is a benefice wide group with two members of each PCC working together to produce our Benefice Mission Action Plan (set up September 2018).

2.4 Training courses have been attended/completed and guidance read when appropriate by the churchwardens and PCC members on issues such as safeguarding, data protection, leadership of PCCs and stewardship, all by Zoom due to Covid.

2.5 The PCC has complied with the duty under section 5 of the Safeguarding and Clergy Discipline Measure 2016 (duty to have due regard to House of Bishops' guidance on safeguarding children and vulnerable adults). All clergy, Licenced Lay-Ministers, Bishop's Commission for Mission Pastoral workers and Worship leaders, Churchwardens, PCC members, Musical Director and all adults who are likely to come into contact with children or vulnerable adults are subject to DBS checks and undergo training to the required level. The Safeguarding Officer is Mrs Tessa Cross.

3 **OBJECTIVES OF THE PCC:** The objectives at All Saints for 2020 have focussed on:

- Responding to the lack of provision in the village for parents/ grandparents caring for pre-nursery children at home, by continuing the Friday morning Toddler Group, but this has had to be postponed due to Covid 19. It is planned to be restarted as soon as the Covid road map allows..
- Seeking to create opportunities for all ages to worship together by supporting the continuation of Messy Church (Benefice) by Zoom.
- Seeking to develop the pastoral provision to the bereaved, lonely and housebound through a growing team including those commissioned for BCM Pastoral Ministry and the continuation of the Benefice Men's café by Zoom.
- Creating opportunities for engagement with the wider community has mostly had to be postponed due to Covid, but a couple of Quiz evenings and a whisky tasting all by Zoom have taken place.
- We have reviewed the Mission objectives set in 2016 and have created a new Mission Action Plan for the next three to five years.
- To facilitate our work it is important to maintain the fabric of the church and The Meadow Room.
- As trustees we have sought to increase our understanding of our role and responsibilities particularly in regard to the finances and compliance with new GDPR regulations.
- **Funding** The vicar's stipend and accommodation is funded centrally through the Church of England. The PCC contributes towards the Common Mission Fund and raises all other funds for the maintenance and work of the church.

3.1 **Clatford Church of England (VA) Primary School** The Priest-in Charge is Ex-Officio Foundation Governor at Clatford School and the PCC appoints additional Foundation Governors to the Governing body. Mrs Nicki Crosthwaite-Eyre was a Governor in 2020.

Clatford Church of England Primary School
'Learn and Grow Together with Love, Respect and Belief'

Website: www.clatford.hants.sch.uk

Headteacher: Miss A. Rice

Annual Report

This has been like no other year both for the school and the wider community. The pandemic has changed everything we had previously taken for granted. Clatford Primary School alongside so many others has faced many challenges during this time. These challenges have been made easier because of the overwhelming support and kindness we have received from the wider Clatford Community. We cannot thank you enough for the amazing donations you have given to the school, the fundraising you have done to support our most vulnerable families, the many cards and letters of encouragement and the scrummy cakes for the staff. It has meant a lot to each and every one of us.

The children and staff have taken on many changes over the last year. Children have had to learn to socially distance and frequently wash their hands. They have learnt to learn and play in differing ways. They have had to face anxious times, home learning and not being able to hug their grandparents or elderly relatives. I have been so impressed with how well they have coped with all of these things which

is a testament to the support they have had from their families and their teachers. We have focussed activities on how to maintain good mental health and how to stay healthy. As a church school through our core Christian values of Love, Respect and Belief we seek to enable our children to Learn and Grow Together to develop their 'whole' unique individual potential as a member of our Clatford Family, whilst nurturing a lifelong love of learning within a caring, environment. This philosophy and vision has given us a firm foundation and pathway to nurture every child through these unprecedented times.

One of the biggest developments for the school has been the implementation of remote learning. We have set up remote learning platforms and every child has their own personal login. They have had a blended learning experience which is a combination of video lessons, live google meets and real-time verbal and written feedback on their learning. In addition, children with specific needs have received individual bespoke interactions and wellbeing calls have been undertaken. All this has been achieved alongside every teacher teaching key worker and vulnerable children throughout the school day. It has been a huge effort. The teachers now face the challenge of assessing and developing every child's learning ensuring that any gaps are secured as quickly as possible. The school is very fortunate to have a highly skilled and dedicated workforce who put the children's needs first and who are able to create an exciting, creative learning journey which is engaging for everyone.

The pandemic has meant that we have missed being able to meet together as a community, whether at school or at the church. We have however been able to keep our sense of belonging through the use of live video across the school and this has been supported by Rev Katrina and the Open the Book Team. The children have so enjoyed their weekly live worships and watching the stories. It has kept their connection to the church. Rev Katrina will be truly missed.

As the pathway out of the pandemic draws ever nearer the School will continue to move forward. At the end of this academic year I will be retiring after 22 years of headship and 35 years of service to education. I have so enjoyed being the Headteacher of Clatford Primary School and will take with me so many happy memories. It has been a real privilege to lead such a wonderful outstanding school. *Angela Rice, Headteacher*

3.2 Church rotas: The PCC recognises and greatly appreciates the support and work of church members and local residents for many aspects of the ministry and life of the church. Some aspects of churchyard maintenance are financed by PCC funds. The Benefice Music Director and Benefice Administrator are paid for from the Benefice fund to which the PCC makes a monthly contribution.

3.3 The Parish Magazine. At the start of the year Bulpitt Print Ltd continued to print 470 copies of the Magazine which were delivered or sent to the 437 subscribers.

- The annual subscription remained at £6 or £15 if posted each month. Due to Covid 19 and the lockdown restrictions it was not possible to deliver the majority of the April edition of the Magazine and since May 2020 the Magazine has been available only as a monthly online edition on both the Goodworth Clatford and Upper Clatford village websites. An advantage of the Magazine being online has been the ability to include much more colour and photographs but the team are mindful of the fact that not every subscriber has access to the internet.
- Income for the year was £7,733 with subscriptions being £2,813 and advertising £4,920.
- Expenses including printing were £1,509, much reduced from 2019 as no printing costs were incurred beyond April. £3,600 was distributed equally between All Saints' and St Peter's.
- The accounts have been reviewed and confirmed by Tom Wilson FCA
- The Magazine team comprise of:-

Cherry Milne - Editor - Nicki Crosthwaite-Eyre - Subscriptions

Sue Stephens - Advertising (having taken over from Jo Fancy)

3.4 Fabric management. Repairs and modifications to the church and churchyard are controlled through the C of E Faculty process. Where necessary Work is undertaken by paid professionals.

4. ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE

4.1 Church attendance I have given due notice and revised the Electoral Roll since the last Annual Meeting and it is basically the same apart from the fact that three elderly residents have moved into nursing homes however two lived outside Upper Clatford before their move. Three young people who went on the Electoral Roll prior to getting married in All Saints in 2019 are still on it and I am pleased to report that no-one on the Electoral Roll has died since the last Report in October and consequently we still have 82 people on the Electoral Roll of which 36 now reside in the Parish and 46 reside outside.
Sally Spencer, electoral roll officer

4.2 Worship and Prayer

2020 has been dominated by the Covid 19 pandemic and the challenges associated with being able to be and do church when our buildings were shut or when very limited numbers were permitted to attend.

Having embraced the challenges we have grown in ability and experience at being able to offer online services as well as manage the risks associated with worship in church during a pandemic and adapting to advise and restrictions laid down in law.

We quickly adopted a pattern for Sunday worship:

12 noon Facebook live was a simple Service of the Word. Initially lead by Katrina and Phil from The Rectory, the Ministry Team learnt how to lead services from their homes and latterly we have managed to stream a group led service using a combination of Zoom and Facebook. Facebook allows people to watch the service live or later as it uploads to the benefice Facebook page for people to watch at another time.

6pm a Praise service using Zoom. The service has evolved into one in which many different people can contribute and it is different every week. We have had updates from many different parts of the world, linked up with different charities, had a pet service and a garden service, Songs of Praise for people to choose a favourite hymn and heard about different people's answers to prayer and experiences of faith. We have been joined by people from Canada and the USA as well as family members from other parts of the country. At this service people can see each other, sing along at home and enjoy a social time afterwards in breakout rooms.

Each evening Monday to Saturday we have held a short service of **Compline at 6pm on Facebook live.** This has been much appreciated as a source of peace and comfort at the end of each day. At this service we have included daily prayers for friends, family and neighbours who have been facing particular challenges at different points or throughout the year, including the bereaved.

We were able to add in live services of Holy Communion at different times in the year and we held one such service at 10am each week in rotation around the villages, when we were permitted and when we felt it was safe to do so.

Significant celebrations and commemorations presented their own opportunities using online options: The three patronal festivals gave opportunity to have a guided tour of each church with pictures and commentary on the history of the buildings as well as hear about the life and witness of each church family with reflections on the patronal saint or saints. For All Saints day we were also able to have a short outdoor service with light sticks and a fire, which was much appreciated by a large number of families.

For the season of remembrance we were unable to have services in our churches, so we contacted the bereaved and invited them to attend an online service with names read out and pictures of candles lit in church. On **Remembrance Sunday**, small acts of Remembrance for military personnel and community leaders were permitted and in addition a service was held online with the names of the fallen for all three villages read out. At the Zoom service we heard stories of family members and their experiences during the First or Second World War.

During Advent and Christmas we were able to have a mixed economy of services including **Messy Church, Christingle and a Carol service on Zoom** as well as a very happy and well received door-step carols through the villages on Christmas Eve. In person services in church were inhibited by the requirement to wear masks and the inability to sing, but were nonetheless much appreciated.

Throughout the year the Ministry team have never failed to rise to a challenge and have shown extraordinary creativity and resilience in preparing a leading worship online. Churchwardens have had to keep on top of risk assessments in a constantly evolving situation. Paul Timms with Grace and Alice have provided music for services every week online and when possible in person. Sarah Derbyshire provided essential support keeping the flow of information moving and keeping the website up to date. I would also like to express thanks and appreciation to Peter Fabricius (Upper Clatford) for his informed interpretation of material produced by the Government and Church of England regarding safe practice in our churches, which has informed each of the PCCs in their responsibilities and decision making.

No doubt it will be a year we are pleased to put behind us for many reasons, but we have learnt lessons about worship online which we must carry into the future and will help us reach the housebound and those who do not want to venture out in the dark winter months.

4.3 Sidesperson report. Apart from one or two services in January/ February pre lockdown the churches then closed and there has been no need of sidespersons as the church had strict social distanced seating which were efficiently managed by the churchwardens.

4.4 Deanery Synod report: 2020 was a unique year in the history of Andover because of the restrictions caused by the coronavirus pandemic. This meant that only one Synod meeting was possible in March 2020 just before the lockdown began. It was inevitable that many decisions taken would not happen because of Covid-19.

In the Diocesan Synod Report Area Dean Rev Trevor Lewis advised that the diocesan Deployment Plan would be discussed at the synod on 12th March and should be formally presented at the end of this summer. This sadly did not happen and is still awaited.

In the Deanery Update Trevor summarized changes in the new 2020 Church Representation Rules. The Church Commissioners should decide shortly on two objections to the proposed amalgamation of the Pastrow and Hurstbourne Tarrant benefices.

Parishes responding to the coronavirus were urged to monitor advice updated frequently on the CofE and diocesan websites. Measures include no physical contact in services, not offering the common cup at Communion and providing resources for BCMs and churchwardens to lead services of the word if a minister has to self-isolate at short notice. Pastoral visitors should continue to provide their valuable service whilst taking sensible precautions.

Rev Jax Machin warned that some rural parishes which rely on village fetes as a major source of income could struggle to make their CMF contributions if public gatherings were banned during the summer. The proposal that LLMs be invited to join deanery clergy at their monthly get together for a greater chapter meeting sadly did not happen.

It was noted that the absence of a diocesan deployment plan was having a negative effect on congregations of the two benefices currently in a vacancy. Trevor outlined some of the plan's proposals: to detach West Andover from the otherwise rural Portway & Danebury team and a trend toward larger rural benefices with 2 full-time clergy.

General Synod's aim to achieve zero carbon emissions by 2030 is extremely ambitious. Parishes can make a useful start by adopting the EcoChurch scheme which includes carbon reduction among its criteria, but the pandemic has prevented progress here.

In the dMAP Update Andrew Kent said that the deanery has made considerable progress on most of its objectives, but we needed to focus on the one that remains outstanding - EcoChurch. Parishes not already following the scheme were urged to find a champion to take it forward.

There had been two significant developments in the deanery since the dMAP had been agreed in November 2017: The Benefice of the Future initiative being trialed in Pastrow and the transformation of St Mary's Andover into a Resource Church. Rev Alex Randle-Bissell and Rev Chris Bradish will be invited to report their experiences at a future synod meeting.

In the Deanery Finance report the Current Account stood at £1499.46. A motion to propose a parish levy of £15 for 2020 was unanimously approved. The Overseas Account was worth £2111.98. Suggestions were invited from members as to how to use the money. Pamela was to be notified by the end of March 2020.

For the Deanery Finance Committee Michael Coleman said that in 2019 the diocese had received £9.3 million from parishes, 94.4% of the target - a shortfall of £550k. Andover Deanery's £590k, 96.7% of its target, was slightly better than the diocesan average but down on previous achievements of 100%. Calculations for 2021 commitments would begin shortly and he urged parishes to submit accurate attendance figures. Trevor thanked parishes which had paid their full CMF requirement. Michael then praised the work of Clive Thompsett who had been an extremely valuable member of the DFC for many years but was now stepping down.

As always this Synod meeting featured Good News from the Parishes which showed the wide breadth of activities going on in our parishes.

This has been a very strange and frustrating year for Andover Deanery Synod under the leadership of Area Dean, Rev Trevor Lewis and Assistant Area Dean Rev Katrina Dykes.

Peter Eastwood, Deanery Secretary

4.5 Mission Action Plan

Discipleship courses: Covid 19 restrictions interrupted the running of The Bible Society's Bible Course we had begun in February. We eventually completed the course on Zoom in the summer term, but not everyone could attend.

Café Church suspended its services, but over the summer began meeting every other week on a Saturday morning for an hour. The group has taken a parable each time to reflect on and consider what impact its teaching has on our daily lives. Music is provided by Pete O'Leary, we begin with sharing personal stories on a theme related to the parable. Following the reading we discuss elements of the story, share questions and seek to apply it. We conclude with a time of prayer using the 'chat' function of Zoom. Numbers have grown to a committed group of fifteen members from across the three villages.

Children and Families: Sadly the Toddler group had to stop running due to restrictions for such gatherings. We managed to keep in touch with some families better than others. There was no appetite for an online toddler group but some of the families attended one or both the Care for the Family parenting courses Katrina ran - Parentalk and Raising Faith. Other families' fed back that they enjoyed the family activities in the weekly bulletin or listened to the daily Compline services. Families connected with All Saints church made rainbow pictures to decorate the church doors and remember the huge effort of the NHS workers.

After **Messy Church** in January and February, we had to cancel March due to government restrictions for gatherings. The next time we managed to gather Messy Church again was for a very successful Messy Christmas service on Zoom at the beginning of December. People signed up in advance and bags with all the necessary equipment and instructions were given out more than 72 hours ahead of the service.

The **Open the Book** team very quickly adapted to offering online stories using Zoom, creatively using props and costumes to bring the stories to life. This has been greatly appreciated by both schools and has enabled the children to see the team more often than their previous once a month.

Pastoral Care: The pandemic restricted pastoral care in people's homes hugely. It also presented very real challenges for offering support to those who were bereaved during the year. Preparation for funeral services had to be conducted over the phone or online. In the first lockdown churches were shut for all services including funerals and services could only be conducted at the graveside or at the crematorium with much reduced numbers attending.

In other ways new opportunities for pastoral care opened up. **Men's café** evolved into a weekly group from a monthly group and has grown in number attending. With church services being online, a number of people unable to get to church due to disability, ill-health or lack of transport, were able to join in online and feel again part of the community they had been cut off from. The daily compline, which began in Holy Week continued throughout the pandemic and has a significant following both live and watched later in the evening. This service in particular has been appreciated as a source of both friendship and spiritual comfort through very difficult times.

However, there were others who regularly attended services in church who didn't attend online services and groups, and they did experience a degree of separation, which was hard to overcome. Members of the pastoral team have attempted to keep up with people using the telephone, but it is a poor substitute for physical company.

At the end of the year there was increasing awareness of inequality in communities throughout the country. News of children unable to participate in online lessons when at home due to school closures of families needing to isolate and also concern about families being unable to adequately feed their children during holiday times, when the children missed their free-school meals'. In response and in partnership with our local head teachers, we launched a Family Support Fund. As a result we were able to provide computers to a number of families and also put together 15 Christmas food hampers as well provide some Christmas gifts. The fund still has some funds and going forward will be used with the direction of the head teachers of our two schools where there is real need in households of school families.

4.6 Churchwardens' reports:

2021 has been something of an unusual year. I don't think anyone could have anticipated that just before Easter we'd be told that the churches must close, and that in person Easter services couldn't be held. For a time it was only the Churchwardens who were legally allowed to enter the church buildings, and that was to monitor and look after the building only. Fortunately we were soon blessed with online services, which were welcomed and well attended. The church community has grown stronger in this last year. So much so that we were even able to meet our CMF contributions for the year, which is just incredible, and the Wardens' thanks go to Neal for his sterling work and support.

We have also managed to move to holding PCC meetings via Zoom, as well as keeping in regular touch via email. Thank you especially here to Jane for keeping us all together and making sure everything's prepared for the meetings.

When we were allowed to go back to in person services, they were very different, with pre-booking, social distancing, hand sanitising, and no singing. It has taken a lot of hard work by a lot of people behind the scenes to make the services work safely. Thanks especially to Sarah for her hard work, Eleanor for her help, and Peter for his support and advice. We think it's worked well, and the congregation have rallied round to keep each other safe, and been understanding about the new ways of being in church.

Thanks are also due to the team of Holy Dusters who have worked so hard this year to keep the church clean and safe. And also to Sue for all her Sacristan duties throughout the year which really helps to lighten the load.

The church has thrown up its own challenges this year. As we all know, it needs a new roof, and thanks are due to the Roofurb team for their continuing work on this. In the latter part of the year, we found that there had been a couple of leaks which had to be fixed. The War Memorial was also found to be in need of work, and there is an application for the repairs going through Faculty. Thanks especially to Bill for all his help with the building and churchyard, and in opening and closing the church.

We did manage some of the big services: a small ceremony was held for Remembrance, and an outdoors service for our Patronal. Christmas was also celebrated in church.

In September we said thank you to Bill as he retired as warden, after more than 20-years of service, and welcomed Emily on board as the new warden.

The year ended with the news that Reverend Katrina will be leaving us and she and Phil will be off to seek new challenges and adventures in East Anglia. We really wish them well, and are pleased that they leave our Benefice in a much more lively and positive position than when they arrived. They will be much missed.

Thanks are due to so many others who work so hard to support the church and its community, not least to all the members of the PCC. *Margaret Bennett, Churchwarden*

4.7 [Health and Safety Report](#)

Health and Safety covers several areas, including safety of the building and those within it and the safeguarding of all within the church community, especially the vulnerable. During the period of this report a particular focus has been care within a Covid-19 environment.

General aspects of health and safety had been put in place by the foundation work done by fellow Warden Meg Bennett. She has been able to build on this to develop our response to safety during the pandemic.

Similarly, excellent work has been done within the safeguarding arena by Tessa Cross This has included signposting the necessary training and maintaining records of completed training and DBS checks. My thanks to both.

At the start of the pandemic, during the first lockdown, beginning in mid -March, the Church was completely closed. However, following a detailed risk assessment led by Meg, it was reopened for private prayer and three weekly services from July. Plans were made in conjunction with the other churches in the Benefice and taking full regard of government regulations and guidelines as well as those put in place by the CoE and Winchester Diocese.

In summary, numbers attending services were limited, with mandatory advance booking, managed by Sarah at the Anna Benefice office. Social distancing, wearing of masks, hand sanitising on entry and recording of attendees (and where they sat) by the booking register and using the national Track and Trace QR code system were all introduced. A welcome was given by Bill Mitford and Peter Fabricius who ensured all necessary procedures were adhered to. Thanks to them, for ensuring our safety. The Christmas Day Service was attended by 48 , the seating plan having been arranged to accommodate family “Bubbles”, couples and singles alike.

During church opening for private prayer, a system was introduced with a register of attendance, contact details and cards left in place in pews to show potentially contaminated areas. At the end of each day, appropriate cleaning and sanitising was done by a small team of willing volunteers whom we thank.

All church based social activity (other than online events), including after service coffee and meetings of the much valued ‘Little Steps’ toddler group was suspended. *Emily Fabricius, Churchwarden*

4.8 [Benefice Choir & Music Report](#)

“Address . . . one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody to the Lord with all your heart.”...“He who sings prays twice” (St Augustine)

This year's Benefice Choir and Music Report is somewhat different from previous years due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The effect it has had on live music making and singing in particular has been, for many, devastating, very sad and very hard to cope with.

Once choirs weren't allowed to sing together from early on in the first lockdown it was evident that our worship would be much the poorer. However, as with everything during this time, new ways, particularly with technology, have been explored and tried usually with surprisingly successful outcomes that will probably enrich the future.

Initially it was a case of waiting, watching and seeing how others would manage the situation, dependent mainly on the availability of technology and being able to be creative in adversity and being able to learn new skills with different video conferencing platforms. Once confidence and the ability to do something had been decided it was agreed to try rehearsing for an hour each week using Zoom. This started just after Easter at the beginning of May. Since then the choir has been rehearsing on-line, using Zoom weekly, apart from a summer break during August and when choirs were allowed back into churches to sing, in between the first and second lockdown. During this period the joy of hearing others and singing with others was at times overwhelming and quite emotional.

Although choirs were allowed to sing in acts of Worship a decision was made to only sing at the major Festivals or on special occasions as it would allow more congregants to attend the weekly Eucharist. This window of opportunity was also used to put together hymns and anthems rehearsed virtually, when singers are unable hear each other, only themselves, and also to prepare for a Christmas video of some kind. Social-distancing and the Rule of 6 also impacted on the rehearsing as did finding a space that was well-ventilated. Rehearsals moved from the usually warm St Peter's Room Goodworth Clatford to the very chilly and airy All Saint's Church. All Covid regulations were followed allowing 'real' music-making to take place.

Back in the late summer members of the choir helped lead the singing for a socially-distanced Harvest at the Rectory and for an al fresco All Saints Patronal which was held in the Car Park on a dark and damp November evening. For Christmas the choir were able to prepare and film three carols for the Zoom Carol Service which were well-received and then shared by a member of the choir in America. The choir also led village Carols outside Upper Clatford village Hall and joined the Vicar and team on a highly successful, enjoyable and cold Christmas Eve Carol Pilgrimage around the Benefice. Sadly there was not be any choral music in the churches over the Christmas period.

Singing online has given the choir an opportunity for some outreach and as a consequence past singers were invited to join as were others who would benefit from being part of our singing community.

When allowed to use instruments in church it has been just the organ and again Tim Pay needs thanking for helping out and keeping his fingers and feet nimble. The usual Christmas instrumental offerings from the Timms family and the Fitzgeralds sadly were absent this year on Christmas Eve and Christmas day but the inclusion of instrumental music did continue to play an important role in the worship of the Benefice during the pandemic. Working from home the Director of Music and his daughters have led the music at the weekly 6.00pm Zoom Praise and more recently the mid-morning Facebook Live Service. This has given the virtual congregations and others catching up an opportunity to enjoy the music and singing from their own homes. For Easter The Timms' *Ensemble Octave* recorded and produced a multi-screen video of the Easter hymn *Now the Green blade riseth*.

Choir membership remains stable and will welcome at least 2 new members when singing is allowed back in church buildings.

Voice	Soprano	Alto	Tenor	Bass	Total
Church					
All Saints Upper Clatford	3	2	1	(1)	6 (7)

St Mary's Abbotts Ann	2	0	(1)	0	2 (3)
St Peter's Goodworth Clatford	4	2	1	0	7
(Extras)	(4)	(0)	(0)	(0)	(4)
Total	9 (4)	4	2(1)	(1)	15 (21)

5. Social and Fundraising activities: Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, most fundraising and social activities, including the flower festival to mark the 400th anniversary of the sailing of the Mayflower, were put on hold. A Bridge & Whist Afternoon was held prior to the start of the pandemic in conjunction with local Bridge Club in February which raised a total of £866. Two thirds of the profit (£576) was given to All Saints' Church. The Committee provided a delicious tea for the participants.

An online quiz was held on Saturday 17th October. Thirty five people participated both from the parish and further afield. This event provided an opportunity for some social activity albeit through a computer screen. The Committee was very grateful to David Heelas and Peter Fabricius who organised the Quiz using Zoom. £357 was raised through donations in aid of the church. Thanks are due to everyone who worked hard to organise and supported the two events in 2020 which raised a total of £933 for the church. *Jane Kennedy*

6. Financial Review:

Due to the corona virus 2020 proved a very challenging year financially for All Saints.

Income

- Regular Giving and Gift Aid
- Fundraising
- Donations

The Parish income is derived from the following sources:

1. Regular giving made via standing orders, direct debits (using the Parish Giving Scheme) or the Church envelope scheme.
2. Church service collections.
3. Donations.
4. Gift Aid reclaimed from HMRC.
5. Fees for specific services such as weddings and funerals.
6. Fundraising events.
7. Share of the magazine profit.
8. Investment income derived from a bequest. This is restricted for use in the maintenance of the Churchyard.

- The Parish receives no external funding from Winchester Diocese or the Church Commissioners. Total income was down 2.70% from £42,181 in 2019 to £41,039 in 2020. £34,588 was allocated to the unrestricted General Fund and £6,451 to the restricted Fabric Fund.
- There has been a small increase of 1.74% in planned giving from £13,667 in 2019 to £13,905 in 2020. 2 new donors very kindly came on stream with the Parish Giving Scheme in December 2020.
- Due to the covid related restrictions resulting in the inability to hold church services and events, collections were down 75% from £5,254 in 2019 to £1,310 in 2020; fundraising income was down 60.00% from £4,093 in 2019 to £1,620 in 2020.
- Gift Aid was down 13.86% from £6,144 in 2019 to £5,293 in 2020.
- However, on a more positive note, donations and legacies were up 19.00% from £4,468 in 2019 to £5,327 in 2020. Thank you to all those who made extra donations which greatly assisted with making ends meet.

- Since the magazine went online and was not being printed the share of the profit increased by 20.00% from £1,500 in 2019 to £1,800 in 2020.

Expenditure

- CMF - the Parish share of £27,526 was met, however it subsequently transpired that £2,500 had been paid out of the Fabric Fund reserves. This amount therefore has been treated in the 2020 accounts as a prepayment of the 2021 Parish share.
- Benefice Expenses - this is the sum we pay into the Benefice account. It covers the employment costs of both the Benefice Administrator and the Director of Music, Paul Timms and all those expenses which are shared between the three Parishes in the Benefice. The expenses were reduced by 20.00% from £6,300 in 2019 to £5,000 in 2020.
- Total expenses were down by 8.54% from £40,633 in 2019 to £37,342 in 2020.

Annual Budget

Closing funds as at 31st December 2020 were up 15.11% from £34,172 to £39,334 compared with the same time in 2019.

Reserves Policy

There continues to be no active reserves policy in place but this is being reviewed in 2021.

Volunteers

We are very grateful to both Mary & Geoff Dunn for their continuing contribution over the past 12 months in claiming the Gift Aid.

Thank you also to Tom Wilson for assisting me with the preparation of the 2020 accounts.

Graham Stephens still remains as our Independent Examiner.

7. **Management of the church fabric.**

Roofurb update: By the time of the APCM we will have received tenders for the roof repairs. We will then be in a position to ask for PCC approval to make an appointment as to the preferred roofing company and to apply for DAC faculty approval. At the same time we will be presenting the PCC with our strategy for raising nearly £200,000 for the roof, upgrading heating and lighting, and resurfacing the church paths.

We could not be starting fundraising at a worse possible time but we have some quite innovative plans as to how we are going to achieve our goal. One of my main concerns is how we can demonstrate to potential funders that there are sufficient ongoing fabric funds to mean the church is sustainable after the repairs have been done. This may well mean apportioning part of regular giving to the fabric fund on an annual basis in the future.

We will not be able to start work until we have the funds in place or committed. This is unlikely to be before spring 2022. The work is likely to take 4 months and the church will have to be closed during that time. *Tom Wilson*

8. **Risk Assessments:** For all activities that take place in All Saints Church a full risk assessment is completed and kept on file.

Signed:

Signed:
All Saints' PCC Secretary

Priest-in-Charge
The Revd Katrina Dykes

Mrs Jane Wilson

Date: **Date**.....

This Annual Report was approved by the PCC on.....and signed on their behalf by The Revd Katrina dykes (Priest in Charge).