**ALL SAINTS PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL (PCC) ANNUAL REPORT**

**2021**

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**Introduction:**

2021 presented us with a great many challenges and a continued uncertainty as we navigated our way through more Covid 19 regulations, closing of churches, reopening safely and managing bookings for services along with cleaning, social distancing, mask wearing and handwashing.

We all owe a huge debt of gratitude to our churchwardens Meg Bennett and Emily Fabricius 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 Assistant Priest, the Reverend Nicky Judd and also our two LLMs Peter Eastwood and Tim Tayler. They continued with their online worship and activities, embraced every new challenge they were presented with and supported us in our life as a community of faith, particularly since The Rev Katrina left us in April and we entered an interregnum.

Occasional Offices:

Across the Benefice there were 9 Baptisms, 7 weddings, 26 funerals and 18 burials of ashes.

 March 2022

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, Abbotts Ann in the Diocese of Winchester.

The living was put in suspension by the Bishop of Winchester at the end of September 2015. We are presently in an interregnum.

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 2021 until the date this report was approved are:

 Ex-officio members:

 *Priest-in-Charge* In Interregnum from April 2021

 *Assistant Priest* The Revd Nicky Judd

 *Licensed Lay Ministers* Mr Peter Eastwood

Mr Tim Tayler

 *Churchwardens Ms* Margaret Bennett

 Mrs Emily Fabricius

 *Treasurer Mr* Neal James-Crook

 *Deanery Synod members* Mrs Sally Spencer

 [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 churchwardens, with the parish being in an interregnum.

**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, 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 three times during the year, all 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.

* 1. 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 Benefice Safeguarding officer was Mrs Tessa Cross, but she is to retire on March 31st 2022. Eleanor Jakeman is the Benefice Safeguarding officer but does not want to take over from Tessa Cross so this post will be vacant from April 1st, 2022.
1. **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 and then live from August.
* 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 an online Quiz evening, Flower Festival and advent wreath workshop (both latter live in church) all took 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 and continue these in 2021.
* 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 2021.

 Clatford Church of England Primary School



*‘Learn and Grow Together with Love, Respect and Belief’*

 Website: [www.clatford.hants.sch.uk](http://www.clatford.hants.sch.uk/)

 **Headteacher: Mr M. Kirk**

**Annual Report - 2021**

I am pleased to be able to share with you the annual report for 2021, having taken over as headteacher of Clatford Primary School in September.

2021 was a year at Clatford that saw many transitions and challenges alongside being a year of hope, community and new beginnings. The lockdown in the earlier parts of the year was very different to the previous ones in that we were all much more ready for the challenges, and better equipped to face them. Learning went online, but many children still attended school with some classes having up to 50% of children in the classroom. Teachers adapted and became hybrid practioners, many teaching live-classrooms in the morning while providing online feedback, and then recording videos in the afternoons to support children at home. All the while, the school also faced the continued difficulty of staff and children isolating throughout, with some teachers keeping learning going remotely whilst working from home.

As the year progressed, and the lockdown abated, we managed to begin opening up a little more, having all of the children back in classrooms and bringing our disparate community back together. The children were separated into class ‘bubbles’ during the summer term, where they did not mix with other classes, in order to further reduce the spread of the virus. However, the school did have another transition to prepare for as this was going on. Angela Rice, headteacher at the school for well over 15 years, announced her retirement from education. She was given a proper Clatford send-off as you would expect and tributes poured in from many of the lives she had touched including staff, children and governors, both past and present. We did manage to gather as a school outside at the end of the summer term to sing together which, after so much time in individual class bubbles, was emotive and uplifting. Having spoken to her since then, it is my understanding that she is enjoying her retirement so far but misses the school and children very much.

In September 2021 I began as headteacher, having been with the school myself since 2005. As a school, this was an exciting time for all of us as we were able to begin moving on from covid to focus on other things. Over the term we were able to reinstate a lot of things that had not been able to take place for a while including school-trips, inter-school sports, music-lessons and nativity plays. We were able to start mixing classes again and joining together for worships, lunches and playtimes. It made us appreciate all of those moments more than we ever had in the past.

So far, it has been a pleasure and a privilege to work with such an exceptional group of children, staff, governors and families. We are striving as a school to make 2022 a year of gratitude, hope, challenge and joy for our school as our children continue to learn, grow and flourish together.

 **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 Parish Magazine:** The Magazine team comprises of:-
Cherry Milne - Editor
Nicki Crosthwaite-Eyre - Subscriptions
Sue Stephens – Advertising

The Magazine remained available only as a monthly online edition on the Upper Clatford and
Goodworth Clatford village websites from January to April 2021. However in May it returned to
hard copy produced by Bulpitt Print Ltd. Where possible, subscribers registered through an online
form on both the village websites and opted to have their copy of the Magazine hand delivered or
posted with the additional option to have a PDF version emailed each month. The annual costs
remained at £6 for hard copy hand delivered, £16 for a postal copy and £5 for a PDF version.
Payment could either be a BACS transfer or a cheque sent to Nicki Crosthwaite-Eyre.
265 copies were printed and distributed each month and 49 PDF versions emailed each month.
The number of subscribers was down on the previous year.
Income for the year was £6,727 with subscriptions being £1,898 and advertising £4,829.
Expenses including printing were £3,349. £3,000 was distributed equally between All Saints’ and St Peter’s.
The accounts have been reviewed and confirmed by Tom Wilson FCA

**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.

**4.0**  **ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE**

**4.1 Church attendance.** The Electoral Roll has been reviewed and revised in line with Church Representation rules to reflect the changes since last year’s meeting when I reported that there were 82 people registered, 36 of whom were resident within the Parish and 46 non-resident.

This year I can report that there is an overall reduction of two as eight people have been removed from the list and six added. Sadly, three Parish residents have died within the year, two elderly non-residents have moved away into care homes and three young non-resident people, who went on the electoral roll in order to get married in the church in 2020, have also been removed as they have not continued as regular worshippers. To offset this, I am glad to report that one couple resident within the parish and one couple and two single people who are non-resident have been enrolled. This means that there are now 80 people on the Electoral Roll, 36 of whom are resident and 44 are non-resident within the Parish*. Sally Spencer,* *24 March 2022*

**4.2** **Worship and Prayer**

At the beginning of the year we had two weeks with one in-person service of Communion, but were then restricted to online services again – Preach and Pray at midday and Zoom Praise in the evening. The evening service particularly lent itself to involving many different people as they reflected on particular themes.

On Mothering Sunday, 14th March, we were able to be back in church for one Communion service again. On Easter Day we had a Communion service at each church, including the outdoor Sunrise Service at All Saints, where the benefice Paschal Candles were lit from the Easter fire. A barbecue breakfast followed. The following week we said goodbye to Katrina as she left for her new group of parishes in Suffolk. In the evening of Ascension Day a joint service was held inside and outside St Mary's, Amport, for Anna and Portway & Danebury Benefices, at which Bishop David preached.

At the beginning of June we began a three-Sunday rota, giving each church an in-person service every Sunday. The timings were tweaked at the beginning of September to allow the choir and organist more time between services. A monthly 4pm Evensong at All Saints was added and has been increasingly supported by choir and congregation. That pattern continued for the rest of the year, with occasional variations for festivals. We had two Sundays of Harvest, with All Saints and St Mary's celebrating on 26th September and St Peter's, with Archdeacon Richard, the following week. Each church community gathered for Harvest lunches in the ways they felt safe to do so.

Each church celebrated its Patronal Festival. Each church hosted an All Souls' Service of Light and Remembrance on 6th November and we offered one online for those who preferred not to come to an in-person service. All were well-attended and are one of our significant opportunities for outreach and pastoral care.

A Carol Service at St Peter's was really appreciated. St Mary's in-person service was cancelled due to worries about Covid and it went online instead. On Christmas Eve, All Saints Crib Service happened outdoors and included a live Nativity tableau in the church porch, and travelling music thanks to the Timms family. St Peter's had their service in the church. St Mary's had carol singing outside the Village Shop, which proved hugely popular, despite the rain. There were two Midnight Communions, one using Reserved Sacrament, with permission from the Bishop. The Christmas Day Benefice service combined Family Wo rship and Communion, which worked well and attracted a number of young families. On Boxing Day people were still wanting to be in church so we were glad we decided to have a Benefice communion that day, too.

Throughout the year 6.00pm Night Prayer online was a constant.

*The Revd Nicky Judd*

**4.3 Sides persons Report.** Another year affected by Covid and I would like to thank all our volunteers who have so kindly been on the Sidesperson rota, welcoming everyone with a smile.

After amazing service to All Saints for so many years the following are taking a well earned rest and we hope will be able to come to church and just enjoy the service: Mary Dunn, Mary Bayes, the Kirkdales, Rick Noyce and Barbara Watts.

We have a new team of volunteers: Rosie Barclay, Neal and Lyndsey James-Crook, Nicki Crosswaite Eyre, Cilla Mitford, Lionel Nierop and Jane Wilson.

I would like to thank Emily and Meg for taking on the role during the more restrictive Covid services. And Sally Spencer for helping out too.

Thank you to everyone in the team past and present; all your help is really appreciated.

4.4 **Deanery Synod report:**  Last year I wrote that 2020 was a unique year in the history of Andover Deanery because of the restrictions caused by the coronavirus pandemic, and 2021 was also a unique and momentous year. We did manage to hold three Synod meetings, in January and May on Zoom, and in September in person for the first time in two years.

The February meeting saw the Co-option and Election of Officers for the new triennium delayed from the previous September by the covid pandemic. Area DeanRev Trevor Lewis reported the major news that because of the coronavirus pandemic, the diocese were losing significant money and to counteract this the diocesan staff of 144 stipendiary clergy needed to be cut by 22, to be achieved by natural wastage, clergy moving on, and some redundancies across the diocese. Archdeacon Peter Roche had also left and would not be replaced and his duties would be taken over by Archdeacon Richard Brand. This news caused considerable discussion and concern by synod members.

The May meeting featured a Ride and Stridepresentation by Clive Bagwell, who had run the local Hampshire Churches Trust Ride and Stride for the last ten years. Last year twelve churches raised £4,000 and the whole of Hampshire raised £80,000 which was boosted by an additional grant of £25,000 by Hampshire County Council. The money raised is used to provide grants to update old church buildings.

In his Deanery reorganization report Trevor reported that Pastrow intended to move forward towards one single parish, and dialogue with Appleshaw concerning amalgamation was also moving forward. The Appleshaw group of five parishes were joining Pastrow but would be joining as five separate parishes. In the Town CentreChris Bradish was working with Knights Enham and West Andover. Downswas staying as it was as benefice with Jax Machin as incumbent although she remains in a situation of handling five parishes with no assistance, and this cannot continue. The proposed merger of Anna and Portway & Danebury was at a very early stage in the discussion stage and many questions have been raised and there was some resistance in both benefices. In response to a question Andrew Kent confirmed that the proposed DMPC plan was now on hold as the diocese would now decide the way forward.

At the September meeting Synod split into four groups for a fifteen-minute breakout for discussion about Deanery Synod by considering the four questions: What do we like? What would we like to change? What do we want to stop? What is missing?

Like - Members liked the sharing of good practices and ideas across the deanery, and meetings were an important mechanism to enable people to get together.

Change - Meetings needed more structure. More canvassing of parishioners was needed to discover what issues concerned them. Sharing a meal with wine would be a good move. There was frustration that members felt they were just recipients of information rather than giving back. Too much was coming down and not enough going up!

Stop - There is a need to be more proactive and reduce non-engagement.

Missing – Communication both Synod to PCC and vice-versa. A more formalised structure is needed with a mechanism to achieve aims. Communications with clarity of role, and new ideas to bring Synod together.

The announcement in July that Bishop Tim Dakin would be retiring as Bishop of Winchester from February 2022 was noted and the implications discussed. Bishop Debbie and the Clergy and Lay chairs explained what had led to the retirement of Bishop Tim and gave an assurance there would be a thorough examination of governance in the diocese. It was felt that Deanery Synod needed an external unbiased review of the financial situation, to find how it happened and to make sure it was not repeated. It was agreed by Synod that we should be able to hold our leaders to account. It was not healthy to have the people in charge doing the review and asked if Andrew Kent could draft a positive letter to the diocese for circulation and approval by deanery synod. It was agreed this would be done.

Michael Coleman reported that as expected 2021 was going to be a difficult year financially and the end of August figures, which is two thirds of the way through the year, showed a deficit of £54,000 which mean a shortfall of £466,000 across the diocese. This was likely to be £75,000 by year end. Pamela Woolgrove reported that following the request for African projects at a previous deanery synod meeting, two charities have been helped with £645 each so the Overseas account now stands at £824. The Current account had a working balance of £1,120. As usual all Synod meetings featured Good News from the Parishes which showed the wide breadth of activities going on across our deanery.

This has been another very strange year for Andover Deanery Synod under the leadership of Area Dean, Rev Trevor Lewis and Assistant Area Dean Rev Katrina Dykes who moved on at Easter after her very successful ministry. *Peter Eastwood, Deanery Secretary, 24 January 2022*

4.5 **Mission Action Plan**

We continue to work towards the goals of the MAP and look forward to working with the Rev Teresa on the various elements.

Café Church generally meets every fortnight and during lockdown it was exclusively by Zoom. Since October, we have met in the Meadow Room on the first Saturday and by Zoom on the third Saturday of the month with the numbers attending being steady.

Messy Church takes place at St Peters or St Marys once a month as All Saints had the Toddler Group.

Toddler group had to stop running due to restrictions for such gatherings and has yet to start again, but we hope to reinstate this once the Rev Teresa arrives.

**The Open the Book** team very quickly adapted to offering online bible 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 that their previous once a month. After lockdown restrictions were lifted Open the Book were able to go into both schools to perform in person.

**Pastoral Care:**

Early in the year it was still recommended that we should not visit people in their homes, so contact was made by telephone. Gradually home visits from the Pastoral Care team recommenced, as did Home Communions. Residential Home visits were rare, due to the limits on visiting imposed by the Homes themselves.

4.6 **Churchwardens’ reports:**

2021 and the start of 2022 has seen All Saints gradually come to life after the long Covid lockdown, with in-person services getting re-established, alongside the Zoom services which remain popular with members of our congregation who prefer to join in from the safety of their own homes. Covid guidelines have been used throughout, with hand sanitisation, face masks and the 2-metre rule observed, which meant until very recently, pews were safely distanced. It is good to see congregation numbers slowly increasing. From July it was a delight to see weddings and baptisms being held again, despite restricted numbers and adhering to the safety precautions! We have also had some funerals, which were appreciated by the families affected in these unusual circumstances.

 The Mayflower Flower Festival in August, was a landmark event attended by many people who enjoyed the backdrop of All Saints associated with the baptism of Stephen Hopkins who sailed on that famous ship and the wonderful flower arrangements created by the local community groups. Over £2000 was raised for Roofurb and thanks go to Jane Kennedy and her team for organising such a successful event.

The long -awaited restoration of the War Memorial was completed this summer, funded by two anonymous donors. Part of the original inauguration service in 1920 was incorporated by Revd Nicky Judd into our Remembrance Service around the Memorial in November.

The Roofurb Project has gone from strength to strength, with Tom Wilson and Charles Crosthwaite- Eyre leading it. Jazz in the Garden hosted by the Wilsons raised over £3000 in the summer and overall the total raised is now well over £100.000. Hintons have been contracted to undertake the roofwork and as I write, the preliminary preparations for starting are underway. A huge thank you to the Roofurb Team, who have worked tirelessly to raise the funds to make this possible and secure the fabric of our 12th century church.

11th of April marked the Farewell to Revd Katrina Dykes, who was taking her last service at All Saints, before she and Phil departed for pastures new in Suffolk. A poignant occasion for us all as in the four years she was with us, breathed new life into our church community. She has taken some mementoes away with her, specifically from All Saints – a yew coffee table crafted by John Fancy, from a fallen tree in our churchyard and a yew framed picture of the church, beautifully embossed in embroidery by Eleanor Jakeman and the choir acknowledged Katrina’s love of a dram with a very nice bottle of whisky! There was also a Benefice collection, to which people contributed and a cheque was given to Phil and Katrina to spend as they wished.

A leaving party was not possible due to Covid restrictions, but they returned in October for a belated Benefice Farewell picnic lunch held at All Saints, due to inclement weather.

Since Katrina’s departure, the Ministry Team, Revd Nicky Judd , Peter Eastwood and Tim Tayler have worked extremely hard to ensure a smooth running of the Benefice with weekly services and much more, at all three churches. We are very grateful to them all. Throughout the Vacancy, there have been regular Zoom meetings of the six Church Wardens chaired by John Milne. The proposal by the Diocese to merge our Benefice with Portway and Danebury to a total of nine churches was discussed at great length and it has been agreed that any possible merger will not be considered until the new Priest-in Charge has been in post for some time. John also steered us through the production of a new brochure and Job Description for the Benefice. Unfortunately, the first advertisement in July, for a new Priest- in -Charge failed to attract any suitable applicants. A second advertisement in the autumn generated more interest. Three applicants were shortlisted and resulted in the appointment of Revd Teresa Townsend, who will join us at the end of April. We look forward to welcoming Teresa and her family to our villages.

There are many people behind the scenes who have helped keep All Saints functioning safely through these tricky times and the Wardens are very grateful to them all. Thanks to Sarah and Danielle (who is covering maternity leave) who have produced the weekly Bulletin, keeping us all informed of services and benefice news and e

There is a wonderful support team at our church that all deserve a mention and I hope no one has been left out, because you are all so highly valued by the Wardens.

Bill Mitford has continued to put in many hours both in the church itself and the churchyard keeping things in good order, particularly in the aftermath of Storm Eunice when there were several tree casualties resulting in a lot of work clearing away the damage. Thank you Bill! Also thanks to his side- kick John Fancy, who has also put in a lot of time on maintenance this year.

The Bell Ringers have done sterling work this year – they are much appreciated and are a great welcome to the church.

The Sidesmen too, are key to the smooth running of church services.

The Holy Dusters have continued to keep the church clean and safe for us all and Sue Ingham has carried on with her Sacristan duties – our thanks to them all. Also the flower arrangers, who have kept the church looking so lovely. The readers and intercessors, who add so much to our services and those on the coffee rota, giving people the chance to socialise over refreshments. This was much missed in Lockdown.

Our thanks to all the PCC for their hard work and support over the past year and we look forward to normality returning to our church life in the months ahead.

*Emily Fabricius and Meg Bennett, churchwardens*

**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.

In 2021 after one live service, 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 June. 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 C o E and Winchester Diocese.

In summary, numbers attending services were limited, 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. 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**

St Mary the Virgin, Abbotts Ann,
All Saints’, Upper Clatford &
St Peter’s, Goodworth Clatford
Benefice Choir & Music Report
2021 - 2022
“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 a continuation of 2019-2020 and could be called Part 2 ‘to sing, or not to sing, in strange times” By now there was a certain amount of resignation, frustration and acceptance for what was now becoming a new
way of life, in an unsettled and unpredictable landscape of Public Health and a seemingly lack of end-date to the pandemic. The musicians could only lead the worship to the best of their ability in a very flexible manner in the churches across the benefice.
During the spring lockdown choir practices returned to online. However following Easter and the May restrictions choirs were allowed to sing again in person but only with a maximum of six indoors. As a consequence practices resumed in person but outdoors in the churchyard at All Saints and socially distanced!. In September rehearsals resumed indoors and eventually returned
to St Peters in October. In the run up to Christmas and as Omicron made its present felt, the government activated Plan B, and the annual highly anticipated Carol Services were reduced to just the one, at St Peter’s, as infections rose and choral singing was yet again put on hold over the period. It was to be another Christmas for the Benefice without choral music at the centre of our worship. Instrumental versions of many carols was provided by Alice, Grace, Olivia and Victoria Timms on Christmas eve and Christmas day and it was a moving experience for many congregants as they hummed under their face-coverings.

As each church decided to adopt its own approach to the inclusion of singing during Plan B it was decided that St Peter’s would continue to sing hymns and canticles with face-coverings whilst St Mary’s and All Saints decided not to have any singing at all. This continued until the first week in February when all three churches returned to a pre-pandemic feeling of normality. Since then all churches have included sung music in their services with All Saints hosting a full sung Parish communion and Evensong and St Peter’s a sung Matins, with hymn singing re-introduced at St Mary’s. Sunday evenings at 6.00pm have continued online with the weekly Zoom Praise Evening Prayer with music being led by the Director and his daughter Grace Timms, from their home in Andover. He is very grateful for her support and thank her for her leading the singing of all the hymns.

Choir membership remains stable and has become a more balanced ensemble due to the availability of 3 basses and 2 tenors. This has resulted in working on more 4 part anthems with the hope to perform more regularly, and unaccompanied, in the future. Choir practices are now back in St Peter’s room. For Covid reasons the choir has not been required to sing at many weddings but have been asked to sing at funerals and thanksgiving services. The Organist and Director of Music is grateful for the support and help from Tim Pay, Ray Lucas and Margaret Hinds for their contribution to playing the organ at services that need covering when required and thank them for all their efforts across another disrupted year. He is also grateful to the support from all the choir, the Ministry team and the churchwardens for their continued
support and faith in the music of the benefice.

The organs have borne up quite well to the irregularity of tuning over the past twelve months and will no doubt look forward to their twice yearly tune once full normality returns during 2022. The 2’ Fifteenth at St Peter’s is constantly out of tune, due to its placement in the organ, St Mary’s could do with at least a clean, and along with All Saints occasionally ciphers! However they do a stirling job in supporting the choir and congregations in our worship.

**5**. **Social and Fundraising activities:** The first fundraising and social event was an online quiz that was held in the midst of the second lockdown in January. Over seventy people from across England and Europe participated and a total of £625 was received in donations after the event. The quiz was superbly managed by David Heelas and Peter Fabricius.

Covid restrictions were lifted by August 2021 which enabled the flower festival to mark All Saints’ association with Stephen Hopkins from Upper Clatford and the 400th anniversary of the sailing of the *Mayflower* to be held. This was the principal event of the year, which had been postponed from 2020 and drew well over three hundred visitors from the local community and from further afield. The festival was curated and organised by Jane Kennedy and the flower arrangers from the church and local community devised brilliant displays which depicted the key events very well. Images of the event spread quickly across America to the Mayflower family history groups following the festival preview via a dedicated Facebook page for Stephen Hopkins and a film was mounted on YouTube. The event itself raised £2553.55 plus subsequent generous donations from festival visitors, in aid of the church roof repairs. The festival also included the launch of a book about Stephen Hopkins and the proceeds of sales were also kindly donated to the roof repairs by the author.

The final event of the year was the Advent wreath workshop, led by Lesley Heslop, which brought the total raised in 2021 to £3404.55 for the roof repairs– this was an excellent result for 2021 considering the circumstances and the Fundraising and Social Committee is grateful to everyone involved for their contributions*. Jane Kennedy, All Saints’ Fundraising and Social Committee.*

**6. Financial Review:**

Due to the continued restrictions caused by the corona virus, 2021 proved another 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, memorials 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. Income in the General Fund was down 4% from £34,588 in 2020 to £33,236 in 2021

However, due to the generosity of many people, both within and outside the Parish, the Fabric Fund increased from £6,451 in 2020 to an amazing £94,329 in 2021 in response to the request for raising money to replace the Church roof.

There was a small increase of just under 1% in Planned Giving from £13,905 in 2020 to £15,242 in 2021. We lost 1 donor from the Parish Giving Scheme.

Due to the continued restrictions resulting in the inability to hold events, fundraising income was down 90.00% from £1,620 in 2020 to just £164 in 2021.

However, on a more positive note, I am delighted to report that Jazz in the Garden raised £3,607 and the Flower Festival £2,554, both towards Roofurb.

Well done and thank you to all concerned - a terrific result!

Gift Aid was down 12% from £5,293 in 2020 to £4,641 in 2021.

Weddings, memorial & funeral fees were up 172% from £4,333 in 2020 to £7,472 in 2021.

**Expenditure**

* CMF – the Parish share for 2021 was £24,998 of which £24,000 was paid.
* Benefice Expenses (reduced).

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 29.00% from £5,000 in 2020 to £3,550 in 2021.

Total expenses were down by 3% £37,342 in 2020 to £33,220 in 2021.

**Annual Budget**

Closing funds as at 31st December 2021 were up 341% from £39,334 to £134,005 compared with the same time in 2020.

**Reserves Policy**

There is no active reserves policy in place at present but this will be reviewed again in 2022.

**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 2021 accounts and to Graham Stephens as our Independent Examiner.

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

**Roofurb update – March 2022 update**

You will see from the 31 December 2021 Accounts that funds raised for Roofurb at that date amounted to £97,800. £15,000 of this was raised through local events with virtually all the rest being personal donations. This amount, together with known future income, enabled us to place an order with MA Hinton for the roof works, CofE List B Faculty approval having been received in November 2021.

The quote from MA Hinton was for £88,000. A condition of the Faculty approval was that the PCC should formally approve this quote which the PCC have been asked to do. To allow for unexpected additional costs, I added a contingency of £22,000 making a total of £110,000.

Since 31 December 2021 we have received £2,700 in further donations, £5,300 (a record) from the Winter lectures and a grant of £4,000 from Hampshire and the Islands Historic Churches Trust. The latter is significant as it is the only successful application we have made to those Trusts and Funds that have historically supported capital projects involving churches – they are now only supporting projects involving “touchy feely” community aspects.

We have therefore had to be somewhat inventive in seeking alternative sources of funds. One of the successes has been the work that Julia and Nick Shah have been doing to excite the interest of descendants of Stephen Hopkins in America. Through Julia’s purpose built US facebook page, 43 of Hopkins’ descendants have contributed to our funds, including the purchase of discarded roof tiles transported by Nick to the US and sold for up to $100 a tile!

So, as at the time of this update, we have £110,000 in the bank. The plan of the Roofurb committee is to continue to raise funds up to 30 June 2022. By that time we expect that we will have funds of around £130,000. Depending on how much of the £22,000 roof contingency we need in practice, which we should know shortly, we will have an excess of between £20,000 and £40,000 to spend on heating, lighting, and paths and trees. At that point we plan to hand back to the PCC the task of prioritising how best to spend this excess and applying for any necessary permissions. The Roofurb committee will then be disbanded.

*Tom Wilson*12th March, 2022

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

**Signed: ………………………………………………… Signed: ………………………………………………………..**

 **Churchwarden, Margaret Bennett Churchwarden, Mrs Emily Fabricius**

**Date: …………………………………………………… Date……………………………………………………………**

This Annual Report was approved by the PCC on………………….and signed on their behalf by Margaret Bennett.