

# ***Annual Report & Financial Statements***

TO: 31ST DECEMBER 2020

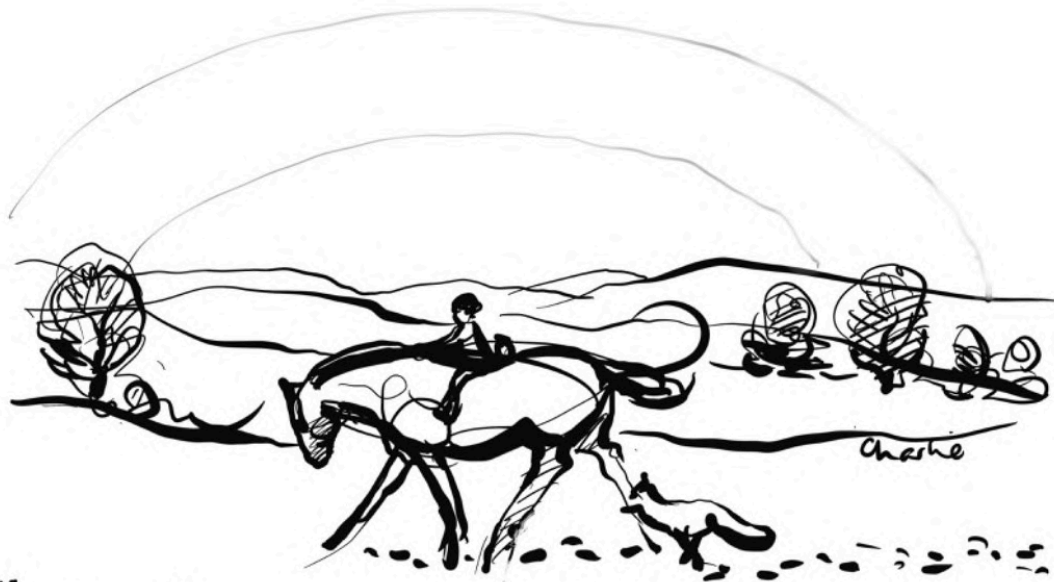
CHARITY NO: 1134020

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The Parish of Ewhurst  
with Okewood & Forest Green





"What's the best thing you've  
learned about storms?"

"That they end" said the  
horse



# CONTENTS

**Page**

4	Parochial Church Council
6	Rector
8	Churchwardens
12	Deanery Synod
13	Ministries
17	Youth Team
20	Baby & Toddler Group
21	Safeguarding
22	Schools
24	Music
26	Bell Ringers & Flower Guild
27	Charities Group & Venues
28	Fundraising
29	Building Maintenance
33	Treasurer



## THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

### BACKGROUND

Ewhurst with Okewood & Forest Green PCC is a corporate body established by the Church of England and operates under the Parochial Church Councils (Powers) Measure 1956. It has the responsibility of co-operating with the incumbent, Rev. Clare Shepherd in promoting to the ecclesiastical parish the whole mission of the Church: pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical. It also has the maintenance responsibilities for the Church and the Church grounds. The PCC is registered with the Charity Commission.

### MEMBERSHIP

Members of the PCC are either ex-officio or elected by the Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM) in accordance with the Church Representation Rules. During the Year the following served as members of the PCC:

Incumbent	Rev. Clare Shepherd
Churchwardens	Clive Ward, Bill Bruford, Tony Brimelow, David Steel
Representatives on Deanery Synod	Mike Brady, Liz Tingley, Janet Templeman
Elected Members	Shirley Dighton (Pastoral Assistant), Val Henry, Jan Jesson (Pastoral Assistant), Michelle Matthews (Treasurer), Jan Moir, Sarah Smith (Safeguarding), Angie Thomas, Julia Stearnes, Liz Thorne, Jane Harry, Amber Wood, Joanna Cadman
Co-opted	Liz Coleman (Secretary)
In attendance	John White (Licensed Lay Minister)



## **REPORT**

The PCC, drawn from members of the three churches within our parish, meets every other month. The Leadership Team meets regularly with Rev. Clare and the church committees meet on a regular basis: the 'In Church' committee deals with all matters within the Church, including worship, music, rotas, provision of refreshments and education; the 'Outreach' committee has the remit of bringing the church to the wider community; the Fundraising committee has the task of raising much needed funds for the church.

The PCC comprises our incumbent, four Churchwardens, three Deanery Synod representatives, twelve elected members, and the secretary. The Licensed Lay Minister also attends.

Rev Clare took up her ministry in October 2018. In April 2019 she suffered a heart attack, consequent surgery and following this post surgical depression. Clare returned to work on a part time basis in September, and resumed full time work in January 2020. In March 2020 our weekly worship moved online due to the Covid-19 pandemic. This move has provided us with plenty of opportunities to reach out far and wide to new congregation members and to develop our technical resources. PCC meetings have had to take place online via Zoom.

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

## **ELECTORAL ROLL**

- The total number of people on the new Electoral Roll is 162 (last year 163)
- This is made up of 102 people at St Peter and St Paul Ewhurst (last year 101)
- 52 people at St John the Baptist Okewood (last year 54)
- 8 people at Holy Trinity Forest Green (last year 8)

(Please keep the Parish Administrator abreast of any changes in contact details).

***Liz Coleman, Hon Secretary to the PCC***



## FROM REVEREND CLARE

This has been a year unlike any other. Once again, our parish has been through a year of many challenges. This time, we have been going through these challenges with the whole world. Covid-19 and the subsequent lockdown procedures have led to us interacting with each other in a wholly different way. This has been a challenging time for many.

However, this year has also led to some very positive outcomes. We have had to embrace technology in a new way. I am impressed at how many people have learnt to use Zoom for meetings and encouraged by how we are using free technology such as Facebook to engage with people who might not usually come to a church service. It is wonderful that we now have wifi in our churches in Ewhurst and Okewood. This will serve us well in the future.

Our leadership team has been expanded to include our four parish church wardens, Jan Moir and Joanna Cadman. Along with Michelle Matthews, this group comprises our Standing Committee. We meet on a regular basis to support and lead the whole parish. This team act as 'critical friends' to me, ensuring that we are leading the whole parish in the right direction. This group is in turn guided by the Parochial Church Council. I expect everyone on the PCC to be actively involved in the life and worship of our whole parish. There are many differing perspectives within our PCC and we are learning to listen to each other. With the help of other members of our parish, the Standing Committee and PCC are continuing to work on vision and values for the future of our whole parish. The working ideas focus on our aim of being a generous and hospitable parish centred around Jesus.

On the 24th of April some members of our PCC are participating in an online PCC away day. I hope this will take us further on the journey towards those values of generosity and hospitality centred on Jesus.

Our parish is a relatively new enterprise. We are really still getting to know each other. We have had two and a half very challenging years. However, even through these challenging years, we have seen a lot of positive change. We have seen relationships forged and deepened. I hope and pray that this next year brings us a little bit more stability. I hope that we will be able to spend time in each other's company. Will and I were just starting to make plans to have parties and meetings in our garden when lockdown happened. I am amazed to see what Will has managed to do in our garden. I hope to see things growing in our parish in the same way I can see our garden taking shape.

This year has seen the formation of the Friends of St Peter and St Paul, a charity which will focus on raising money for the maintenance of the church building and graveyard. Thank you to all who have helped this to happen. This brings Ewhurst in line with the churches at Okewood and Forest Green, each of which has a similar charity. We very much need to find people willing to step up to be part of the church leadership on behalf of Holy Trinity Forest Green. Generosity of giving is still very important in the mission and ministry of our parish if we are to flourish in the



future. This includes generosity of time and skills as well as financial generosity. Thank you to all who have already been so generous, and we trust in God's provision for the future.

The work of the PCC and Deanery Synod will become very important in the near future. Changes are afoot in the wider church which will necessitate smaller rural churches working together. We want to see this happen in the best and most informal way possible. This will only happen with good relationships in our parish. I pray for all of us in church leadership as we commit to maintaining good open relationships within our PCC this year.

Being the incumbent of this parish is a great privilege. Church only works if it is truly centred on Christ through prayer and relationship. I have been especially blessed by praying regularly with you on Monday mornings and in Night Prayer online. It has also been good to have the email Prayer Space where we are able to share with those in the parish who wish to pray together. I hope that this will continue this year, and that we will find other new ways to centre our parish on Jesus together as we grow in generosity and hospitality.

***Rev. Clare Shepherd***

Undeterred, Reverend Clare spread some Christmas cheer with husband Will singing carols from the car. The video reached 3,304 people and has been viewed 2600 times on Facebook.





## FROM THE CHURCHWARDENS

### CHURCH LIFE

Church activities have been inevitably constrained by the ebb and flow of the pandemic, as we have learned to adapt to its demands. Church life has largely moved online, to the thrill and excitement of some and the understandable disappointment of others. We are indebted to Will Shepherd for his dedication and tech wizardry that enabled us to present the Sunday services and daily night prayers online, originally directly from the Rectory with just Clare & Will, and then later in the open air services.

Our buildings are now mostly broadband capable, affording us the ability to livestream to every part of the globe - a challenging prospect to those of us more accustomed to addressing those we can see, touch and feel. For much of this we can thank our new Churchwarden David Steel, a vibrant replacement for the departing Peter Bennett, whom we also thank for his many years of service. As a group, we wardens are learning to adapt to life in the new masked world. In many ways, life is much the same: lighting fails, keys get lost, boiler rooms flood, tree branches still grow to far too fast. On the other hand, our combined all-weather socially-distanced services in the Rectory's driveway – the 'car-park services' – with their track-and-trace welcome and gazebo band-stand were probably unimaginable by most just a few months ago. Given that all this was navigated around a blizzard of ever-changing directives from the Diocese, it's a small miracle that they took place at all, were enjoyed by so many, and brought the whole parish together as one congregation. We are thankful that little rain fell over Ewhurst on Sunday mornings throughout the summer.



Reverend Clare takes a recent service, now with the regular feature of a camera rolling to reach a new and growing online congregation.



One of the many kindly acts from our parishioners during the COVID crisis. Here, a delivery of food supplies was made to Cherry Trees.



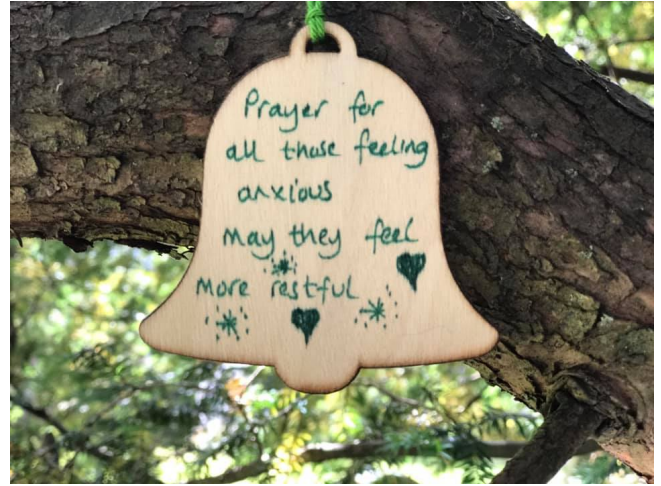
A faithful team of deliverers kept News & Views going during lockdown when it became an even more vital connection with the community.



A number of initiatives and exciting ideas had reached the final stage before launch only to be sadly nipped in the bud by the late autumn return of the virus. Nevertheless, Will Shepherd and Eleanor Hurley's imaginative response to an inevitably scaled down Remembrance Sunday resulted in a remarkably professional movie of the service, available on YouTube, as is most of the audio-visual output of the church. The advanced planning for three Big Parish Sings came to nothing in December, but it is hoped these will be re-staged on a more propitious occasion in 2021. Around the Christmas period, two further films were produced, one featuring Jess Hogan Smith's wreath workshop, with the Ewhurst Village Festive market popping up to remind us to buy local and the other was a multi-part nativity featuring a number of children. We are blessed indeed to have the services of Will Shepherd, throughout all this, in solution to all manner of digital and physical technological problems thrown up by the shift in the parish's direction of ministry. We trust that later 2021 will see us in calmer waters.

## EWHURST

St. Peter and St. Paul's West Porch has been structurally refurbished and other stonework repaired by the skills of carpenter Dave and stonemason Simon. As ever, the indefatigable Jane Harry was the driving force behind getting this work done: Jane also breathed life into the new charity - the Friends of St. Peter and St. Paul - whose main focus will be to raise funds for the much-needed and ongoing repair works.



A Prayer Space was set up at each church during the first lockdown, allowing the community to express their hopes and fears in the pandemic.



Our youth team demonstrated the true ethos of working in unity, cross-church, in order to bring the Christian message to over 125 children across the parish.



The Rectory garden was used a space to bring congregations together for worship during the summer of 2020. New people came purely on hearing the music



## **OKWOOD**

2020 marks the 800th year since the founding of St John the Baptist, Okewood, and we were hoping to celebrate this with a number of events through the spring and summer of the year. However these were further casualties of pandemic that has affected us all so much. We hope that some of these can be arranged once the pandemic restrictions are eased. Then in September, in the lull between the pandemic enforced closures, one of the ceiling panels collapsed, dropping plaster over where the congregation would have been sitting. We suspect this was triggered by a low flying helicopter over the church which occurred whilst we were at an open air service in Ewhurst.

The church did open later in the year briefly, with socially distance spacing, which although was uncomfortable, it was great to see each other in person again. Sadly at the time of writing, we again have been in lockdown, but we look forward to a time of meeting in the church again soon.

Some ongoing work at the church and churchyard continue, and we are grateful as ever to Mairi Inglis-Jones for her tireless work in the churchyard, and to the Friends for financing certain maintenance activities such as clearing the blockage in the culvert and repairing the damaged road surface above, removal of some dead and dying trees and maintaining the fences around the perimeter.



Dr Stephen Backhouse joined us for the Advent Conversations, a series of Zoom discussions on the key characters from the Christmas story.



Colonel Anthony Gauvain featured in the film for Remembrance, reading out the names of the Ewhurst Fallen.



Virtual bands were keeping people's spirits up soon into the lockdown.



## **FOREST GREEN**

2020 was a very quiet year for Holy Trinity, Forest Green. With the pandemic, there have been no services, other than Christmas Day, held since lockdown. Some ash trees had to be removed due to ash dieback, as they were getting precarious. As noted above, Peter Bennett has now relinquished his role as churchwarden after many years' service, for which we thank him very much.

Oscar and Harley Boatswain entertain during the Clap For Carers Thursday evenings. It was great to have these talented chaps join in on a few of our virtual band get-togethers, adding a bit of bluegrass style to some gospel classics.





## DEANERY SYNOD

There was only one Deanery Synod meeting held in the current reporting year. This was an “informal” (there being no agenda or request for apologies) Zoom meeting held on 9th March 2021. The meeting covered the following topics :

1. Annual report & finances to the end of 2020 - there had been only one item of expenditure during the year & the balance now stands at £2043 . 39p, I believe it was decided to defer parish payments until the next meeting - hopefully in July 2021.
2. The Synod is in need of a Lay Chairperson - if anyone is interested please contact Canon Roy Woodhams.
3. Canon Woodhams reported that the Deanery Synod elections would take place on a date to be decided in 2021.
4. A discussion followed regarding churches opening or not during the “shutdown” followed by Parish plans for Services in the run-up to and including Holy Week and Easter.
5. The next Deanery meeting is hoped to be held in person in July.

**Mike Brady, Janet Templeman & Liz Tingley - Deanery Synod Representatives**

Page	Total Page Likes	From Last Week	Posts This Week	Engagement This Week
 <b>St Nicolas Church Cran...</b>	570	▲ 100%	0	4
 <b>Alfold &amp; Loxwood Parish</b>	338	▲ 100%	3	11
 <b>Parish Of Ewhurst with ...</b>	281	▲ 100%	18	520
 <b>Christ Church Shamley ...</b>	1	▲ 100%	0	0
 <b>Shere Parish Church</b>	1	▲ 100%	0	0

Here's some interesting data on how our Facebook presence compares with other churches in our area. While we come mid table in quantity of likes (or opt-in membership for want of a better term), the engagement with our Facebook page is incredibly high in comparison. Engagement means how much people react, comment or share the content delivered via our Facebook page.



## MINISTRIES

### PAVILION CAFÉ

We have been closed for over a year due to the Covid-19 pandemic. Having talked to another member of the team, we have agreed that we will re-open but will adhere to Government guidelines for when commercial cafes are allowed to have unlimited numbers of customers inside. We still have a healthy amount of money in the bank which we will be donating to charities when our committee can meet up again.



The ladies from Kindred Spirits run the 'pay what you feel' Pavilion Café that opens Wednesday mornings.

### WOMEN'S BREAKFASTS

No women's breakfasts have taken place in the year since March 2020 but we hope to organise them again when we are allowed to host an unlimited number of people inside.

### CHRISTIAN BOOKCLUB

We have been able to keep the bookclub going as we have variously met outside or on Zoom calls over the year as the guidelines have allowed. We have around 5 regular members with others joining us when they can. No one person chooses the book and we are all encouraged to find books to recommend. We have read and enjoyed a variety of books and members usually come to each meeting with their general thoughts and specific comments on content. Our discussions are always lively! We meet roughly every 6 weeks throughout the year.



The Kindred Spirit's book club met on Zoom throughout lockdown.

***Belinda Kerry***



## MINISTRIES Cont'd

### MEN'S MINISTRY

Sadly our men's breakfasts have been unable to take place during the epidemic. However, we have tried to keep the men's fellowship group connected with links to Christian Vision for Men reflections and spiritual direction.

For the same reasons, men's homegroup has not been able to meet physically but we have had successful Zoom check-ins with the group.

When restrictions have been relaxed we have brought folk together for fellowship walks which has been appreciated by all those who have attended.

***Barry Thomson, Men's Ministry co-ordinator***

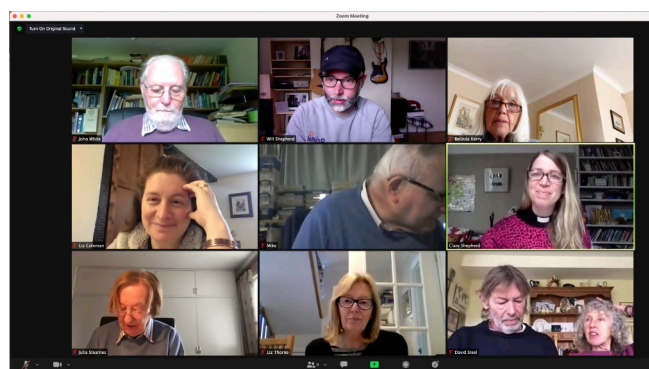
### MONDAY MORNING PRAYERS

During lockdown, prayers on a Monday has proven to be a vital fellowship group. Open to all, it provides a chance to begin the week focusing on God and walking together with fellow Christians.

### NIGHT PRAYERS (COMPLINE)

Likewise, Night Prayer (which began within days of the first lockdown) has formed a Christian fellowship group all of its own, even reaching beyond the boundaries of the Parish. The groups who attend from Monday to Saturday vary and often reach six to seven people, with an average of around sixty views each night. Many of the Facebook audience are net additional to our physical congregations. It's a ministry worth keeping post lockdown.

***Liz Coleman, Parish Administrator***



Every Monday at 10am, log on to the Parish Morning Prayers  
Zoom ID: 816 1056 4122 | PW:: MPMonday



Night Prayers | David & Kay

6 weeks ago · 60 Views





## MINISTRIES Cont'd

### THE GLEBE COFFEE MORNING

Unfortunately we have not been able to meet in the Glebe Centre since Lock down started on 21 March 2020. We have kept in touch with our members through phone calls.

At Easter, Jan handmade little paper baskets which contained mini eggs and chicks. She delivered them to the doors of many coffee morning friends. Many thanks to Jan for doing this.

We are looking forward to resuming our Wednesday mornings at the Glebe Centre after 21 June 2121.

***Sally Thompson, Secretary***

### VIRTUAL COFFEE MORNING

We felt it only right to offer a virtual coffee morning during the lockdown. So each Wednesday we opened up Zoom at 10.30am and offered an hour of coffee and chat. Soon we had between six to eight regulars and a friendship group began to form. The Zoom coffee morning is still happening now and the group is always open to newcomers. If you would like to drop in, please use ID:825 7859 4025 | PW: Coffee

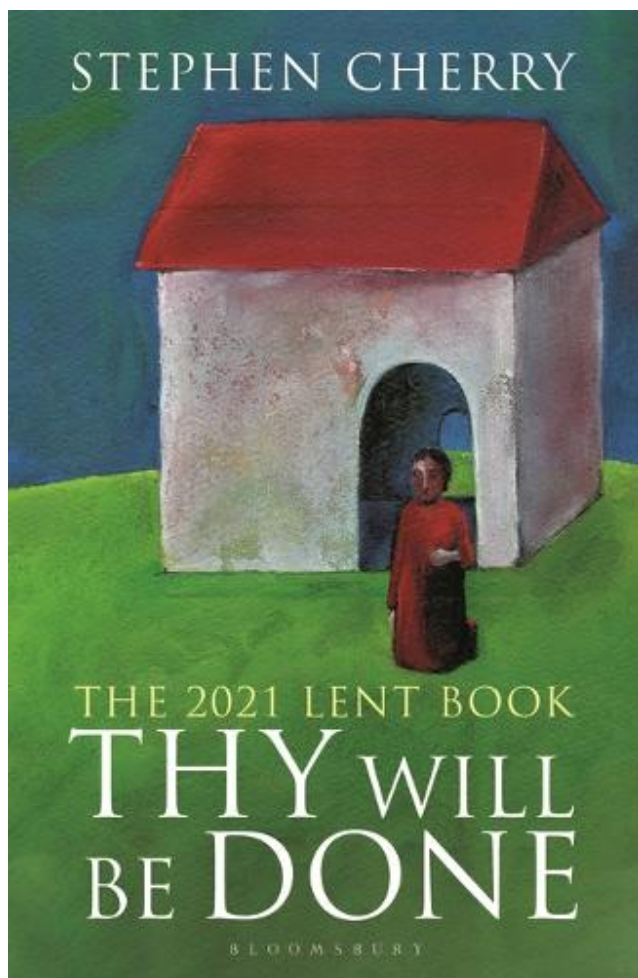




## MINISTRIES Cont'd

### LENT COURSE

The pandemic wasn't going to stop us putting on a Lent Course. Reverend Clare found a thought-provoking and challenging course based on the Lord's Prayer. Conducted on Zoom, the course brought together those eager to deepen their understanding of a prayer that has become almost automatic to recite. Looking at it line by line helped us see afresh why this was the prayer that Jesus taught. The evenings were led by different leaders from the parish and concluded with Reverend Clare taking the reins. Altogether, the course provided another forum for fellowship in the isolation of lockdown, as well as growth in our Christian understanding.



Stephen Cherry's book challenged an engaged and lively discipleship group throughout Lent.



## YOUTH TEAM

This year's youth ministry in the parish has been challenging and slightly different due to the pandemic. However, the youth team has worked really hard to ensure some youth ministry has continued during these difficult times. We have maintained our regular youth team meetings via zoom and have set up a WhatsApp group enabling us to communicate quickly and easily as we cannot meet face to face. This time last year we soon realised the youth work within the parish was not going to be able to continue in its usual format. The holiday club was cancelled for the summer of 2020 and sadly this remains the case for 2021. Focussing on the positive, the following is what we have been able to achieve:

- At the beginning of lockdown in 2020, we filmed a few services for the youth which included a Easter Fun Family Easter service. This comprised our youth using puppets, an Easter story by Clare, craft, prayers and songs.
- In April 2020, the children sang a wonderful version of Be Still for the Presence of The Lord and was recorded and shared on Facebook. This was followed with a rousing rendition of My Lighthouse.
- One family also took part in a recording of 'The Blessing' featuring children singing around the world which again was shared to Facebook.
- We also recorded a fun family Pentecost Service in six parts. This was uploaded to Facebook and included the story of Pentecost, a puppet show, a craft activity, prayers and music which was a song sung by all the children in the parish.



A Lockdown Choir soon emerged as a way to reconnect with children and families stuck indoors. It was a great way to raise spirits too!



Fun Family Pentecost was a five-part film shared to engage children and families with the Christian message.

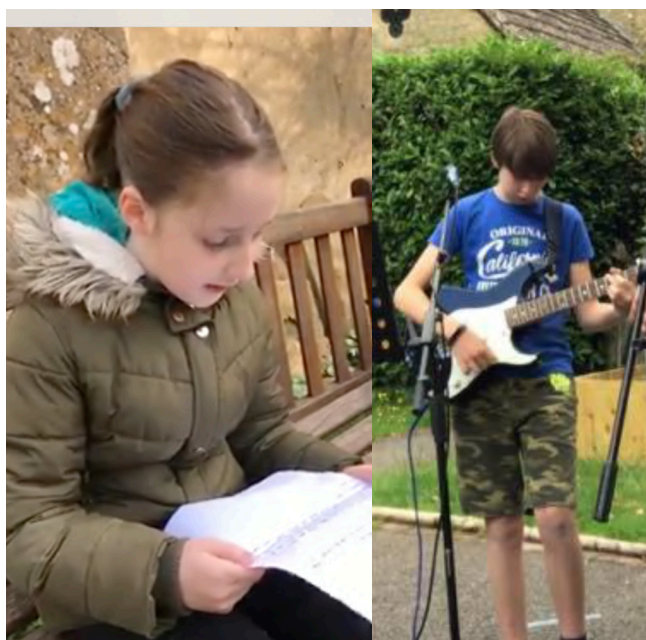


## YOUTH TEAM Cont'd

- Outdoor Services were held during the summer of 2020 and some children took part in the music and singing.
- We held bible story sessions called JAM – Jesus and Me which were live on Facebook at 6pm.
- Recorded assemblies have been created for Ewhurst School and more recently Clare is leading weekly assemblies. The school has been very appreciative for this continued regular contact. Several parents of children in parish have commented how much they have enjoyed the activities and the connection the youth team have provided during the pandemic.
- Christingle bags were compiled and handed out to Ewhurst School and the children in the parish. Many thanks to Sarah and Michelle for putting these together. A muddy Christingle footprint trail was also put up around each of the church grounds for families to participate in. The posters and activity sheets were available via the church website for families who where self-isolating or unable to visit for any reason. Therefore, expanding our outreach further.
- Several of the children took part in a wonderful Nativity production filmed around our villages which the older children really enjoying participating in and was a great success. This was broadcast on Facebook across the 12 days leading up to Christmas Eve.
- The Nativity Posada usually is a physical nativity set which visits many families



Contact with children via virtual assemblies was arranged with Reverend Clare. A notable moment was teaching the Lord's Prayer in sign language.



Open air services involved children performing music and contributing prayers and readings.



The Nativity film was great fun to do. It brought several Parish children together in a wonderful presentation of the Christmas story. Everyone performed their parts brilliantly and several hundred people viewed it on Facebook and YouTube.



## YOUTH TEAM Cont'd

around the parish, however due to Covid this was not possible this year. Instead Nativity colouring sheets were completed by different members of the parish and displayed in their windows and photos were taken and uploaded to the church Facebook page, which created our 'Nativities Around the Parish'. Colouring pictures were available from the website and were also put up at each church for people to collect if they did not have access to a printer.

- Continuing from the success of the Christingle bags we compiled Easter Bags for 2021 which were distributed to our parish school, the two nursery schools and about 25 other parish children. These included a small chocolate bunny, an egg colouring prayer sheet, an Easter booklet appropriate to their age and a craft activity. The bags included a leaflet inviting them to make an Easter Garden and send pictures of their creations which are being uploaded to Facebook.

During the year we said a few fond farewells.

Sue Godby was a huge part of the Youth Team for many years at Okewood and more recently was a pivotal part of helping unify activities across the new parish. We said our goodbyes and thanks in a special service as Sue and Tony have now moved to be nearer their grandchildren.

Catherine Strange has decided to step back this year and we would like to acknowledge all her hard work on the youth team over the past few years.

The Sparks family have moved churches and we would like to thank them for all their hard work and commitment at Forest Green especially their involvement with Messy Church.

During the year ahead we would like to hold some face-to-face sessions with our youngsters when it is appropriate to do so. However, many of the above ideas have been popular and some we will continue going forward. One of the big positives is using Facebook as way of communicating which seems to have been well received by our older youngsters and families. It would be lovely to be able to have messy church services again too but for the foreseeable future we will continue adhering to Church of England guidance regarding the pandemic.



Christingle bags filled with activities and teaching were sent to over 125 children across the parish. Several parents have commented how much they have enjoyed the activities provided by the Youth Team



## **BABY & TODDLER GROUP**

At the present time we have nothing to add to our previous report due to the group being closed due to Covid.

I have been telephoning some of the families to offer support during this very stressful time.

Mary and I have both had our “jabs” and once we have had our second ones we are keen to restart the group once we are allowed. We believe it has been very hard on families with new babies, plus families with pre-schoolers and school age children.

The social isolation has been particularly hard for first time mums because mixing with other mums enables them to gain confidence with what is “normal” with the friendly support the group is able to offer. There is an awful amount of conflicting advice on the internet, plus the amount of “guilt” about doing the supposed right thing.

At least there is now light at the end of the tunnel and hopefully we will be able to resume soon.

***Rosie Smy, Baby & Toddler Group Coordinator***



  
St Peter & St Paul  
EWHURST

  
The Wilson Room  
The Churchyard  
St Peter & St Paul

***Baby & Toddler Group***  
EVERY FRIDAY\* 10–11.30AM

Babies! Toddlers!  
Bring your adult carers with you to our playgroup for lots of fun every Friday morning in term time.

Contact Rosie Smy  
01483 351386  
eofgparish@gmail.com

\* Term time only



## **SAFEGUARDING**

Safeguarding is a priority in our parish. The role of the Parish Safeguarding Officer is to support the incumbent and PCC in ensuring relevant policies are implemented.

### **SAFEGUARDING TRAINING**

Just as a reminder, all PCC members need to complete Basic Awareness of Safeguarding training. This can be done online. There is currently no face-to-face training.

As congregations return into churches and activities restart post Covid, we should take the opportunity to review safeguarding training requirements of all roles.

### **DBS**

We continue making sure that all DBS checks are in place for relevant roles. Making sure people know who to contact regarding safeguarding concerns or queries - PSO contact details are on the Pew Sheet, parish website, on church noticeboards and in the parish magazine News&Views.

### **SAFEGUARDING MEETINGS**

Periodical meetings with Rev Clare to discuss the continual development of implementing the Safeguarding policies in our parish.

Safeguarding Audit notification of this year's requirements have not been received but it is expected that the safeguarding Audit will be required. It is good practice to complete anyway as we return to face to face services.

### **SAFER RECRUITMENT**

To do this effectively as a parish we need to have job descriptions for all roles. We also need to ensure that references are obtained for all those entering new roles and that DBS checks and relevant safeguarding training is agreed to be undertaken and that people are supported in training. This is an area we are still working on developing within the parish.

### **RISK ASSESSMENTS**

As we return to services and activities, Risk Assessments will need to be reviewed and updated if needed. Risk Assessments are to be reviewed annually.

Adoption of Church of England, Promoting a Safer Church Policy Statement, House of Bishop's Practice Guidance and support the Diocesan safeguarding protocols for the Year 2021/2022 – this needs to be agreed and adopted at the first PCC meeting following the AGM

***Sarah Smith, Parish Safeguarding Officer***



## EWHURST CE INFANT SCHOOL

At Ewhurst School, this academic year continues to be very different as we live in a pandemic. We are creative and innovative to support the education for the children attending Ewhurst School whilst mitigating the risk of coronavirus.

On Monday 8th March, we were delighted to welcome all the pupils back to school after eight weeks of learning at home. During the National Lockdown 3 (from 5th January), the school remained open to children of critical workers, vulnerable and SEN children which resulted in nearly 40% of the children attending school daily. The teaching team co-ordinated remote 'live' lessons through Microsoft Teams for those learning at home as well as teaching the children in school. As a school community we stayed well connected to families at home through a range of platforms. I led an act of worship for those at home each Friday afternoon via Microsoft Teams that was very well attended. The use of technology soared during this last lockdown along with everyone increasing his or her skills for the benefit of those children learning at home.

Throughout this year, we have continued to maintain our Christian distinctiveness enabling children to flourish. The Christian calendar is actively followed. In December, during Advent we had an exciting filming day and created a wonderful Ewhurst Nativity video for the parents to watch as we have been unable to allow families into the school since last March. We also held an end of term candlelit service for families, staff & governors on zoom. The children really enjoyed the individual Christingle packs made by the children & youth team and a number of families joined the live national service. In school, we still managed to hold a number of traditional events such as 'Christmas Secrets' online ordering of presents from the PTA and a Christmas party lunch with an outdoor visit from Father Christmas!

For the Spring term, we have valued the collective worship material provided by Guildford Diocesan Education Team on the theme of 'Kingdom Living'. Sadly, the plans we had hoped for increased contact via Microsoft Teams with Clare and the children and youth team has been very limited for a number of reasons. We are very grateful for the videos that have been made and shared in school by the team.

We still await our statutory inspection for Anglican and Methodist schools (SIAMS)



Ewhurst Infant School celebrates 175 years with a flag wave from War Memorial.



The school continues to be in need of financial support from the local community. Funding for schools from the DfE is based on a set amount per pupil, which causes great challenges for very small schools, such as Ewhurst, experiencing a lower number of pupils. If you are able to donate to the school please contact the school (01483 277291) or use the following website <http://virginmoneygiving.com/fund/ewhurstschool175>. Your donation will be greatly appreciated by the children, parents, staff and governors of the school.

Do view our school website [www.ewhurst.surrey.sch.uk](http://www.ewhurst.surrey.sch.uk) to gain further insight into your village church school.

***Jane Dyer, Headteacher, Ewhurst C of E Aided Infant School***

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## PARISH PRE-SCHOOLS

### RAINBOW'S END

The relationship with Rainbow's End Pre-School continued and deepened in 2020 with the loan of the woods in the Rectory Gardens for further two hours a week to conduct their Forest School. We look forward to reestablishing connections from June 2021

### OKEWOOD NURSERY

A new relationship was forged with Okewood Nursery and Rupert and Emma Thorne in 2019. This has stalled somewhat due to the pandemic but we look forward to rekindling the relationship from June onwards. The nursery has shown support by placing advertising in the parish magazine.

## DUKE OF KENT

Initial steps have been made to better relations with The Duke of Kent, mainly through advertising and liaising for articles from News & Views. The editor has reach out to Marketing Director Emma Vernon at the school. A highlight was supplying a N&V article to the school to showcase the community of the Pitch Hillbillies bluegrass band during the first lockdown.



# MUSIC

## SINGING THE FAITH

Keep singing! My yesteryear's closing phrase. Many did. Singing from some station around the home, wearing headphones and being one of a cast of many on a screen. For me, music-making is a shared practice and belting one's line out to your phone doesn't quite do it for me.

Last night, Palm Sunday, the start of Passiontide, Captain Wendy and I, socially distanced, of course, busked our way through John Stainer's *Crucifixion*. "God so loved the world". What a joy to be among the familiar and there was the opportunity to sing all four parts! What an indulgence.

The past 12 months has been challenging for us all and there have been many cases of real miracles and enriched creativity borne out of the rubble of the pandemic – the vaccines, that do save lives; a huge surge in medical innovation, the sharing of creativity, creation of new super jobs, newfound opportunities. For sure, not super for all as we emerge from the lengthy winter hibernation the Christmas lockdown imposed upon all: not to mention the plight of those socially isolating or suffering with mental issues/financial concerns. "God will make a way where there seems to be no way". Amongst this backdrop, God's creation chivvies all along, with outward signs of hope, renewal and emergence high on the agenda. "All my hope on God is founded". Surprisingly, people do adapt.



The choir played a key role in the film made for Remembrance, joined by Bill Bruford on snare for a rousing rendition of the National Anthem.



Choir Captain Wendy singing in the garden with Val (the photographer) joining her. They recently busked their way through Stainer's *Crucifixion*.



Val and the choir kept "singing the faith" throughout the Summer when restrictions were eased and we could worship outside.



## MUSIC Cont'd

The brilliance of youth, new opportunities; living as God's people, helping, volunteering, being true neighbours – all can be garnered in to new vocations/new skills. The circle of life for ever turning – new beginnings, *“new every morning is the love our wakening and uprising prove; through sleep and darkness safely brought, restored to life and power and thought.”*

Singing the Lord's song, in a strange land, or no, is one of the many splendours of a church singer. One may not always recall a line from the Bible but a few words of a song, *“they do just keep, a-comin' in...”*

This week we gently move back into that familiar place of The Chancel, The Choir Stalls, from where we shall sing, with renewed vigour, that eternal Hymn of Resurrection, *“Jesus Christ is risen today. Alleluia.”*

**Val Henry, Director of Music, Ewhurst**

### A NEW SONG AT OKEWOOD

There's been a changing of the guard music wise at Okewood. Peter Bradley has passed on the baton of leading the worship group to Will Shepherd for the foreseeable. This report gives a perfect opportunity to thank Peter for all he has done at Okewood, leading a merry band of musicians and singers with diligence.

My vision for worship through song at Okewood is to continue the free, engaged and sometimes spontaneous style of praise. The role of music and song is to help people connect with God in a rich, multi-sensory manner. While quality is important, more

essential is that all leaders of worship have a heart for God, a love of Jesus and are “being and belonging” in the Christian community.

A mission I'd like to accomplish, post COVID, is to not only reintroduce the players and singers we currently have at Okewood, but also bring in new players and to shape teams of worship groups who are keen to explore a broad repertoire, both classic hymns and songs as well as contemporary anthems.

Sung worship is a joyful and authentic experience at Okewood and it has as powerful effect on newcomers as on the existing congregation. My hope is that this is because Jesus is present in it and the focus of it. Let that always be the case. Amen!

**Will Shepherd, Director of Music, Okewood**



While the church roof was being mended several Okewood services were held at St Peter & St Paul during the second half of 2020.



## BELL RINGING

Due to Covid restrictions during this year we have been unable to hold our usual Wednesday practices. Some ringing for services has taken place in between lockdowns but with only four ringers at any time so that we could be socially distanced in the ringing room. The Central Council for Church Bell Ringers is very concerned that many ringers will not return after the covid restrictions have ended so we need to return to practice nights as soon as restrictions allow and encourage anyone who shows an interest to come and join us. We are permitted to ring four bells for the Easter service.

***Jan Jesson, Tower Captain***



Jan Jesson, Tower Captain, left, with (from left to right): Val Jolly, Clive Ward, Dee Lightbody, Graham Childs and Rey Van Steenwijk de Vos. Ewhurst church boasts a total of eight bells and is the envy of many a campanologist.

## FLOWER GUILD

2020-21 has been incredibly quiet for the Flower Guild (for obvious reasons) but we did manage to get some flowers in Church for Harvest Festival. Also, we created an online/virtual wreath making workshop that can be reused in future years.

Thanks goes to Ro Stewart for helping manage the Lily orders for Easter 2020. Thanks also to Liz Coleman for organising the roster for 2021.

We need a new successor to take over the running of the flower guild and it seems a good time to reconsider what we want and need for the Church given that there's fewer volunteers involved now than 5 years ago. I'd be happy to provide some thoughts on what that might look like.

***Jess Hogan-Smith***



Jess Hogan Smith leads the Christmas Wreath Workshop via a film on YouTube. Another great example of not letting the pandemic stop some of our favourite seasonal activities.



## CHARITIES GROUP

The onset of the pandemic in March of 2020 meant that it was impossible for us to carry out any of our planned events for the year, which was such a pity, as the purpose of the Charities Group is just as much to provide social events which bring the community together as it is to raise funds for very good causes, close to the hearts of the people of our parish.

We were able to support the annual Quiz Night, run by Jane and Geoff Harry, in February, which raised £620.00 for Vaughan House and £500.00 for the church roof. We also held the first of four Lent Lunches, which raised £95 for the Bishops Lent Appeal.

We look forward getting back to normal this year, once restrictions allow. At the moment our sights are set on the Harvest Lunch in October, and Winter Warmer lunches in late November, early December, but hope it may be possible to do more.

***Anne Barrett Lennard, Joanna Cadman***

## PARISH VENUES

### THE WILSON ROOM

The Wilson Room at Ewhurst is a fabulous resource for the wider parish. It has a beautiful oak-beamed, large communal room, a fully equipped kitchen, disabled toilets and is home to the Parish Office. As such it is a warm, attractive place to welcome people and hold host of church-focused events and meetings. The Wilson Room has allowed the church to broaden its ministry with a range of activities and groups: informal services; bible study and fellowship courses; Treasure Seekers (Sunday School); SNAK youth group; Lent lunches; Baby and Toddler groups; social and fundraising events; PCC meetings. Like many other church halls and venues the Wilson Room has not had much opportunity to be used this year.

### THE ARK

The Ark at Okewood is where 'Megazone' (Sunday School) and other church activities regularly take place. It is also available to churches seeking a venue for away-days, quiet days or retreats. We continue to have repeat bookings from various churches who love to come to our beautiful, peaceful setting. The poor condition of parts of the road surface up to the Ark is giving some concern and investigations are underway to find out the extent of the repair work required. The Ark continues to function, but would benefit from a dedicated team of people willing to devote some time and energy into developing its potential. Again, ideas for how to further use this unique woodland venue will be worked on and any inspiration is very welcomed.



## FUNDRAISING

The Fundraising Group was set up in Ewhurst in 2010 to cover the extra parish costs incurred once the Diocese stopped paying towards ministry costs. Jan Allen, Jackie Avery, Jane Harry, Phil Henry, Jackie May, James Meyer, Martin Lockwood and Colin Stewart were in this original group. Later, Clive Ward joined in 2017 as we became involved with the Roof Repair Team. In 2019, the group was joined by Barry Thompson and Peter Bennett from Okewood and Forest Green as two of the fund raising events became more parish based. Sadly, James Meyer died in 2014 after helping launch the Group and Phil Henry died in 2019 after nine years of carefully managing the Gift Aid for Ewhurst and our finances. Whatever was happening, he was always there to help. Clive Ward kindly took on the Treasurer's job for us.

Over the years, the group has raised over £70,000 towards church funds, as well as making the church a focal point for village activities, involving as many people as possible from the wider community. The Ewhurst Fundraising Group then became instrumental in fundraising with the Roof Repair Team, which included Clive Ward, to raise urgently needed funds for the chancel repairs at St Peter and St Paul, Ewhurst. Together, the two teams have raised over £270,000 in grants and fundraising for this vital work.

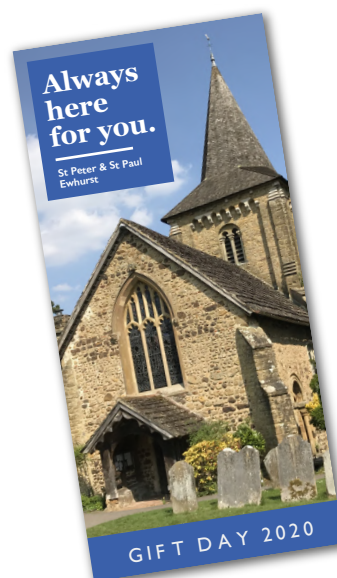
The main Heritage Lottery Grant of £220,000 comes to an end in June 2021. To ensure funding for church repairs continues, the Ewhurst part of the parish fundraising group have now joined with the Roof Repair Team to set up a new charity the Friends of St Peter and St Paul (FSPSP), whose objective is to raise funds for this purpose.

The Ewhurst part of the Fundraising Group resigned from the group in September 2020 to focus on working for the new charity. This is in line with the other two churches in the parish, St John the Baptist Okewood and Holy Trinity, Forest Green who have had their own "Friends" for over 6 years. Parish fundraising is now covered by the parish Finance Group and is focused on Ministry.

Members of the Ewhurst Fundraising Group would like to thank the many organisations and people who have supported them over the past ten years with donations of goods and money, giving up time to help and always being there at the events. We could not manage without you – and hope you will embrace our new Friends charity in the same way.

***Jane Harry***

*On behalf of The Fundraising Group*



Gift Day gave Ewhurst Villagers the chance to chat with members of the Ministry Team and give to the mission and maintenance of the church. Donations eventually topped £3,000.



## BUILDING MAINTENANCE

### ROOF REPAIR PROJECT TEAM, EWHURST

Four years ago in January 2017, part of the chancel ceiling collapsed due to water ingress and our epic journey began. A full inspection showed that the whole roof structure was in need of repair with, the chancel being the most damaged. This work is almost finished but a new beginning lies ahead to address the rest of the church building.

Most of the repair works to the chancel and bell tower were completed in 2020. However, the team was able to persuade the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) grant managers that some of the unspent grant money could be used for additional repairs to the church. The first of these, the minor roof repairs to the south side of the nave were completed last year. The additional stonework repairs to the bell tower buttresses are now completed, as is the beautiful repair to work to the west porch.

In December 2020, these repairs, along with the original work to the chancel and bell tower, were all given their final inspections by the church architect, Rena Pitsilli Graham. The few “snags” noted during the inspection will be dealt with before April this year.

During her visit in December, Rena noted that there were loose or missing roof slabs and slates on the north roof of the nave and the east roof of the vestry. Again, the team applied to HLF to use HLF money for these additional repairs, which was granted. The work was not part of the original Faculty, so the team, with permission from the PCC applied for Archdeacons Permission for the repairs, which has also been granted. The work will be done by BJN roofers, who worked on the chancel roof.

The educational side of the HLF grant is also nearing completion. Ten large vertical banners, each showing how parts of the church appeared in the past are now ready to be used. They are designed to go up in the church for people to see how the church has changed to what it is now. Questions and information on the banners help to give insight to the changes. The Team, along with the new charity Friends of St Peter and St Paul (FSPSP), plan to use these for adult tours of the church, along with visiting school groups of varying ages who will also have specifically designed worksheets.

Part of the education funding is for a storage unit for education equipment. Roser and Elms, the Ewhurst joinery firm, have been commissioned to make a bespoke light oak coloured wheeled storage unit to go at the back of the south transept. The cupboard should be ready by June. We look forward to inviting schools and adult groups experience the new information as soon as possible!

Although HLF gave us £220,000 the actual cost was over £280,000. The Team would like to thank all the local and other organisations plus the many people from near and far who have helped us raise the additional funds needed for this work. You gave us donations, goods to raffle or sell, gave us help at events and most important of all, gave us support and encouragement – we could not have done it without you.



## **BUILDING MAINTENANCE Cont'd**

The Heritage Lottery funding finishes this June but the Team is well aware that the church is still on the “At Risk” Register. To safeguard future funding for repairs, the Team have joined with the Ewhurst fund raising group to set up a new charity, the Friends of St Peter and St Paul. (FSPSP) We do hope you will give the new charity the same support as you have shown us.

### **FRIENDS OF ST PETER & ST PAUL, EWHURST**

This new charity has evolved from the Roof Repair Team and the Ewhurst Fund Raising Group with the sole objective to continue to raise funds for the repair and conservation of our beautiful and historic village church. Its full title is Friends of St Peter and St Paul Ewhurst but is abbreviated to FSPSP.

Although the objective is to raise money, the charity will also foster the educational and historic importance of the church and its place at the heart of the village to promote Christian worship and values. We see the charity as part of the wider life of the village and plan to involve other village organisations in all we do. As with the Fundraising Group and the Roof Repair Group, we want to involve the village as much as we can and hope you will support us and our events.

The FSPSP is an independent charity from the PCC but was set up in consultation with it. Adopted Resolutions are in place to make clear the relationship between the two charities on how repair work is done and the use of parish facilities.

The setting up of the Friends of St Peter and St Paul, puts Ewhurst church in line with St John the Baptist, Okewood and Holy Trinity, Forest Green who have had their own “Friends” charities for over six years.

The FSPSP held the Inaugural Meeting of the Founder Trustees in February. Personnel and posts are as follows:

Ex-Officio, Churchwarden	Clive Ward	Treasurer
Ex-Officio, Incumbent	Rev'd Clare Shepherd	Honorary Trustee (no voting rights)
Trustee	Jan Allen	Membership Secretary
Trustee	Jackie Avery	Secretary
Trustee	Jane Harry	Chairperson

A Trust deed, in accordance with Charity Commission guidelines has been drawn up and signed by the Trustees. We are in the process of applying to the Charity Commissioners for Registered Charity Status. Information about the new charity has been sent to various village organisations explaining how we would hope to benefit them and asking for their support. We also need the support of individuals and will be sending an information flyer to all Ewhurst households before the end of the summer and a new website will be set up to help us spread our message more



## BUILDING MAINTENANCE Cont'd

widely. Once we have Registered Charity status we plan to appoint three more Trustees to better reflect the village community.

In the meantime, FSPSP have set up a bank account and are able to receive both one-off donations and monthly payments to help preserve this beautiful building which has been at the heart of the village for so many centuries. If you want to know more or would like to become one of our first “Friends” please contact our membership secretary, Jan Allen on [allenplusjan@btinternet.com](mailto:allenplusjan@btinternet.com) or phone 01483 277487

***Jane Harry***

*On behalf of the Roof Repair Team and the newly formed Friends of St Peter & St Paul*

### FRIENDS OF ST JOHN THE BAPTIST, OKEWOOD

2020 will be long remembered as an extraordinary year. Whilst the Covid 19 pandemic placed major constraints on our activities, three trustees meetings were held during the year and progress made in a number of areas.

As planned the road surface pot-holes in the lower car park were filled and a major blockage of the culvert, which had caused an area of flooding, was cleared.

A quinquennial report was prepared by Peter Williams FRICS of PWA following an inspection in March which concluded that no critical repairs are required apart from redecoration of external rainwater pipes and routine repairs. However, the quinquennial report was subject to an addendum prepared later in the year following damage to a number of ceiling plaster panels caused by a helicopter hovering above the Church in September.

A number of ceiling panels were replaced by a specialist plasterer and our Quinquennial Surveyor has recommended that 20 further panels require reinforcement or replacement at a cost of £8,000.

The trustees are concerned with the condition of a number of ash trees adjacent to the access road to the “Ark” which are exhibiting evidence of “ash die back”. Three trees were felled by APK Tree Services in the Autumn and further felling is expected in 2021.

The pandemic forced us to defer the octocentenary celebrations but it is hoped that this can be held in 2021.

During the year Tony Godby resigned as a trustee in view of his move to Petersfield and we are most grateful for the significant contribution he has made to the charity over the years. We were delighted to welcome Phil Waller as a trustee in October and he is spearheading an update of our charity’s website.



## BUILDING MAINTENANCE Cont'd

Our thanks go to all supporters of “The Friends” and we would encourage all who love and value this outstanding historic building to become a friend by making a standing order of only £20 per month. Details on our website.

***Barry Thomson, Chairman***

### FRIENDS OF HOLY TRINITY, FOREST GREEN

With few services occurring at Forest Green, 2020 has been quiet on the maintenance front. That said, there have been reports of roof leaks recently and 2021 will require their investigation. If you would like to donate to the continuing maintenance and beautification of this special rural church, please contact Peter Bennett on [peterbennett@mimail.co.uk](mailto:peterbennett@mimail.co.uk)

***Peter Bennett, Chairman***



A rainbow overarches the church of St Peter & St Paul. The picture was taken on October 15<sup>th</sup> 2020 and became an image of hope for the community



## TREASURER

What a year we have had. Due to the pandemic and shut down of a lot of what we do, our income was falling. The newly formed Finance team put together a stewardship campaign. This campaign raised an extra £12,000 of planned giving with some able to tick the gift aid box this alone help bridge the huge deficit we were facing at the beginning of 2020. With this and savings we made and a grant from the diocese to reduce the Parish share by £3,000 we ended an unusual year of a deficit of £371.84.

With this we also received a substantial donation restricted to Ministry. Clare and the leadership team have some plans which you will soon see.

This year we put together a finance committee, this committee is responsible for reviewing and monitoring financial policies. It reviews and monitors the annual budget and assist the Treasurer with stewardship and financial management of the Parish.

We are incredibly grateful to our Independent Examiner Jill Wright FCCA Hon. Treasurer Frensham PCC. EOFG have joined a small group of churches in the diocese, and we are examining each other's accounts for free. I examine Goldsworth Park.

<b>ANNUAL ACCOUNTS TO 31/12/2020</b>	<b>Actual 2020</b>	<b>Actual 2019</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Income		
Planned Giving	72,130	60,103
Gift Aid	23,902	17,494
Interest	8,020	9,553
Other Income	20,736	27,861
Fundraising	181	2,359
	<b>124,968</b>	<b>117,371</b>
Parish Share	69,918	66,830
Utilities, Maintenance & Insurance	23,721	26,536
Service Costs	7,649	12,559
Parish Office	9,461	7,070
Other Costs	3,829	3,261
Churchyards	10,762	10,027
	<b>125,340</b>	<b>126,283</b>
Net Deficit	- <b>372</b>	- <b>8,911</b>



## TREASURER Cont'd

### RESERVE POLICY

The Finance Committee of the PCC conducts an annual review of the level of reserves by considering risks associated with the various income streams, expenditure plans and balance sheet items. This enables an estimate to be made of the level of reserves that are sufficient to continue to meet its objectives.

Risks and issues considered in making this judgement included:

- The over dependence on any single source of income or likelihood of downturn in income
- The period of time required to re-establish income streams or downsize activities
- The adequacy of control over budgets
- The requirement for a reasonable level of working capital

The PCC has agreed that we should hold unrestricted funds equal to at least a minimum of three months' budgeted unrestricted expenditure.

The PCC has in addition restricted funds totalling £289,362. The purpose of these restricted funds is detailed below.

### RESTRICTED FUNDS

	£
EW to replace Ewhurst tapestry	393
EW Bells	800
EW Roof	2,674
EW for 3 graves to replace their stonework	939
EW to replace robes	574
Youth - Holiday clubs, children in ministry	1,925
Toilets rebuild in Ewhurst	195
Ewhurst Capital	247,065
EW Beam	13,661
Wilson room	620
Okewood Pastoral care	2,486
Ministry	16,290
EW Fabric	1,740



## TREASURER Cont'd

The Parish of Ewhurst with Okewood & Forest Green PCC is a corporate body established by the Church of England and operates under the Parochial Church Councils (Powers) Measure 1956. It has the responsibility of co-operating with the incumbent, Rev. Clare Shepherd (from 01.10.18), in promoting to the ecclesiastical parish the whole mission of the Church: pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical. It also has the maintenance responsibilities for the Church and the Church grounds. The PCC is registered with the Charity Commission.

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the accounting policies set out in notes to the accounts and comply with the charity's governing document, the Charities Act 2011 and Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard FRS102.

*"What do you think  
success is?" asked the boy*



*"To love," said the  
mole*



