

# **BROCKENHURST Parish Church**

St. Nicholas' & St. Saviour's

# **REVIEW OF 2019**



“Belonging to God  
Growing as a Christ Centred Community  
Living the Mission of Jesus”

**ANNUAL CHURCH MEETING**

**Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> October 2020**

**7.30 pm**

**at St Saviour's**

## **THE PARISH OF BROCKENHURST**

### **The Parish of Brockenhurst Minutes of the Annual Meeting of Parishioners and Annual Parochial Church Meeting held on Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> April 2019 at 7.30pm**

The Church Warden, Alan Wright, welcomed everyone to the meeting which was opened with a prayer by Rev'd Francis Cumberlege.

64 church members attended the meeting.

Apologies were received from: Mike & Ann Dow, Robert Park, Sarah Foulger, Sue and Jeremy Moss, David Heslop, Nicky Rowntree, Bob Coombes and Paul Pearse.

#### **Annual Meeting of Parishioners**

Joyce Kolaczowski was nominated as chairperson for this part of the meeting as we have no vicar and the current churchwardens cannot chair a meeting to elect themselves.

#### **1. Election of Church Wardens – the candidates were:**

Rosalind Dennison	proposed by Hugo Thomas	seconded by Jenny Noyelle
Alan Wright	proposed by Karina Curson	seconded by Sharon Dibden

No other nominations having been received, both candidates were elected unanimously.

#### **Annual Parochial Church Meeting**

##### **1. Minutes of previous meeting**

The Minutes of the meeting held on 18<sup>th</sup> April 2018 were approved and signed by Alan.

##### **2. Matters Arising**

There were no matters arising.

##### **3. Wardens' Reports**

Alan said that, in the absence of a vicar, he and Ros would give an outline of 2018, which had been quite a year in more ways than one. The year started well with the trip to Rwanda and the celebration of 30 years of Wednesday lunches. Then things started to happen. He wished to thank so many people who helped to make everything run as smoothly as possible in our churches last year and their generosity in responding to crises.

Especially to be remembered was Neil leaving us; St Nicholas' ceiling falling down and the installation of a new sound system in St Saviour's. The new sound system has received many plaudits and everyone, regardless of their hearing ability, can hear clearly all that is said from the front. The appeals for financial help for the sound system and the repair to St Nicholas' ceiling were responded to with great generosity. Neil asked, and the Diocese expected, us to carry on as normal and we have done this extremely well. Particularly notable was the show of affection in getting St Nicholas church cleaned and ready for services after the restoration work.

Ros began by thanking Alan for working so hard to hold everything together. She gave a summary of the main events of 2018:

January - seven from this parish went to Rwanda, a memorable experience and much appreciated by everyone they met there.

February - 30 years of Wednesday lunches was celebrated: that amounts to 37,484 lunches served to over 1,100 people. Lesley Munt, many cooks and one driver have been involved since January 1988. Sincere thanks were expressed to Leslie and all involved.

March - Lead was stolen from the gully of St Nicholas' church roof resulting in considerable water damage to internal walls. Then lead was also stolen from the church hall lobby roof. Helen Cheeseman resigned as Children and Youth Worker. A Tenebrae service was held during torrential rain on a cold Good Friday. A quiz evening was organised by the ten young people to raise money for their trip to Rwanda in August.

April - Our annual ANZAC service was held in St Nicholas' churchyard attended by the New Zealand High Commissioner and visitors from New Zealand. The British Legion make this a very special day of remembrance for Brockenhurst people. A prayer box was introduced beside the lower gate at St Saviour's for use by anyone who would like prayer.

May - The tea party in St Saviour's garden to celebrate the marriage of Harry and Megan was a lovely day supported by the whole village. 'Thy Kingdom Come' was observed with prayer stations at St Saviour's with a 24hr vigil and eleven early morning prayers. At the May PCC meeting Neil announced that he would be leaving at the end of August to continue his ministry at St Judes, Southsea, Portsmouth.

June - The accordion concert was a delight. One Saturday morning Dr Julian Lewis MP gave us an erudite explanation of the way the world is at present which gave food for thought regardless of people's political views.

July - We celebrated Kay Pead being accepted for ordination training, although this meant she would resign after twelve years as our Family and Youth Worker. Mary Nicholson, our curate, led Songs of Praise with the Ringwood Salvation Army Band. Dr Mike Thompson gave a lecture explaining "why we can trust the New Testament".

August - Not at all a quiet month this year: Alan went into action organising and making contacts to get the Parish Profile underway in order to advertise for a new

vicar. Ten of our young people visited Rwanda and found it a life-changing experience. The Mothers' Union Scarecrow Festival provided imaginative creations all around the village and was a huge success. Two were stolen – or did they walk? To the shock of everyone, not least Alan Mutter who was on Guardian duty, an area of plaster from St Nicholas' ceiling fell to the floor and clouds of dust flew everywhere. The church had to be closed and all services moved to St Saviour's indefinitely. Someone was murdered in the Chinese takeaway in Brookley Road. Neil and Debbie's departure after 11 years was a happy yet sad celebration with speeches, gifts, a buffet lunch and all present fitted into one wide photograph.

September - Peter Wales led a technically adept team to create the Parish Profile and advertisement which was the beginning of our search for a new vicar. Reuben Humphries joined us as a full-time Children and Youth Worker. Office Administrator, Jenny Welton, left us and Mary Robinson has efficiently replaced her. Luke Chambers was promoted to Caretaker for both St Nicholas' and St Saviour's. Holidays@Home guests will remember stroking the owls on their Safari to South Africa. A large party of parishioners went by coach to Neil's installation at St Jude's, Southsea.

October - The Parish Profile was approved and highly praised by the Diocese. The team that had tirelessly worked on it have everyone's grateful thanks. The vicarage garden was tided by a willing team and the vicarage let. Reuben with the children's team held a very successful light party for 30 children.

November - We were saddened to hear from Kenya that Dick Drown had died a few months before his 100<sup>th</sup> birthday. Everyone was invited to enter a tribute in a book which will be given to his daughter. On Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> there was a much enjoyed stir-up lunch.

December - The sound system was finally installed. Reuben's advent calendar gave much enjoyment. Our Christingle service was a huge success with over 400 attending. The Christmas services and the Watch Night service with Francis and Tina were well attended with many thanks expressed.

Thanks and gifts were given to the following people for their special commitment to the church in 2018: Steve Curson for prompt action following the St Nicholas' ceiling fall; Peter Lay as Church Treasurer; Sharon Dibden and Lesley Munt for the Church Office work; Peter Wales for the Parish Profile and Jeremy Moss for the Sound System.

#### **4. Treasurer's Report – including the Year's Accounts**

Peter Lay gave the Treasurer's Report with an overview of the Annual Report using a power-point presentation which included a selection of tables and pie-charts. The Annual Report and Financial Statements for the year ended 31 December 2018 had been previously circulated. A copy of his presentation is attached. In brief his observations were as follows:

- Overall expenditure was £249,792 and income was £241,320, resulting in an overall deficit of £8,472. The deficit in 2017 was £7,685. However, the underlying deficit (excluding appeal funds, charity collections and depreciation) was £10,142. Four of the last six years have resulted in deficits and the 2019 budget will also show a deficit.
- Peter explained about Restricted and Unrestricted funds. There is a surplus under Unrestricted funds because of the AV system.
- 50% of our expenditure goes outside the Parish, of which 43% is our payment to the Common Mission Fund (formally called Parish Share) and 7% is donations to other charities from General Funds.
- Donations for the St Nicholas' ceiling appeal were extremely generous.

#### Questions:

- How is the Parish Share calculated?  
The contribution to the Common Mission Fund is calculated as the product of the worshipping community number and a donation value determined by the affluence band for the parish. The worshipping community is a measure of the number of people attending services each Sunday while the affluence band is an estimate of how much worshippers are able to give.
- Charitable giving is shown as 13%, could we give less each year?  
The current policy is to give 10% of the Unrestricted Donations and Legacies reported on the SoFA in the annual report published at the APCM in the previous year. Therefore, in 2019 the figure is 10% of the 2017 Donations and Legacies income reported in the 2017 Annual Report at the 2018 APCM. Similarly, the figures reported in the 2018 Annual Report will determine the Mission Budget for 2020. See note 4.
- What is the difference between the number of worshippers and the number on the Electoral Roll?  
The average number of worshipers is 150 and the electoral role is 219.
- Is it best to gift aid using the yellow envelope?  
The church is able to claim 25% of a donation if it is gift aided from HMRC at no cost to the donor. To make a gift aided donation a donor must have paid more income tax than the amount of the gift aid they are donating.  
There are three ways to give gift aided donations:
  - By filling in a gift aid form available from the gift aid secretary (Jeremy Moss) and paying by standing order to the Church Development Account.
  - By filling in a gift aid form and giving cash donations in the yellow envelopes.

- By making donations via the Parish Giving Scheme and asking them to claim the gift aid on behalf of the church.

Would it be a good idea to have an independent charity called The Friends of St Nicholas'? A considerable amount of money does come into St Nicholas' from visitors there.

There might be some advantages to a separate charity if it was able to raise funds that the church was unable to raise. However, the PCC would have to ensure that such a fund was also available to support the work of the whole church depending on the need for funds. For example, it would be undesirable for such a charity to only support St Nicholas' church if funds were required to support St Saviour's church.

Alan thanked Peter Lay for his hard work in the preparing of the Church Accounts and keeping up-to-date with recent changes.

## **5. Electoral Roll Report**

Alan reported 219 on the Electoral Roll as at 24<sup>th</sup> April 2019 of which 36 are non-resident.

## **6. Other Reports**

Alan said that full reports covering other aspects of church life are in the printed booklet "Review of 2018" and also on the church website.

Thanks were given to the following for their reports: Diane Webster - Home Groups; David Heslop - Finance Team; Tim Dodwell - Fabric Team; Reuben Humphries - Children & Youth Team; Liz Dodwell - Mission Team; Francis and Tina Cumberlege - Prayer Ministry Team; Diane Webster and Sharon Dibden - Pastoral Care 'Brockcare'; Keith Nolan - Social Team; Mary Nicholson - Worship Team; Andrew Parrish - Music; Leslie Munt - Mothers' Union; Gerry Radjen - Hall Team; Jane Forrest - Street Pastors; Lindy Waight - Sanctuary Guild; Lyndhurst Deanery Synod - David Heslop; Suzanne Sewell and Sue Park - Flower Guilds; Wednesday lunches - Leslie Munt; Care Cars - Sue Hendry; St Nicholas' Visitor Guardians - Ros Dennison.

## **7. Appointment of PCC Members**

There are six vacancies this year following the resignation of Kay Pead on the commencement of her clerical training at Lymington and Phil Horner, having completed two consecutive terms as a PCC member. We thank them on everyone's behalf for their service over the years.

We have received five nominations:

Nathan Parnaby	proposed by David Heslop	seconded by Martin Fletcher
Camilla Pearse	proposed by Martin Fletcher	seconded by David Heslop

Lindy Waight	proposed by Rosalind Dennison	seconded by Jackie Eley
Jeremy Moss	proposed by Lesley Munt	seconded by Sharon Dibden
Wendy Lay	proposed by Marion Burden	seconded by Peter Lay

All names were approved by the meeting.

Alan asked all PCC members to stand so they could be recognised. He said that they give their time and make some serious decisions on our behalf and can be approached with concerns or ideas.

### **8. Appointment of Sidespersons**

Alan announced that the names of the people who are willing to act as Sidespersons for the coming year are shown on the reverse of the Agenda. This list was unanimously agreed.

Lesley Munt said we need more volunteers for Sidespeople on the third Sunday at St Nicholas' and the 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday at St Saviour's.

### **9. Appointment of Independent Examiner**

Peter Lay announced that Jackie Paulson, who has been our Independent Examiner for three years, is stepping down but that Lewis Ball has agreed to take on this position to audit the 2019 accounts. All were in favour.

### **10. Open Forum**

Alan said we could not have got through the last few months without the huge support of Alan Graham, Diane Webster, Francis and Tina Cumberlege, Martyn Taylor and Tony Foulger and on behalf of everyone he expressed our sincere thanks.

Diane Webster said that special thanks should go to the office for the tremendous amount they do to support the Worship Team.

Alan announced that the formal Institution and Induction Service for Simon Newham will be a short service on Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> June 2019 at St Nicholas' Parish Church. This will be invitation only. However, the celebratory service will be at St Saviour's immediately after this where everyone is welcome. 38 of Simon's parishioners from Ifield will be coming by coach. Volunteers will be required to help in various ways for this celebration.

Derek Browne asked "Is the Lord of the Manor coming?" Alan said that Cynthia Wilson will be his legal representative.

Question: "Are people from Boldre and South Baddesley coming?" Alan said that yes, they will be joining us.

Ros Dennison read out a list of 'needs' for normal day to day running of the churches saying that she was aware that we are again asking help from possibly the same people:

- Office volunteers for Mondays and Fridays to answer the phone from 10.00am - 12.00pm.
- Co-ordinator for Sidespeople.
- Sanctuary Guild to prepare for communions.
- Readers and Intercessions for the 9.30 St Saviour's services.
- Helpers for youth work with Reuben.

Alan added that this is a plea for help to enable our church to function and continue to grow.

Janet Blizzard wished to thank all who have given to the Food Bank which has been extremely busy this last year.

Cynthia Wilson gave thanks to the Street Pastors and asked that some of us might consider joining them or, more especially, pray for them as prayer undergirds everything they do.

Jan Campbell asked if our advertisement of times of services has been stopped in the Lymington Times. Alan said that the cost of advertising had been £600pa but we do have a presence in the form of a shorter advertisement at a cost of £230pa. He said that this would be taken back to the PCC and discussed at the next meeting.

Jane Forrest asked everyone to show their appreciation and give huge thanks to Alan and Ros who have been at the centre of all that has had to be dealt with during the interregnum.

Alan and Ros thanked everyone and said that it has been a privilege.

The meeting closed with Grace at 9.28pm.

### **THE VICAR'S REPORT – 2019**

I would like to begin my report on the last year with two thank yous.

Firstly, thank you for the wonderful way in which you, both as a church and wider community, welcomed your new vicar (and family) into his new post and new community. My licensing service on 13<sup>th</sup> June 2019 was a wonderful occasion, marked by a real sense of joy and love – both of which have continued in abundance.

Secondly, thank you for all the hard and committed work that the pages of this annual review represent - given so generously by so many of you.



Brockenhurst Parish would not be the special place it is without all the time, talents and resources that you pour into it.

With that in mind it seems somewhat unjust to pick out a few 'highlights' of the year – but here goes...

The first few months of a vicar's life in a new parish are a confusing whirl of new people to meet, new places to be, and new patterns of doing things to adopt - and it was no different here. I would not have coped half as well with all the changes in those first few months without the marvellous help of the Office Team (Lesley, Sharon and Mary); our two wonderful Church Wardens (Alan and Ros); and the Ministry Team (Diane, Francis, Alan, Tina, Tony, John and Reuben) – they are all a joy to work with and have been a wonderful source of support and encouragement to me.

Particular joys in those first few months were discovering how well the church and wider community is served by groups and events such as Brockcare; Holidays@Home (going to London has never been such fun!); Cameo; Thursday Lunch Club; our lively M.U.; and Reuben's Children's and Youth Work team. It was a privilege and pleasure to serve alongside those who are responsible for organising and running these.

I was also impressed by the commitment and dedication of those who work more 'quietly' behind the scenes in groups such as the Finance Committee; Safeguarding; Parish Magazine team; the Mission Group; Fabric Team; Social Team; Church Hall Team and PCC. Without the work of these teams our life together would not be as full and smoothly run as it is.

Our Parish Vision Day on 14<sup>th</sup> September was the first big 'out of the ordinary' event of my time at Brockenhurst, and thanks to the hard work of the pMAP team (Tina, Jo, Peter and John) in preparing for the day, we had some clear goals emerge from our time together which we will be working towards over the next couple of years.

These goals were:-

1. To develop a new service that engages more effectively with the young families of the village.
2. To deepen our prayer lives that we might better become the people God wants us to be and to be better engaged in the things He would have us do.
3. To re-launch Alpha.
4. To be more deeply engaged in the life of Brock College.
5. To go away on a Church Weekend of teaching and fellowship.

I am happy to report that work has begun on all of these in addition to some other exciting initiatives which we should see developing in 2020 and include:-

- An annual stewardship campaign.
- A raising of our eco-awareness and engagement.

- Our exploring of other ways of raising funds for mission giving (including open gardens and a church fete) and engaging with the wider community.

None of the above will be easy, and perhaps most of all because it will inevitably involve change that some of us find difficult. Perhaps rather than 'change' another way of looking at the challenge before us is as follows:-

Brennan Manning, in his book, the Ragamuffin Gospel writes, 'In the parable of the talents, the three servants are called to render an account of how they have used the gifts entrusted to them. The first two use their talents boldly and resourcefully. The third, who prudently wraps his money and buries it, typifies the Christian who deposits his faith in a hermetic container and seals the lid shut. He or she limps through life on childhood memories of Sunday School and resolutely refuses the challenge of growth and spiritual maturity. Unwilling to take risks, this person loses the talent entrusted to him or her. The master wanted his servants to take risks. He wanted them to gamble with his money.'

Perhaps then God is calling us to take risks with what He has given into our care so that we can better see His presence, provision, and grace at work.

However we view the challenges ahead, I am certain that with prayer, listening and a sense of working together to grow God's kingdom in this place, great things will continue to happen in Brockenhurst.

Thank you to all of you who have in 2019 been willing to 'take risks' with the talents God has given into your care and thereby helped to make Brockenhurst Parish such a delight to serve.

*Reverend Simon Newham*

## **BROCKENHURST PCC – REVIEW OF THE YEAR 2019**

### **A Warden's Report**

Belonging, Growing, Living in the Light and Life and Love of Jesus

In the life of this Parish the most significant dates of 2019 were 23/24 January – the interview days in our search for a new vicar. It was really crucial that all should go smoothly for the outcome was very important. What would the candidates think of us? In some respects we also were being interviewed and we wanted to make a good impression.

After coffee, introductions and a look round St Saviour's Church and Hall each couple were taken separately to St Nicholas' (full of scaffolding), the churches in Boldre and South Baddesley, and out to lunch. It was discovered that Simon was already familiar with New Forest lanes; he had explored them with his daughter on the motorbike and had even got lost.

The excellent supper that evening in the Church Hall gave all invited a chance to meet the three interviewees and for them to meet us as they moved between the three crowded tables. Interviews by the Diocese and Deanery

representatives took place the following day. Then we waited, and happily on 2 March we could at last announce, in each church, that Simon had agreed to be the new vicar of our parish.

The Institution and Induction of the Revd Simon Newham by the Bishop of Basingstoke, with the Archdeacon of Bournemouth, took place on Thursday 13 June at St Nicholas' Church and continued in St Saviour's Church. With two places involved, so many things to be considered. There was timing; making sure that Simon's previous congregation from Ifield were welcomed with afternoon tea; the hiring of coaches for visiting clergy and the augmented choir; seating plans and inevitably concern about the wet weather. Yet it was a wonderful, dignified and joyful occasion, followed by a celebration supper in the Church Hall.

Simon's ministry in Brockenhurst has made an immediate impact not only on our worship, but in the Benefice and the community. His appointment is a blessing and we hope that he, Gina and the family are adjusting to their new life here.

Earlier in the year on Easter Sunday we had said a fond farewell to Revd Mary Nicholson who had been our Curate for almost three years and was moving to St Mark's Church in Southampton. Her future ministry is focussed on the homeless, those with addiction and supporting their recovery. She has made many friends in Brockenhurst and is missed.

In April the ANZAC Day service at the Commonwealth War Graves, St Nicholas' Church was well attended and beautifully led by Revd Francis Cumberlege. On 9 June, how appropriate that it was Pentecost, a combined congregation celebrated the restoration of the St Nicholas ceiling in a service led by Revd Canon Diane Webster.

We were fortunate that the Interregnum was just a little over an eventful nine months. Everyone is fully aware of the contribution made by our honorary assistant clergy, Revd Alan Graham, Diane and Francis, supported by Tina Cumberlege, John Pearson, Tony Foulger and Martyn Taylor. We thank them and appreciate all that they did, and still do, to support our churches and worship in the community.

Alan Wright had the idea to replace a small oak shelf behind the font with a longer one. Andrew Sharp made it with Alan's help in the design. Now memorial books are displayed in St Saviour's Church. Names of those departed can be added at any time and they are recalled as the page is turned each day.

Energy and talent sums up so many people in this church community.

Sincere thanks to Sharon, Lesley and Mary who, with their office volunteers, work tirelessly to support all that happens in this Parish. Thanks to Luke and those who clean and those who care for the grounds around the churches and hall.

Adults helped, danced, sang and had 2-days of tremendous fun when helping Reuben with the Lion King Summer Holiday Club attended by 15 children in August.

Scarecrows recalling characters of the 20<sup>th</sup> century survived the storms in August as the Mothers' Union once again organised another successful event. Basics Bank, Street Pastors, Christian Aid, Brockcare with H@H and Care Cars all involve and often depend on people from our congregation.

I have some thoughts from 2019 that do not fit neatly into any sort of category. The making of fiddle aprons, the influence of Cynthia's wonderful range of activities, Sue's talk at the newcomers evening, hula-hooping at CAMEO, the 5.30am cuckoo greeting us at the Sonrise Service on Easter morning and then in March I noted in my diary that it would have been Dick Drown's 100th birthday.

Finally, what can I say when describing that meticulous mastermind, Alan Wright? He has such an eye for detail and was able to clearly define all the processes necessary when planning the many important occasions of 2019. We are all grateful to him for the way he has, with wisdom, skill and a great deal of charm led and supported us all through the past five years. Thank you.

*Report submitted by Ros Dennison, Church Warden*

## **HOME GROUPS**

There have been quite a few changes in membership of the Home Groups this year and a common difficulty has been irregular attendance with people having other demands on their time. Currently there are nine groups meeting weekly or fortnightly plus the Brockenhurst Fellowship Group which meets monthly for breakfast and discussion. One new group is being formed bringing the total membership to 103 and it is hoped to establish another group after Easter. Groups choose their own material and receive recommendations from the Vicar and each other.

Everyone is encouraged to join a Home Group for prayer, study and fellowship and new members are always welcome. Please speak to the Vicar in the first instance.

*Report submitted by Revd. Canon Diane Webster*

## **FINANCE TEAM**

The Finance Team is appointed by the PCC to monitor income and expenditure, prepare a budget and advise the PCC on the appropriate financial procedures to ensure compliance with the current charity legislation.

The team comprises Geoffrey Jennings, Peter Lay (Treasurer), Jeremy Moss (Gift Aid Secretary), Simon Newham (Vicar), Nathan Parnaby and Martyn Taylor. In July, David Heslop resigned from the PCC and Finance Team after many years' service, and we thank him for the time and hard work he gave during his membership of the team.

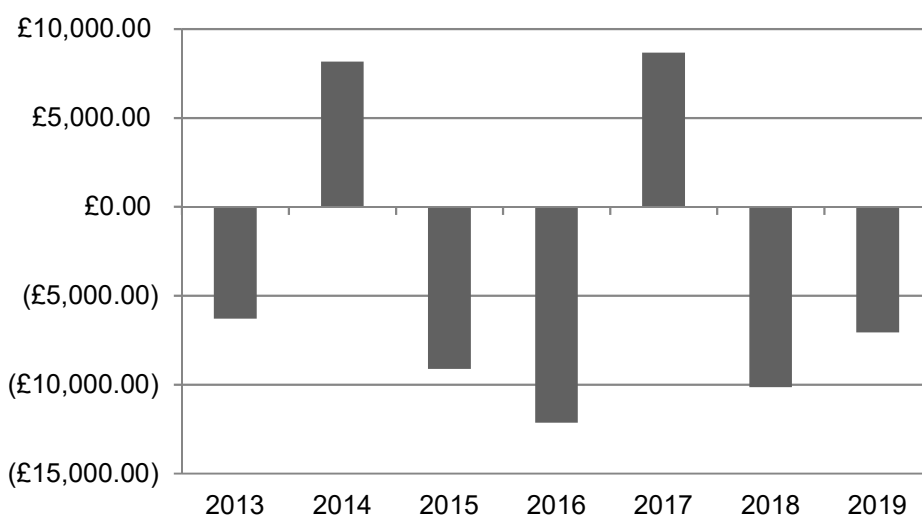
The detailed financial figures for 2019 are reported in the Trustees Annual Report. The church benefited from a generous response to the St Nicholas' Ceiling Appeal that raised £9,600 more than the cost of repairs to the ceiling. In addition legacies of £7,250 were received. However, despite this the year

ended with an overall deficit of £4,264 before unrealised investment gains are taken into account. This figure includes:

- £21,443 raised by the St Nicholas' Ceiling Appeal
- £6,069 raised for charities
- £5,232 spent on completing the repairs to St Nicholas' ceiling started in 2018
- Depreciation charges of £13,251

Once these are taken into account the underlying deficit on ordinary income and expenditure becomes £7,060 or £14,310 if legacies are also excluded. The outcome of five of the last seven years has been a deficit as illustrated by the following graph.

### Net Ordinary income/expenditure



Although the levels of accumulated funds have been able to withstand the deficits they are not sustainable in the long term. Therefore, the Finance Team have looked very carefully at the 2020 budget and with the PCC have taken the difficult decision to make a number of reductions in charitable giving (from General Funds) and in the cost of youth work. A stewardship campaign is also planned for early 2020 to increase the level of general giving in order to maintain the essential work of the church.

*Report prepared by Peter Lay, Team Chairman and Treasurer*

### FABRIC TEAM REPORT

At St Nicholas' the main event was completion of the ceiling repairs with the church re-opening for worship in March and a major service of celebration at Whitsuntide on 9<sup>th</sup> June.

The structural engineer's report on the strength of the gallery has established that it is more than sufficiently strong to support the 40-person limit required by fire regulations.

The historic carved stone heads adjacent to the porch were cleaned and consolidated by Salisbury Cathedral specialists. Work has been carried out to

remove dead limbs from trees in the churchyard and another tree reduced in the interests of safety.

This was the year for a full inspection of the electrical installation which identified some unsatisfactory items. These are in the course of being rectified.

At St Saviour's a major concern has been the leaks in the south aisle roof and vicar's vestry. The stainless steel flashing at the higher side of the aisle roof has been replaced in lead to give a better seal, and this has proved successful in that so far only minor leaks have occurred in extreme conditions. The same appears to be the case in the vicar's vestry.

In the churchyard a decayed oak tree has been removed and is to be replaced in the autumn. Working parties have taken place to trim the hedges and keep the grounds tidy.

In both churches the timed heating programme has been reviewed to ensure that this is commensurate with the times of services and to avoid wastage.

The main external notice boards have been renewed or refurbished following the arrival of Rev Simon Newham.

Attempts to remedy the potholes in Wilverley Road have not been successful and a more radical approach is being considered in 2020. Once a specification and price have been settled it is hoped that adjoining householders will be willing to contribute.

Apart from these items routine maintenance has continued. It does now appear that the problems with the heating at St Saviour's are better understood and have been resolved.

2020 is the year for the Quinquennial Inspections at both churches. James Lunn-Rockliffe has retired both from practice and as our Inspector. The PCC has appointed Ryan Bunce to replace him.

Thanks are due to the whole of the Fabric Team for their support throughout the year, and in particular to Paul Pearse for overseeing most of the work, and to Steve Curson, who having overseen the ceiling repairs at St Nicholas' and retired from the team, then stood in for Paul Pearse during his absence in the summer.

*Report prepared by Tim Dodwell,, Fabric Team Leader*

## **CHILDREN'S & YOUTH WORK TEAM**

**Bright Sparks** and **Sparklers** group (0-11 years)

**Pathfinders** group (12-14 years)

**Blaze** (15-18+ years)

**Rooted**

Before I start the report I would like to take a moment to thank all the amazing volunteers who have supported the Youth and Children's ministry over the past year. They have worked tirelessly and enthusiastically often giving up their own free time to see God's kingdom advance amongst the children and young people of Brockenhurst. I could not ask for a better team, thank you!

2019 was a busy year for the Youth and Children's Ministry. It saw the launch of lots of new events and groups. Last year we launched a monthly youth club, a Holiday Club, volunteer reading in the school, the Easter Picnic and have increased our involvement with the school and college. It's really exciting to see how these will do in their second year, hopefully we will see an increase in families and young people attending church. Please pray for these events.

Our *Bright Sparks and Sparklers (0-11 years)* group continues to meet regularly alongside our *Pathfinders (12-14 years)* group. Last year we made the decision to combine Bright Sparks and Pathfinders into one group. This decision was made as we felt we did not have the numbers in either group for them to be sustainable long term. This has meant we need less leaders on a Sunday morning and has made the demands of being on a rota more manageable. Combining the groups has been very successful, the children and young people have formed great relationships. We have had one family leave the church in the last year due to personal circumstances which has affected our regular numbers somewhat but we have also seen growth with one new family regularly worshipping with us and two more worshipping being occasional worshippers. We regularly have 3-4 children of Bright Sparks age and 1-2 Pathfinders.

*Blaze (15-18 years)* continues to meet each Sunday evening. We have a very committed group of 8 young people. Blaze has explored some very difficult topics over the past year and have demonstrated a real desire for their faith to be what shapes and leads their lives. We have launched a regular Youth Service, Ignite, that Blaze plans and leads. We are planning on inviting other churches to join these services. Please pray for Blaze as many of them sit their A levels and leave for university over the next few months.

Our work in Brockenhurst Primary continues with a committed team leading Collective Worship once a week. Our Monday lunch club, Rooted, has been running successfully for a year now. There have been a number of challenges with this group including room changes and fluctuating numbers. Please pray that God will be in all of these situations. Thanks to Scripture Union the church was able to give each pupil a book telling the Christmas Story. The church has enjoyed very close links with the school which we have been able to deepen over the last year. We have a small team going to read with the children on a Monday afternoon, if you are interested in joining this team please speak to Reuben. I have also started supporting Year R on a Friday morning. This has led to really strong links with the children and teachers in the school and has opened the doors to many conversations about faith!

Over the past year we have been running and supporting the Christian Union at Brockenhurst College. When the CU first started last year it was beset by challenges not least being that nobody was coming. After Easter we saw it grow into a group of two, now it is a group of 6-10 and there are plans to launch a Youth Alpha. God has been at work in the college, please pray that this continues.

Throughout 2019 the church has been involved in outreach work with the village. The Little Flames services are continuing to run for preschoolers and Year R. These services provide an informal time of teaching and worship and are enjoyed by both the children and parents. We ran several new events including the Easter Picnic, which provided an afternoon of fun activities and explored the story of Easter in a child-friendly way. We launched our first Holiday Club in the Summer. Over two days we explored the Gospel with a group of children. As the first Holiday Club was a success we are exploring how we can do it bigger and better this year! Please keep an eye out for how you can get involved and support this. We ran a successful Light Party in October. During a time of the year when the world seems to focus on the dark the church put on an event which gave a wonderful message of Jesus, the Light of the World, to 30 children and their parents. The church also ran a stall during the Christmas Fair. This was a wonderful way for the church to be involved with the life of the village. 2019 ended with our biggest outreach events of the year, our Christingle Service and our first ever Crib Service. These services were a great success with an attendance of more than 400 people, mostly families with young children. The engagement with our Christmas programme shows the desire of the families of Brockenhurst to be involved and included in the church. There are plans to continue our outreach to the children and families of the village in 2020, including plans to launch a new family service. Please pray that the families in the village who haven't met Jesus yet might come to know him over the next year.

If you would like to get more involved in the Youth and Children's ministry or are just interested in what goes on please come and have a chat after a service. There are lots of ways to get involved from helping in groups to supporting us in prayer, perhaps this is something you could do as a home group? Please pray for the continuing work of the Youth and Children's Ministry, 'If you believe, you will receive whatever you ask for in prayer.' Matt. 21:22 (NIVUK).

*Report prepared by Reuben Humphreys, Youth and Children's Worker*

## **MISSION TEAM**

In 2019 we continued to support twelve charities using a proportion of the church's income, together with offerings at certain services. Mission Sunday services had speakers from Open Doors, our CMS partners the Bennett family, the Gateway Club and CAP. However, following a fall in the church's income our October meeting decided to change our method of giving. While we still commit designated sums to eight charities, the focus is now on raising money in alternative ways: social events and plate collections when there is a speaker at a Mission Sunday or other service. Additional charities will be supported and recognised as part of the church's mission, such as Mothers' Union and Christian Aid. An article about the monthly charity will continue to appear in the Parish Magazine, but information will also be added to Spotlight. The change



began with a Quiz Night held for Tearfund in November, raising £500. Then at Christmas the collections from the main services were evenly split between the church, and two hospices, Naomi House and Oakhaven. Each charity received over £1000. The indications are that this change to our fundraising is both popular and increasing our giving.

*Wendy Lay - Mission Team Secretary*

## **PRAYER MINISTRY TEAM**

The team offers to pray with others that God may show His grace and love in people's lives through healing and by restoring wholeness when life has become imbalanced: such prayers can be offered for people attending worship, their families or others on their heart. Our small team continues to offer this ministry on the first and third Sundays of the month at St Saviour's and at occasional Eucharistic services at St Nicholas'. When a month has five Sundays, a service focused on healing and wholeness is held on that fifth Sunday evening. Additionally, prayer can be requested through the prayer box at the Church gate or by email to [prayer@brockenhurstchurch.com](mailto:prayer@brockenhurstchurch.com). There has been great encouragement in our ministry as God continues to answer these prayers and we remain ever hopeful that more church family members will seek God's blessing through this Ministry. If you discern that God may be calling you to join the team and pray with others, do talk to Simon Newham or John Pearson. Please pray that God will continue to support the team to fulfil His purposes through the guidance of the Holy Spirit.

*Report prepared by John Pearson*

## **PASTORAL CARE TEAM – 'BROCKCARE' and 'CAMEO'**

Pastoral Visiting in the parish remained a mainstay of Brockcare's activities during 2019. Over 1800 visits were made during the year and we continue to look for ways in which to expand our reach to those in need within our community. In all our pastoral work we always strive to fulfil Christ's commandment 'to love one another'.

Our pastoral visitors number about 30. Each visitor brings something different to the task of getting alongside those in need in our parish, and it is humbling to witness the sense of dedication and purpose with which these individuals work.

Many thanks are due to Revd Canon Diane Webster for her dedication and leadership during much of 2019. She stepped down as Chairman at the AGM in October and Joyce Kolaczowski took over the task. Special thanks should go to Sharon Dibden who coordinates the work of Brockcare in the Church Office – a task she has been doing ably since 2009!

Brockcare's regular weekly pastoral activities of **Wednesday Lunches** (coordinated by Lesley Munt) and **CAMEO** continue to thrive and are both excellent examples of the church reaching out in God's love to those in our community, particularly to the elderly and the vulnerable. A separate report on Wednesday Lunches can be found elsewhere in this booklet.

**CAMEO (Come And Meet Each Other)** fills a need in our parish: it is a place where strangers and friends alike are given a special welcome; a place for individuals to come and chat with others over coffee (or tea) and biscuits or cake; a place of warmth and good humour where everyone is included. There is a strong team of helpers who share the vision that all who come through the door should immediately be made to feel part of proceedings. We owe our thanks to Kay Staines who, after a number of years acting as coordinator, stepped down in September 2019. She has been replaced by Sally Marshall. Any profits from these mornings have been given to the general Church Fund this year.

The **All-4-One** group is relatively new and growing. It is aimed mainly at singles who wish to join up with others for various shared activities. Under Liz Dodwell's direction, individuals get together for coffee and cakes at various members' houses, attend film showings, visit gardens, share holiday experiences etc.

As each year passes, the annual '**Holidays @ Home**' event seems to become ever more popular. The sense of fun and companionship enjoyed by our 24+ guests is tangible. Our trip to London in early September this year was especially memorable and we are grateful to so many in our community (not all church members) who volunteer to help and become involved in this activity.

Our **Film & Tea Afternoons** in the Autumn and Spring terms have been popular and again any donations received for these afternoons have been given to the general Church Fund.

The **Bereavement Service** held in early November again proved to be a great source of comfort to those mourning the loss of loved ones. There was an opportunity for pastoral visitors (and other church members) to get alongside those who had been bereaved over tea and cakes provided, as ever, by the Social Team. Our thanks go to them.

About 24 attended the **Christmas Day Lunch** this year. Again, many thanks are owed to the Social Team who set up the Hall for the occasion, to the chef, Roger Drake and his team, and to Jo Husband and Kay Staines, who acted as hosts on this special day.

Pastoral work in all its forms is hugely rewarding and is, without doubt, the sign of church that cares. There is always more work to be done, of course, and the pastoral team can certainly use more volunteers. Please contact Sharon Dibden in the Church Office if you feel able to help in any way.

I would like to say 'thank-you' to all those involved in any of our pastoral care activities. Our volunteers give willingly of their time and talents to show Jesus' love and friendship, comfort and compassion, to all those with whom they come into contact. It is a huge privilege to work alongside them.

*Report prepared by Joyce Kolaczowski*

## **SOCIAL TEAM**

The Social Team did its usual, and sometimes unusual, things to keep the Church cheerful – often with drink and food. Unfortunately during the year we

lost two of our long serving members, but added a new volunteer bringing our number to six. All are very busy people who are involved in lots of other things and so a few new members would be very welcome to spread the load.

*Report prepared by Keith Nolan, Chairman*

## **WORSHIP TEAM**

One of the great blessings of Brockenhurst Parish is that we have two beautiful churches in which we can provide a range of worship styles.

I had not sung Mattins or BCP Choral Evensong since my time of being a curate some 16 years ago and I had forgotten what prayerful and beautiful services they can be. The more traditional worship we offer at St Nicholas' is well supported and much valued by those who attend and is made possible by the dedication and commitment of the choir; Andrew Parrish's organ playing and organisation; and Tony's caring for all that goes on at St Nicholas' – thank you to all of you for your support and encouragement throughout 2019.

The traditional worship offered at St Nicholas is complimented by the more informal style offered at St Saviour's which again could only happen as a result of the hard, creative and dedicated work of many. Particular thanks go to the Cafe Church and All Age Worship teams for the work they put in that helps us think in very creative ways about the people and church God calls us to be. Thank you also to all of you who contribute to the musical life of St Saviour's - especially Cynthia and Mike.

Both churches are blessed to have an 'army' of people who help with the readings, intercessions, administering the sacraments, keeping everything in order (we have a wonderful Sacristy team), organising the audio-visuals, welcoming people, ringing bells, arranging flowers (what a beautiful job they do!), and drawing up the various rotas (Lesley is a saint!). If you aren't involved in any of this then please do think about getting involved – it's a wonderful way of serving God and others!

Over the last year I have been struck by the breadth of services that both churches offer and this pattern has largely continued throughout 2019 – of particular note have been the fifth Sunday Mission Services (an opportunity to hear from and support one of our chosen charities for the year); the outside songs of praise service in July led by a brass band; the bereavement service on 27<sup>th</sup> October; the Remembrance Service (so well planned); our healing services (led by a very dedicated and enthusiastic team); and Little Flames.

We have had other one-off services supporting the community including school leavers, harvest and nativity services. In 2020 I would like to see more of these type of 'specific' services that support various groups within our community – if you have any ideas of who those might be do please let me know.

During the year there were slight changes to our pattern of worship with two standard communion services a month being adopted at St Saviour's with printed worship booklets used – allowing the service to be more easily followed and the liturgy to be more easily varied.

At St Nicholas' we adopted the Common Worship Lectionary for all services making it easier for one person to lead all the morning services across the parish.

We adopted a pattern of having Morning and Evening Prayer across the parish – praying on a daily basis for the community we serve and its needs.

Some minor changes were made to the pattern of services at Christmas including having two carol services and replacing the Christingle Service on Christmas Eve with a family Crib Service (a service which allows for a more contemporary and missional telling of the Christmas story) – changes which seemed to be well received.

In the coming year I anticipate that our focus with regards to worship will be on launching a service that more effectively engages with the young families of the village than we currently do; we find ways of enlarging and rejuvenating our choir; and that we elevate the profile of the healing ministry within our parish.

Our worship within the parish would not be what it is without those who so generously give of their time and talents in preparing and leading it, and so my final word is to express my thanks to Francis, Tina, Diane, Alan, Tony, John and Reuben – I couldn't do it without you and I wouldn't enjoy it as much as I do without you! Thank you!

*Report prepared by Revd. Simon Newham*

## **MUSIC - Brockenhurst Church Choir and Organs**

The past year has held several high points alongside the weekly services of praise and worship.

Firstly in June there was Simon's arrival in Brockenhurst with two uplifting services in St. Nicholas' and St. Saviour's. Remembrance Day followed with an excellent contribution from the Southampton Brass Band and, later on, there were two Christmas Carol Services. Although initially there was some concern regarding the time of St Nicholas' service (as many regulars don't venture out after dark) it was full to bursting for the occasion and the regular choir was augmented with friends from Brock choir and others. Everybody enjoyed the chance to contribute to the music. The 'Contemporary' Carol Service in St Saviour's also involved a wide number of people particularly from the Village and including a choir of children from our local school. It was equally well appreciated.

On a quieter note there have been more reflective services such as Sunday Eve. Prayer & Worship in St. Saviour's and Healing Services at St. Nicholas' where music was integral to being together.

St. Saviours has hosted some lovely concerts from the Music Society, Brockenhurst Choral Society and the Bournemouth Male Voice Choir in conjunction with The Friday Girls which raised a wonderful healthy sum for local charities.

As a parish we thank all those who have contribute their time and talents to the musical input of the Church. Music is absolutely fundamental to our regular worship and so the Parish Choir, organists, St Saviour's Singers,

instrumentalists and pianists deserve to be warmly thanked for all their contributions. This year we said a fond goodbye to the Newton Family and in particular to Miriam who played in St. Saviour's as part of a voluntary group of pianists along with Mike Kelly and Cynthia Wilson.

*Report prepared by Cynthia Wilson*

## **OTHER ACTIVITIES IN THE LIFE OF THE CHURCH**

### **BAPTISM PREPARATION**

Baptism Preparation meetings have continued to be held for those who wish to have their baby/child baptised. During the last year several Baptisms had to be re-arranged, time/venue, as a result of our Interregnum and also because of the collapse of part of the ceiling at St. Nicholas' Church. However, all have now taken place.

From December 2019 the preparations have taken place in the Youth Room at St. Saviour's Church. These sessions, for parents and Godparents, now occur on five preset dates throughout the year.

Baptism is given by the Grace of God and the parents and Godparents are made aware of the promises and commitments that they will make during the service. There is a talk, a short video and then time for discussion. Parents are encouraged to take an active part in our Sunday worship prior to Baptism.

We encourage local parents to keep in touch through the 'Little Flames' services which are run by the Mothers' Union for the under 5's, through 'Busy Badgers', 'Sparklers' and the 'All Age Worship' service. We believe that these will help to introduce the children and their families to our fellowship and we find that many friendships are formed.

I wish to thank everyone who so willingly participates in these sessions.

*Report prepared by Brenda Horner, Co-ordinator*

### **MARRIAGE PREPARATION**

As we were in an interregnum, rather than the traditional day, clergy did their own marriage preparation with the couples they were marrying before the appointment of our new Vicar.

Immediately after his arrival, our new Vicar, Simon, ran a marriage preparation afternoon for the couples being married later in the year.

In an increasingly secular society, it is important that we do enable those who come for a church wedding to reflect on the meaning of Christian marriage in the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

*Report prepared by Lesley Munt*

### **BROCKENHURST CARE CARS**

It has again been a very busy year for all of our volunteer drivers, to whom I, and I know I speak for the Community, say a very big thank you because without them many of our Brockenhurst residents would not be able to get to

their medical appointments. For the year 2019 we covered 570 appointments and already for January 2020 we have placed over 60 requests.

Our co-ordinators, also volunteers, take the calls off our 0845 643 5808 from the clients at least twice a day, Monday to Saturday. We try to place the requests quickly and then call our client back with the driver's name and client pick up time.

We are always in need of more volunteer drivers to cover our workload and I would ask anyone who has a few hours a month to spare, if they would like to consider joining us. Even if you no longer drive maybe you would consider being a co-ordinator. If so, please call Sue Hendry on 01590 623543.

*Report prepared by Sue Hendry, Temporary Organiser*

## **CHURCH HALL**

2019 was another good but challenging year for the Church Hall.

The Team spent a lot of time reviewing and updating the Booking Forms and Terms & Conditions for the Church and Hall users. The process included tightening up our procedures for the application of Temporary Event Notices.

We also had to deal with some ceiling damage due to lead theft and damage to our front doors due to two break-ins. Thankfully nothing was stolen.

Our priorities continue to be to ensure that the hall continues to be a meeting place of excellence and increase the level of usage. Feedback continues to be very positive from all those who use and hire the Hall.

As always, I recognise the hard work and commitment that the Hall Team put into the smooth running of the Hall.

A huge thank-you to each one of them.

*Report prepared by Gerry Radjen, Hall Chairman*

## **LYNDHURST DEANERY SYNOD**

The Synod encourages and supports the Mission of the Parishes in the Lyndhurst Deanery (including Brockenhurst) and provides a link between them and the Winchester Diocese. During 2019 it met three times, in March, June and October.

The March meeting received a report on Ministry and Mission in the Waterside and New Milton areas. Also, the Revd Peter Salisbury, Vicar of Lymington and Area Dean, spoke about planned reorganisation of the Parishes in the Totton and Waterside areas, a matter that was developed at the June meeting. The October meeting received a report on the proceedings at the Church of England General Synod and on progress on the Deanery Mission Action Plan (DMAP).

Brockenhurst representatives on the Synod are currently Revd Simon Newham, Martyn Taylor and Cynthia Wilson, David Heslop, formerly the Deanery's Lay Chair, having stepped down because of ill health. New elections are due to take place at the forthcoming APCM.

*Report prepared by Martyn Taylor*

## **MOTHERS' UNION**

### **Meetings**

Our first meeting in 2019 was our annual Wave of Prayer service, planned and led by Gill Coombs and Diane Webster, where we prayed for the MU in Winchester Diocese and other linked dioceses. Our programme secretary Wendy Trundle organised a variety of meetings and events throughout the year, with talks from outside speakers about birds, aid to refugees and asylum seekers in Southampton, being a missionary in Uganda, and caring for orphans in Burma. Branch members who are Diocesan Trustees educated us about MULOA: "Mothers' Union Listening, Observing, Acting", exploring the essence of what it is to be Mothers' Union. The leader of the MU Away From It All holiday (AFIA) shared with us the pleasures and difficulties of running the holiday. We also enjoyed fellowship with an evening of bell-ringing at St Nicholas, a trip to Exbury Gardens and an "at home" afternoon in August, as well as a Christmas celebration.

In September we held our Branch AGM, when Wendy Lay was elected as Branch Chairman and Maureen Phillips joined the committee.

### **Fundraising**

In January we held our popular "GiftSwap4Coffee" which was a great success and enjoyed by all who attended. The charities supported with gifts from the public were Basics Bank, Tools for Self Reliance, the Women's Refuge and the MU AFIA holiday. A raffle and the sale of donated goods which were not suitable for the charities also raised funds for MU projects. Over the Christmas holiday members filled sweet tubes with coins, as a way of counting our blessings. During the summer members helped Lesley Munt to provide cream teas and tours of St Nicholas to four visiting groups. In response to popular demand another Scarecrow Festival was held in August, organised by Gill Coombs. While it successfully raised funds and promoted the MU, it was hard work for the small band of helpers, so the decision was made not to hold another in 2020.

Other activities supporting the church in the village and elsewhere

As usual, members created posies for distribution at both churches on Mothering Sunday, and two members made and delivered flower arrangements to Woodpeckers and Forest Oaks. We hosted the Deanery MU Lady Day service at St Nicholas, led by Rev. Mary Nicolson. During 2019 MU members served refreshments after a wedding in April and provided the tea after the thanksgiving service for the life of our member Audrey Pattison at the Methodist church. Members provided the tea for the Marriage Preparation afternoon, and we continue to support Baptism Preparation, provide refreshments and a friendly ear at Busy Badgers, and run the regular Little Flames services for under 5s. Children from YR at the Primary School, the Playgroup and Busy Badgers attend, and we also invite children from the Baptism register. This year we have begun a new project at the request of the

Vicar: members prayerfully make small shawls to be presented to each child baptised.

Members again provided cakes and goody bag items for the very popular MU stall at the RAF Family Day held at RAF Odiham in July. We held a vigil in Brookley Road, joining with the global "16 Days of Activism against Gender Violence" in November, handing out leaflets, and asking passers-by to light a candle to remember victims.

Sadly, due to ill-health, our member Sue Abernethy had to stand down as Diocesan President. Stella Roberts has replaced her for the remainder of the Triennial.

*Report prepared by Wendy Lay, branch leader*

## **STREET PASTORS**

New Forest South Street Pastors consists of 25 Street Pastors, and 15 Prayer Pastors. We are a relatively rural group, and hence operate differently from those in the inner cities.

We currently patrol on a Friday evening, occasionally on Saturday evenings, from 7.30pm to 10/11/ midnight according to what is happening that evening.

We usually spend the early part of our shift in New Milton, connecting with the youth, individuals, various groups and door staff. We are now well recognised by the youngsters who are pleased to be offered sweets, but also the opportunity of a chat if required. We keep a watchful eye in case of any trouble without being authoritarian.

We often drop in to the Palm Springs Youth Club held at the Nedderman Centre.

The latter part of the shift is usually in Lymington, where we patrol the station, the main streets, football ground, and the gardens. We meet locals, tourists, and those who are homeless.

We are supported by our Prayer Pastors with whom we are in contact during the evening, and who pray for us, and those we meet. They are an invaluable support to us.

To give examples of some of the things we do during the year.

Collect and sweep up glass and bottles

Give first aid, flip flops.

Walk people home, or assist them in calling a family member/friend to get them home safely.

Pray if requested

Calming presence during fights, waiting for police/ambulance.

There have been reports of drug handling at Pennington, we patrol, observe and report to the Police if necessary.

Attend community events and help clear up afterwards.



We have worked with 3 regular rough sleepers, and several "passing through"  
Offer hot drinks, a space blanket if it is cold. Any information we can give to help with their homelessness.

In short, helping anyone we meet who is in need, and being a comforting presence out on the streets.

We patrolled on 54 days, 598 hours

Had contact with 364 children under 16 years

295 adults 16-25 years

232 adults age 25-65 years

32 adults over 65 years.

We all feel it is a privilege to go out on the streets and meet with our children, locals and tourists, in His name.

*Report prepared by Jane Forrest*

### **ST. NICHOLAS' VISITOR 'GUARDIANS'**

These are quotations from the 2019 Visitors' Book.

*A marvellous testimony to God and local community.*

*A wonderful surprise to find the church open and a lovely welcome, talk and tour, thank you.*

*It has been a real delight to be here in this beautiful and prayerful place.*

*A beautiful, peaceful church. We are glad that we took a wrong turn.*

In 2019 on 196 days Guardians enabled almost 1000 visitors to visit St Nicholas Church. It is impossible to be totally accurate about numbers. The Visitors Book records, '2<sup>nd</sup> Fareham Sea Scouts, Cubs and Beavers, another page says, 25 members of the Mothers' Union, Bournemouth and yet another names '13 Bewildered Ringers', from Herefordshire and Oxon.

All the world is represented; visitors from Japan, South Africa, Colombia and the US for example and almost every European country; New Zealand outnumbers them all and there are many poignant entries. To quote: 'Following in the steps of grandfather treated at the NZ No1 Hospital' and 'our grandfather was injured four times and ended his life in Brockenhurst'. Interestingly there were 10 walkers on 'an Indian soldiers' walk in the New Forest', recalling that members of the Indian Army were treated here at the Lady Hardinge Hospital from 1914 to 1916.

Groups request talks given by Di Fletcher who keeps all the historical information up-to-date and gifts for sale are chosen by Janet Courtice. Both of these activities raise income for our church.

Thankfully, the ceiling was restored by March and from Easter to the end of October the church was open daily from 2 until 5pm. The present Guardians are a conscientious group who monitor the board in the porch and fill the gaps, but whether this can continue in 2020 depends on more volunteers joining the 30+ Guardians we have at present. We seriously need more people able to

offer just 3 hours when they can, support will be given and it is a rewarding role.

*Report prepared by Ros Dennison*

### **ST. NICHOLAS' FLOWER GUILD**

The Guild ensured the provision of flowers for the normal services throughout the year and also for a number of special services. These included Easter, the ANZAC day service, Christmas etc.

The provision of wedding flowers was under taken by others.

Subsequent to the appointment and installation of Reverend Simon Newham a review of Church activities decided it was inappropriate for the St Nicholas Flower and Tapestry Guild to continue as a separate entity. Therefore it is with considerable regret that the Guild set up some 40 years ago by Dr Mary Hughes and Mrs. Audrey Gunnell has been disbanded. However, the legacy of their desire to provide the church with embroidered kneelers, carpets and other embellishments in addition to flowers lives on. Perhaps their best memorials are the engraved window adjacent to the font and the "All Seasons Altar Frontal" frequently in use at the current time.

It is to be hoped that the standards set by these two ladies can continue to be met.

*Report prepared by Suzanne Sewell, St Nicholas' Flower Guild*

### **ST. SAVIOUR'S FLOWER GUILD**

This has been another busy year for our loyal team providing flower arrangements in the church.

We had several weddings this year with flowers organised by Jane Thatcher and Sally Hoy who also organised the flowers for Easter, Harvest Festival, Remembrance Sunday and Christmas.

We are so grateful to them both.

We are always grateful to those who make a donation to our funds on the four Flower Pot Sundays throughout the year which are an important source of income to maintain flowers in the church.

New members are always welcome so why not come and join us.

*Report prepared by Sue Park, Co-ordinator*

### **THE SANCTUARY GUILD**

We have had a year where we have seen the Sanctuary ladies covering for one another quite a lot because of sickness. However, we have not been daunted by this and I for one am very pleased with the helpfulness of all the ladies. Towards the end of the year we had to search for another guild lady as we were getting thin on the ground, especially when sickness struck. So, from December onwards we had, Marion Burden, Lizzie Tindell, Ros Dennison, Sian Husband, myself and Rita Elson came on board. Tricia Hilborn continued to wash and iron the altar cloths for which we are all grateful.

Our duties have changed very slightly due to Simon becoming our Vicar so in one way things have been made easier and in another way we have added a few things. We basically still manage to wash and look after all the linen used for Communion, buy in the wine and wafers for both churches and prepare for Communion at both churches. We also manage to change the altar frontals when necessary at St Saviour's.

As always Tony Foulgar is a great help to us and will always gently pull us up if we get things wrong. He is excellent in taking care of the various changes to altar frontals at St Nicholas' and filling up the candles there for which we are very grateful.

*Report prepared by Lindy Waight*

## **WEDNESDAY LUNCHES**

In our 31st year, we served 39,846 lunches to our ever grateful guests.

Our 39 volunteer cooks continue to work with a cheerful smile within the 4 teams which operate on a monthly basis and a 5<sup>th</sup> team who cook when there is a 5<sup>th</sup> Wednesday in the month. Each week, 6 cars collect 17 of our less agile guests and grateful thanks go to Joyce Kolaczowski who very efficiently organises the rota of 28 volunteer drivers, as well as visiting and keeping in close contact with our guests. Thanks also to Sue Griffiths who shares the transport organisation with Joyce. The drivers do a really valuable job, collecting and delivering our guests, who have varying degrees of mobility, in all weathers and often fairly difficult conditions. With so many of our guests now using walking aids, finding drivers with suitable cars to accommodate these is not always easy.

During the year, once again we have been delighted to welcome each week three Health and Social Care students and their Learning Support Assistants from Brockenhurst College. They enjoy their time with us, socialising with the guests and helping to serve and clear away meals and have been a real asset to the lunch teams. Their presence has been greatly appreciated by our guests who have enjoyed and valued the time they take to sit and talk with them. We hear from the College that the students also benefit and flourish from their experiences with us.

With the majority of our volunteer cooks in their 70s or in some cases even 80s, they are understandably finding it more difficult to do mass shopping, put up and take down tables, lift heavy pans etc. and should, in an ideal world, be joining our guests and having meals cooked for them.

If the lunches are to continue in their present format, I feel it is becoming imperative that we regularly introduce some new, younger blood to the teams, so names of anyone who might be persuaded to become involved would be gratefully received. It would be such a shame if the lunches were to flounder through lack of younger volunteers coming forward, especially now we have such wonderful facilities in which to operate.

*Report prepared by Lesley Munt, Lunch Club Co-ordinator*

### **CHURCH ELECTORAL ROLL**

The Electoral Roll as at Annual Meeting in 2019	219
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<b>The new Electoral Roll as at Annual Meeting in 2020</b> ( <i>Resident: 186</i> <i>Non-resident: 28</i> )	<b>214</b>
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