



Registered Charity No: 1193766



# ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING ANNUAL REPORTS APRIL 2021



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### REPORT ON THE PROCEEDINGS OF THE PCC - FOR APCM 2021

In March 2020 we were advised by Government and Church of England guidance to socially distance and close churches due to the pandemic of Covid 19. The country went into a "Lockdown". Social distancing measures remained in place throughout the year and further Lockdowns took place in November 2020 and January – March 2021.

This resulted in a change in our worship and the outworking of worship – the Standing Committee put into practice all necessary means to support the Parish, the Communications Committee have worked hard to produce YouTube services, and live services via Zoom. Notice sheets, reflections and service sheets were emailed, posted or delivered by family members to everyone in their homes. Weddings and baptisms were initially postponed and later only a couple of weddings took place with restricted numbers.

Charles Woodd, other congregation and family members, and other volunteers recruited through Harnham Community Network supported the community with prescription pick-ups and food deliveries. Revd Becky, LPAs, MU and other DBS checked volunteers made regular telephone calls to those listed on the electoral roll. We lived out our faith through prayer and service.

The APCM in 2020 was delayed until October. The majority attended this meeting via Zoom and a few in person, socially distanced and wearing masks.

Since the APCM there have only been 3 PCC meetings. The average attendance has been 71%.

The parish is entitled to have 9 elected members of the laity on the PCC, due to the fact there are 165 members on the Electoral Roll.

The Standing Committee members are the Vicar, Assistant Priest, PCC Secretary, Churchwardens, Parish Treasurer and a lay member. (For the past year, the Lay Chair has been one of the Churchwardens).

During the short year, the following people served on the PCC:

### **EX OFFICIO**

Revd. Becky Roberts	Vicar
Revd. Julian Poppleton	Assistant Priest
Sister Theresa Mary	Parish Worker – up to the APCM 2020
Charles Woodd	Churchwarden – St George's
Jane Greenaway	Churchwarden – All Saints

### **Deanery Synod Representatives following the APCM 2020**

Neil Turpin	Deanery Synod Rep
Katy Carter LLM	Deanery Synod Rep
Vacant	Deanery Synod Rep

David Baker and Joanna Woodd served up to the APCM in 2020

### **ELECTED MEMBERS following the APCM 2020**

1. Kate Mash (From 2015)
2. Nich Brown (From 2015)
3. Sue Reeder (From 2017)
4. Tony Mercer (From 2015)
5. Olivia Thomson (From 2018)
6. Julia Woodford (From 2019)
7. Emma Wilson (From 2020)
8. Val Overton (From 2020)
9. Vacancy

David Stone, David Bartlett and Pam Macklin served up to the APCM in 2020

### **CO-OPTED MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE**

Michael Fisher	Treasurer
Linda Baker	PCC Secretary

In addition to the full Parochial Church Council, there are sub - committees to cover a range of parish work. These committees are open to anyone to join:

- ✓ Standing (core members of PCC, i.e. Vicar and Churchwardens, who set the PCC agenda and make recommendations to the PCC)
- ✓ Social (unable to meet in 2020)
- ✓ Worship
- ✓ Events (unable to meet in 2020)
- ✓ Communications
- ✓ Youth and Children (ie. Messy Church, 3Bs and Toddlers, Foundation Governor and Pop up Youth)
- ✓ Mission and Vision
- ✓ Property
- ✓ Hall Management Committee
- ✓ Parish Hall Transformation Project Team
- ✓ Hall Fundraising
- ✓ Eco Church
- ✓ Finance Working Group

Over the last year the PCC's work, often under the sub - committees, has continued where possible during the pandemic and has included:-

- ✓ the continued upkeep of the two churches and Parish Hall.
- ✓ keeping up to date with all Government and Diocesan guidelines on opening and closing of buildings and maintaining Covid safe buildings.
- ✓ continued work on the transformation of the Parish Hall, making the most of the empty building to decorate and make the meeting room more welcoming
- ✓ continued work in the churchyards to make them Eco friendly.
- ✓ regularly reviewing worship and adapting to the changing times.
- ✓ surveying the needs of the community both in lockdowns and whilst socially distancing.
- ✓ reviewing finance of the parish
- ✓ maintaining and developing the ways in which the Parish communicates with both electoral roll members and the wider community, especially when the first lockdown was imposed. In addition to electronic communications, a pastoral telephone network was set up.

Linda Baker - PCC Secretary

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## VICAR'S REPORT – Revd Becky

*Let us hold unswervingly to the hope we profess, for he who promised is faithful. And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching....*  
Hebrews 10 v 23-25

### PRAY AND SERVE

At the beginning of 2020, the nation and church went into lockdown. We have been in and out of lockdown for over 12 months. Hard decisions have been made at various points in the year to halt worship in our 'bricks' as we have moved to worship outside or with online 'clicks' YouTube, Zoom!

I hope that we have spurred one another on in prayer and service, doorstep visits, walks, reflections, Mothering Sunday gifts, a listening ear on the phone or online etc. It has been a year of pain and frustrations but also joy and new opportunities. I hope that you have been able to find a constancy in all the changes.

As we return to a *new* normal, we know there have been losses. A loss of connections for some; a loss of faith for others; a loss of worth for those who have lost work or educational opportunities; practical losses with the loss of hall bookings and congregation members leading to a deficit in our budget. Some members of the congregation have moved away to be near families or new jobs - Marina Carr, Diana and David Arundale and Debbie Orris. We thank God for their contributions to the life of the worshipping community in Harnham. And we remember in particular, Sue Witt, Gillian Hill, Carole Parker and Bernard Shaw RIP.

### GROW

We have also gained: new knowledge of Information Technology; new connections in our community through the Harnham Community Network and Harnham Harvest Table, the Drive Through Nativity and Messy Church; generosity to the vulnerable with donations to laptops at the Junior School, the Discretionary Fund, the Hall Transformation Project.

We need to hold onto the lessons learnt, and new ways in which we have grown. As we open up again, I know we will need spaces to listen and help each other process the last year and I believe God will meet us as we share and reflect together. We will process the worship surveys recently sent out as our worship is renewed and look forward to the gifts of others who will join us in the year ahead. (See worship survey and worship report).

It has been lovely to work with Revd Julian more as he has spent more time in the parish due to his change in work and to get to know Katy Carter more as she has grown in her ministry as LLM here. It has also been a privilege to support Matthew Stone as he finishes his final year of study as LLM.

Thank you to all who have shown flexibility this year in taking on new roles and adapted to new worshipping formats. My thanks to the Standing Committee who have had many discussions and decisions to make at short notice. A special thank you to Jane Greenway for serving as churchwarden with such energy and

commitment over the past 7 years and whose role has ranged from painting the parish hall to organising rotas and the graveyard books to meeting with wedding couples and caring through card sending and drinking worms in tequila?!!! Also to Kate Mash, Nich Brown and Tony Mercer for sharing their wisdom and support with the PCC for the last 6 years.

Father Michael Camp and Revd Penny Joyce have led some of the services this year and were named as the back up clergy for the Covid action plan. Revd Canon David Durston has continued to support the parish with his preaching and teaching. Thank you.

Thank you to those who have taken time to put an encouraging card through my door or send a positive email or have held me in prayer. It has been both a tiring and rewarding year and these have all spurred me on. I think we are stronger as a parish community, as a result of this last year, with lots of opportunities ahead.

My thanks to all the encouragers, team players, prayers, poster displayers, preachers, flower arrangers, pastoral phone callers, Sunday wardens, smilers and hand gel suppliers! THANK YOU.

Our last APCM was postponed to October and we met in the hall and online. At the time I used a prayer as follows which is just as relevant today:

We are not people of fear: we are people of courage.

We are not people who protect our own safety:

we are people who protect our neighbours' safety.

We are not people of greed: we are people of generosity.

We are your people God, giving and loving, wherever we are, whatever it costs, for as long as it takes wherever you call us.

*Lord God, we ask for your wisdom, in your call on our lives to worship and serve you and for your blessing on your work in your worshipping churches here in Harnham. Amen.*

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## **ASSISTANT PRIEST'S REPORT – Revd Julian**

This has been a time of considerable change and adjustment for everybody because of continuing pandemic uncertainties. For Libby, me and our family, we have been caring full-time for her elderly father and his increasing vascular dementia, who has been living with us. Thankfully, with careful time and energy management, alongside support from professionals and friends here in Harnham, we were able to support him in our home until just recently and to continue to contribute to the worshipping and life of the parish as well as some professional work.

I have now stepped down fully from my roles at King Edward VI School, Southampton and am pleased that this has enabled me to join more with the Salisbury end of the A36! It has been a great comfort to be able to pray and worship together even in difficult circumstances and a privilege to work alongside Revd Becky, the Churchwardens and PCC in exploring how to manage the national legal rules and both Church and health guidelines to best serve our community and congregation through this difficult time.

Alongside many, I have grown in my skillset associated with technology. Zoom and the internet has changed how I work and what I spend time on. Thankfully I have an interest in how we can use computers and associated kit to advance our experiences and have enjoyed the many creative opportunities. There is much that can be an excellent aid to our spiritual, social and communal life. Being able to make small films and deploy music and imagery alongside biblical, liturgical and poetic material has been stimulating. It has been gratifying to have positive feedback as the viewership and connections to the parish have grown - indeed from around the world. There is now an expectation that some services, such as weddings and funerals, can be live-streamed to family and friends in realtime. This is not without its challenges, especially to do so in a suitable, sensitive and worshipful way. I have been pleased to learn how to manage this in the short-term and assist in exploring how to enable this going forward.

Both the online Pentecost service and the virtual Carol service were very large online projects demanding many days of work and a lot of problem solving. One of our objectives in the latter was to cherish the youngsters who have been connected through the annual music making and the follow-up zoom party Libby and I had for the virtual choir revealed how very important this relationship with the parish continues to be for them; connected by fibre optics even though separated from us by many miles. We served them in this project as they had enriched us in their festive music making. It has been good to see the growing number

of the congregation who have been able to both attend and make contributions to the acts of worship week by week, especially those who would be unable to attend a physical gathering.

I was delighted that over the summer months we did have the opportunity to meet in person more often and found the diverse Open Air worship a very positive experience and way to witness. I was pleased to be able to supply a PA system from our dance band days whilst we await delivery of a more compact and modern parish kit. Returning to celebrate Communion together in the church buildings themselves was profoundly moving.

As an inexperienced allotmentee I value the connection of our diocesan tag line, Pray, Serve, Grow, though not necessarily in that order! It was excellent that such numbers engaged with the communal projects of sharing produce and alongside so many community-centred initiatives that did so much good and also helped the Church be visible and tangible in its living out of Christ's charge to love our neighbour.

The return to lockdown restrictions has meant weddings and funerals have been very different but no less powerful events. It is always a joy and privilege to preside over a marriage ceremony in which we hold the couple and their families before God in prayer and look to all that might flow from the new life beginning in that sacrament. So it was for Will and Lizzie (Curzon) in their lovely intimate service at St George's. Helping to lead funerals and being the designated singer this last year has been humbling, allowing me to rejoice in the richness and diversity of human life, service and experience amongst friends and neighbours. Similarly speaking on the phone has given an insight to the things that people have found hard to endure and how their faith has been part of that dynamic.

I have been considering initiatives from the national church, focussing especially on Living in Love and Faith - that explores Christian teaching on learning about identity, sexuality, relationships and marriage. This is an important body of work with some valuable guidance about how we can tackle many difficult aspects of our faith and experiences, and learn to live well together, honouring, listening and growing as children of the loving God.

At the end of the 2020, Bishop Nicholas asked me to become his Advisor for Associate Ministry across the diocese and connecting with the national church as it seeks to nurture and deploy women and men who are called to be self-supporting (non-stipendiary) ministers alongside other lay and ordained colleagues. There is a great realisation that ministry is our shared endeavour and the diversity of ways of serving is a great blessing.

As we face inevitable changes in how we 'do' and experience church, I ask for your prayers in what I can offer to our Harnham community and as I try to support those exploring and living Associate ordained ministry. May I also be able to play a part in how the diocese can nurture and validate their calling in particular, alongside all our calling to witness, pray, worship, to serve God's people and to be fruitful in deepening and growing all people's experience and knowledge of our loving God.

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## **LICENSED LAY MINISTER'S REPORT – Katy Carter**

I had hoped to be licensed here in the Parish on Palm Sunday last year, but thanks to Covid, that was unable to happen. Six months later I was finally licensed in the cathedral, but due to obvious restrictions we were unable to invite members of Harnham congregations to attend, which was a real disappointment. Thank you to those members of the congregation who attended my welcome service which was held in All Saints in October. Thank you too for all the encouragement and support I have received in my new role.

After my licensing I was looking forward to preaching in Harnham for the first time, but once again, plans were changed and although I have been able to preach via YouTube and Zoom, I have yet to preach to a 'real' congregation, something I look forward to. It has been a privilege to be able to take part in the service for the bereaved and to experience for the first time the Remembrance Day service. I have continued to lead the intercessions and for the first time led one of the services of Compline during Advent, again on YouTube.

From the beginning of 2021 I became one of the Parish representatives on Deanery Synod and therefore also an ex officio member of PCC.

I had hoped to explore the possibility of links with the Junior School here in Harnham, but once again Covid has prevented much happening. I have been able to take part in a pre-recorded school assembly, which



has been another new experience for me. During last summer I was one of the volunteers at the Harnham Harvest Table which provided me with an opportunity to meet other members of our local community.

After being a Licensed Reader in my previous parish for nearly nine years, I knew that transferring my licence to a different parish in a different diocese would bring some challenges. What I had not anticipated, of course, was the additional challenges associated with the pandemic.

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## **CHURCHWARDENS' REPORT - St George's and All Saints Churches**

### PRAY

Since March 2020 our church services (both regular and pastoral) have been very much dictated by National Lockdowns due to Covid 19. We have had to adapt following CofE guidelines and government regulations.

Some services have been held in our churches, when that was allowed, some on Zoom, some have been outside either on the grass or in the car park at the Parish Hall. In our buildings we have been restricted by the numbers we can seat in church with social distancing in place, but outside we have had more people attending. People seem to be more confident attending outdoor services. Congregations have had to book to attend services inside the churches so that we stick to the guidelines. Numbers have also been restricted for Funerals, Weddings and Baptisms. Morning prayer has taken place in the churchyards, and private prayer was possible in churches between lockdowns.



We would like to say a big thank you to everyone who has volunteered as a Sunday Warden during these difficult times and all who have been part of any rota for flowers, linens and music.

### SERVE

The churchyards have been well maintained by Kevin Clark and the Eco Church group (Joanna Woodd, Olivia Thomson, and Robert Salkeld). More generally, work carried out this year has included hedge cutting, new noticeboards, and a new sound system at St George's, thanks to a very generous anonymous donation. The Parish archives are now stored at All Saints. Both the shed at All Saints and All Saints church were broken into during 2020. We are grateful to those who responded to an appeal to meet the excess costs not covered by insurance.

Revd Becky set up a phone support system to ensure regular communication amongst our congregations, and pastoral support was provided particularly to those who were housebound or isolated, or struggling in other ways. Barbara Laws coordinated a Parish rota for providing soup one evening a week to the charity Encircles, who offered food nightly to homeless people throughout the winter. Parishioners also supported a Volunteer Support Scheme established by Harnham Community Network to give practical help - particularly shopping and collecting prescriptions - to Harnham residents during the lockdowns. The first lockdown in particular stimulated very local, informal action to provide neighbourly support in roads and closes, in some cases coordinated by parishioners who already held the role of Church Link in their road.

In view of the 'Stay at Home' guidance and the restrictions on door-to-door deliveries, Church Links have otherwise had a low profile this year.

### GROW

One area of growth this year has been in IT skills. Many of us have developed our skills, in order to, take part in Zoom services, meetings and Pause for Prosecco, as well as enjoy the many videos uploaded to the Parish YouTube channel. We believe, and hope, that this has also enabled the Parish to reach out to a wider audience.

Charles Woodd and Jane Greenaway.

## **MISSION AND VISION**

**Committee Members:** Jane Greenaway, Linda Baker, Joanna Woodd, Revd Becky, Katy Carter.

The main aims of the Mission Action Plan remain similar to 2019. This report provides an overview of the Mission Action Plan with actions linked to other reports.

### PRAY

**Promote prayerful practice of faith and prayerful spaces in our churches and churchyards** (See Worship report) We have aimed to ensure that worship is relevant and inclusive and that those who serve as wardens, intercessors, LPAS and in other roles are supported.

**Promote best use of church buildings and financial viability** (See Property and Communications reports) A focus in 2020/21 has been the mending of break in damages and an exploration of live streaming equipment through 3 different companies. A new financial toolkit, recommended by the Diocese and produced by the national C of E will be considered by PCC in March 2021.

### SERVE

**Serving the community through pastoral services and events** Pastoral services and care have been a priority. We have recorded funeral and wedding services on YouTube, and live streamed funerals. Bereavement support has been more difficult with social distancing and lockdown and will continue to be needed. National Church data shows that in 2020 there were 570,000 deaths compared to 512,000 in 2019. During the pandemic 62% of the population experienced the death of someone and we know that mourning has become a lot more difficult. We will need to listen to people's stories with care. We also know that those who experienced bereavement in 2019 have not had people to support them in the same way. As a church community, we all need to care. Harnham Community Network and the discretionary fund have enabled good community care.

Harnham hosted Sarum Summer School's unit on 'A kingdom shaped church' to share a question and answer session about mission in Harnham.

**Ensure Safeguarding is active in all aspects of church** Pam Macklin continues as Parish Safeguarding Officer. There have been different aspects of safeguarding this year – we are more aware of online, social media safeguarding matters.

**Ensure the hall is fit for purpose and reaching users from different parts of the community** (See Hall reports) There has been much ongoing work with the hall transformation even in lockdown!

### GROW

**Learning about faith and congregational participation in leadership** 'This Time Tomorrow' began in 2020 but was put on hold due to lockdown. Sermon series have continued on the Old Testament and the discussion group has continued (See Worship report). Volunteers have stepped up to read / warden / lead compline and in new roles in Messy Church. Pause for Prosecco has used a variety of questions which the members have initiated.

**Connections with 'missing generations' prioritised** (See Youth reports) Messy Church has gone online and built up relationships with doorstep delivery of packs and 'a listening ear'. A Drive around Nativity was planned for mission in Dec 2020 and went ahead. Over 400 people of different ages attended; it was positively received by different community members ranging from the school to local choirs. Pop Up youth group was put on hold due to Covid lockdown. Father Michael Camp joined the Junior School governing body as foundation governor. Assemblies were sent into schools and pastoral school support continued. Revd Penny continues to be a contact with the Infant School.

**Eco Church promoted as a mark of mission** (See Eco Church report) The Eco Church group would value new members. Much work has been going on behind the scenes in the churchyards organised by



Joanna Woodd. The annual returns statistics to the Diocese will include Eco categories from this year onwards.

**Communicate well beyond church community** (See Communications report) The church congregations are working towards an invitational culture and social media presence has improved, especially in lockdown.

The Mission and Vision committee thought it important to recognise the Black Lives Matter campaign in 2020 and have brought to PCC ways in which the parish can aim to be more inclusive. The Church of England report about racism in the Church is due to be released in 2021.

**Mission Overseas** After 6 years Derek and Jane Waller whom we have been supporting in Mission with CMS have stepped back. We will now be supporting Verity and Tom Clare who work in Arua in Uganda. Uganda has also experienced lockdown as there are so very few adequate hospital facilities. Verity is gradually making friends and the boys are learning the local language, Lugbara, chiefly by interaction with stall holders and boys! Verity home schools. Tom is the doctor to 9 clinics. People come with all sorts of needs and he is training staff to deal with the easier tasks. Covid and recent local elections have highlighted the consequences of alcohol, bought with bribery money and consumed as a solace for lack of work. Mostly, there has been an increase in domestic and gender based violence. Both Verity and Tom are involved in Education in health.

We have agreed to support Debbie Orris, Church Army Officer, who has now moved from Harnham to the Gloucester and Forest Centre of Mission. She has a specific focus on pioneer engagement in Coleford and its surrounding communities that brings Christian hope and builds new worshipping communities. She is currently helping Coleford Community meals, supporting the Mustard Seed Fresh expression during lockdown on Zoom and developing a Facebook presence for the Coleford team.

**Away giving** The finances of the parish, as a whole, have been difficult. We did not pay the last instalment of our parish share (£6000) or give away money to charities as we normally do. We have given £300 to Christians Against Poverty (who work through St Pauls church hub to support those in debt). Members of the Parish have been generous in their giving to the Discretionary Fund which has been used to support those in immediate need such as those who need food, and the provision of Zoom to support community members who need extra care. Members of the Parish have also raised over £1200 for the Salisbury Trust for the Homeless in December 2020 and in the beginning of 2021 have funded the purchase of 3 laptops for vulnerable families at the Junior School, totalling £1050. Thank you for your generosity.

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## **WORSHIP**

Worship Committee: Revd Becky, Revd Julian, Katy Carter LLM, Charles Woodd, Val Overton, Ian Davidson, Katy Carter, Jacqui Brown

Over the past year the ways in which we have worshipped both as a community and as individuals have changed considerably due to the circumstances of lockdown and Covid 19 Church of England regulations. We may have asked ourselves questions about what we miss and what we value in worship and the church community such as 'How can I worship at home? What do I value about the worshipping community? Praying? Singing? Gathering? What is the meaning of communion and spiritual communion? What do I value about worshipping in a church building?' Perhaps there have also been times when faith has been difficult and I wonder what helped you to come to terms with difficult questions or feelings about God, life or faith?

Harnham Parish has offered a variety of means to access both community and worship: written reflections on readings and hymns, and paper services being sent out or delivered; services and reflections for all ages have been recorded and put on the Harnham Parish YouTube Channel; services have also been held live via Zoom. Pastoral services, such as funerals, have been streamed live. Study / discussion based on the Old Testament has continued once a month. Phone support has been provided and Zoom coffee mornings offered. When the churches have been open Services of the Word and Communion have been offered with booked places and social distancing.

There have been benefits - a re-imagining of what it means to be church – with outdoor services and an outdoor Drive around Nativity supported by the local schools and community groups and attended by 400 people - an enthusiasm for outdoor worship – volunteers who have taken on new roles such as reading, or as Sunday wardens - our church communities worshipping together in one of the buildings or together on line - a move to make worship accessible for those far away such as through the streaming of online funerals and weddings. Statistics show how popular online worship has been – Our Virtual carol service received 350 views, communion services ranged up to 185 views. Messy Church ranged up to 66 views. Funerals were recorded and put online ranged from 24 views, to Jane Elliott’s funeral which had 800 views. Weddings up to 182 views. Attendance at morning prayer has increased to 9 via Zoom and attendance at the different forms of worship has ranged between 28 and 40 people. Even outdoor worship recordings where people have gathered together in person have then also ranged up to 60 online.

The pandemic has also highlighted that if those in their 70s and 80s and 90s are not worshipping in church there is still a committed core of people worshipping together, many of whom have volunteered in new ways. Members of the community are sharing their skills in leading Sunday services and Messy Church worship and other new members will also join us in the next few months. Katy Carter LL.M has shared her preaching skills, Matthew Stone will complete his study course and be licenced in September and there will be a Pioneer Curate beginning in June. Worship has been offered to the Junior School through recorded acts of worship. But we have to acknowledge that there are also missing younger generations – the church communities in Harnham do not represent the wider community demographic.

Key questions remain for *all* our congregation members that will help to shape our vision:

- a. How can we make more disciples and be evangelists in our local community with the good news of Jesus Christ?
- b. How can we be more collaborative in leadership? To support each other and try things, to fail in some and succeed in others.
- c. How can we continue to transform our communities in the love of God?
- d. What could we do differently to build relationships with a wider range of Harnham residents?

In November 2020 The Diocese of Salisbury released a video ‘Beyond the present’ in which all the Bishops talk helpfully about a way forward. I quote some important excerpts: ‘There have been new things to discover and celebrate as well as sorrowful ways, the church has looked outside its walls through new media and people have looked in that have never looked before.’

‘There has been change and loss - we have lost the habit of meeting together and we are in unfamiliar territory, but Christ is our Way and the Word of God a headlamp and scripture describes God as leading the way walking ahead of us.’

‘There are significant challenges on the way ahead, how to resource churches - the volunteers that are needed, the necessary money, the ministry and how in the face of change and loss we can pursue peace and build up common life.’

When we consider how we *pray*, *serve* and *grow* as a parish we are considering some of the questions raised by the pandemic and named by the Bishops – these have been sent out in a questionnaire to help us reflect and think forward as a parish community.

- What have we lost that we really value?
- What have we lost that we haven’t really missed?
- What could we do differently?
- What have we gained that is just for a season?
- What have we gained that we do not want to lose?

Written by Revd Becky and agreed by Worship Committee.

## PARISH HALL TRANSFORMATION PROJECT

**Project Team:** Linda Baker, Robert Card, Jane Greenaway, Chris King, John Newsome, Charles Woodd



It feels, as with many aspects of life in 2020, that we were forced to mark time to an extent with our project to transform our Parish Hall into a community hub for Harnham. Progress was made in refining the detailed plans in various aspects, and we benefitted from helpful comments from the National Lottery Community Fund's capital team. Moreover, thanks to sterling work by Jane Greenaway, we were able to implement much needed improvements to the Meeting Room in advance of the main project, replacing the windows and installing cupboards and a worktop, so that the room is now much better equipped for a range of different uses. Thanks also to Jane, the Main Hall has had a makeover, and a new fridge and freezer, purchased with support from Tesco's, are already in use prior to moving to the new kitchen after the transformation.

On the downside, our schedule of fundraising events for the year was brought to an abrupt halt after the first seasonal talk by Sue Reeder, on '1,500 mile walkies: wandering and wondering'. However, thanks to the ingenuity of Sacha Blanchard and Jane Bawden Jeanes, we were able to offer Wreath-Making Kits at Christmas, in place of last year's very successful wreath-making workshop, raising over £400. We also attracted a grant offer of £10,000 from The Hills Group Limited, through the Landfill Communities Fund, towards the new kitchen and heating system. The funds committed to the project currently stand at around £126,000 against the anticipated cost of £440,000.

One of the features of 2020 for fundraisers was that most grant-making bodies, including the National Lottery Community Fund, paused their normal activity in order to focus entirely on projects responding directly to Covid-19 and its effects. There seemed to be little to do but wait.

Covid-19 did have one more positive effect. The Harnham Community Network, initiated by the Parish in late 2019, was in a good position to respond to the practical needs of Harnham residents who were forced to shield and were not able to meet their basic needs. The Network quickly recruited volunteers and offered help with shopping and collecting prescriptions, a service which supplemented the informal neighbourly care and support that blossomed all over Harnham, and indeed all over the country. Later in the summer, when restrictions were temporarily relaxed, the Network, in partnership with the Harnham Neighbourhood Association, devised an innovative way of enabling Harnham's gardeners and allotment holders to share their surplus fresh produce with their fellow residents. Harnham Harvest Table operated for 10 Saturdays on the Parish Hall Field, attracting considerable interest and support from producers and consumers alike! As the Community Network continues to strengthen, we can foresee it playing a key role in reaching out into our community from a base in our transformed Hall.

As 2021 gets underway, and restrictions are slowly lifted, we will be launching a major appeal to local residents and businesses to sponsor the Transformation Project, thus giving us the solid base to make our formal application to the National Lottery Community Fund and other grant funders.

Charles Woodd

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## PROPERTY

**Property Committee:** Revd Becky, Robert Salkeld, Jane Greenaway, Charles Woodd and Tony Mercer

## PRAY

The Committee met three times during during the year, in February, July (postponed from June) and October. With Parish Income reduced even further by the Covid-19 restrictions, funds could only be made available for works to either church if urgently required for compliance with any legislative, statutory, health & safety legislation or essential maintenance works and for emergencies. Although certain funds both "Restricted" and

“Unrestricted” are still available for spending, the length of the periods under lockdown conditions last year had made it difficult even to get workmen to come out, and so while some works have been planned, not all have been executed.

#### Works Planned but not proceeded with during 2020

- All Saints - The fitting of bird wire to two hopper windows was deemed unnecessary.
- All Saints - There are no funds for alternative 3kV timers for the Vestry Heater.
- St George's - A lavatory in the boiler room is not to go ahead without specific funding.

#### SERVE - Works Completed During 2020

- All Saints - The report of the 2019 Quinquennial Inspection was delivered.
- All Saints - Wireless microphone equipment displaced from St George's installed as replacements or spares.
- St George's - A new aluminium noticeboard has been erected in the Parish field by the fence with the churchyard.
- St George's - A new Sound System with a Bluetooth antenna and an input jack is now in use.
- Parish Hall - The Door-frame of the external door to the Meeting Room has been repaired.
- Parish Hall - The failed drainage gully units in the Car Park were cut out, replaced and the adjacent surfacing repaired.
- Parish Hall - A new aluminium noticeboard was put up by the Lower St gate, and the earth bank replaced by a fence.
- Parish Hall - Neil Moss has agreed to mow the Hall Field every two weeks, with the cost to be shared with the Scouts.
- Parish Hall - The cottagers who use of the Car Park have agreed to revised Terms & Conditions of Use.

#### Works in hand (some of which has been postponed or delayed owing to the by COVID-19 pandemic) during 2020

- All Saints - An electric tube heater in Chancel may be replaced by one from a Nave pew to save money
- All Saints - The tiled Chancel floor needs to be deep-cleaned, polished and sealed, but removal of both the choir pews and the cope chest and might require a Faculty in advance.
- St George's - A Faculty for the removal of 3 pews between font and organ to create more space is a priority for 2021.
- St George's - The 2020 Quinquennial Inspection report was received after 31 Dec 2020.
- Parish Hall - When the aluminium noticeboard was put up the old glazed board came down and is to be replaced.
- Parish Hall - A contract has been let to Salisbury Glass for the replacement of the rotten Meeting Room Windows.

#### GROW - Other Works likely to take place during 2021 and thereafter

- General - Maintenance and minor repairs to both churches.
- General - Work pursuant to augmenting our Eco Church certification will continue.
- All Saints - The Removal of 2 or 3 pews from the rear of the nave to make it more flexible in use is to be investigated.
- All Saints - A new aluminium noticeboard is available but requires a Faculty before it can be erected.
- All Saints - A new Sound System with a Bluetooth antenna and input jacks for a digital projector is to be installed.
- All Saints - The fixing of an iron bar outside the Chancel hopper window is proposed following the burglary of 09/10/2020.
- All Saints - New cupboards in the Vestry to improve security and help turn the Vestry into a venue for meetings
- All Saints - Permanent repairs to Vestry Screen & Door.
- All Saints - Minor works highlighted in the 2019 Quinquennial Report.
- St George's - Finalising of the List B application for the installation of a Swift Box is due shortly.
- St George's - The replacement of a bulb in one of the Graveyard lamp-standards may require a contractor.

- Parish Hall - A paper is to be produced for the PCC on the options for and associated costs of the removal and replacement of the hedge on boundary with Lower Street:

Thanks are due to everyone on the Committee and to all those who have provided advice, labour and enthusiasm to keep the parish's properties available for our congregations and others, namely: - Revd Becky Roberts, Jane Greenaway, Helen Evans, Tony Mercer &

Robert Salkeld - Acting Chair of the Property Committee

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### **HARNHAM JUNIOR SCHOOL – Foundation Governors' Report.**

Governors include Revd Becky Roberts as Chair of Curriculum, member of the Staffing Committee and link with acts of worship, school ethos and values as foundation governor. Similarly, Father Michael Camp is a foundation governor and member of the Finance Committee. Katy Carter LLM is linked to the school through acts of worship and will develop her link more as the school re-opens. Jeanne Ross and David Stone are also on the governing body - David as Chair of Governors.

2020 has been an interesting year as governors, supporting the school in its varying decisions that have been made due to the different stages of lockdown, provision for key worker children and vulnerable children. The teachers, teaching assistants and management teams have worked hard to ensure that there has been good communication with parents and those families who have needed extra support. Governors have acted as a sounding board, asked key questions regarding provision, and challenged staff to take time off as they have all been working very hard, often without breaks or time with colleagues, due to the 'bubble' systems in place.

As foundation governors, we have enabled the school to plan acts of worship linked to the school's Christian values and have sent in pre-recorded assemblies and words of encouragement to staff. I am proud that the school provided the main characters for the Harnham Drive around Nativity and that we have begun to develop a pen pal scheme between the different classes and 70 people who were alone at home or isolated in the community due to lockdown. This definitely brought comfort and joy to both parties.

On a personal level, I have been supporting some of the families linked to the school who have needed a listening ear and encouragement to re-enter the outside world. Children have felt isolated from friends and some are carers for adults with health needs. As we have heard on the news some families' circumstances have changed overnight with job losses. I 'walk alongside' them to give hope just as God walks with us.

At the beginning of this year we raised £1050 for three laptops for vulnerable families thanks to Father Michael and Liddy Thompson's publicity.

Revd Becky

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### **ST GEORGE'S TODDLER GROUP**

The Toddler group had a good start to the year averaging 7 families with 1 or 2 children each per session, Wednesdays were slightly busier than Mondays. Current charge is £1.50 per family. We offer a range of play equipment, arts and crafts, stories and singing, end of term church visit for a short child friendly service and not forgetting teas and coffees with the help of our lovely ladies.

March started off well too but sadly we had to make the decision to close on 18th March due to COVID 19 restrictions, we look forward to when we can safely re-open. Funds held £31.19. We have visited the hall twice during lockdown to declutter the store cupboard and you can actually see daylight from the window now when you open the door!

Paula, Sarah and Vicki

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## MESSY CHURCH

For the months during the Covid-19 Pandemic we have recorded 8 Messy Church services on Zoom for the Parish website with a link to the YouTube channel and it has reached a wider audience of between 30 and 81 views. In between monthly Messy Church services we have kept in regular touch with the families.

We like to think we have improved and learnt new skills during this time. Our thanks to Matthew Stone and Julian Poppleton who have helped enormously with the technical side of getting the Zoom recordings onto YouTube.

We have increased the number of families we keep in regular contact with, mainly by their interaction with the team at the 2 outdoor services and events we were part of between lockdowns.

Each of our 17 families (36 children) were delivered a Messy Church Activity Bag just before the recordings could be seen on YouTube. These bags contained a variety of craft activities which reflected the month's theme (including a full Christingle) and could be seen on the video. Demonstrations of each of the three craft activities (enough resources were provided for each child), the opportunity to join in the songs, in prayer, learn more about the stories in the Bible and given the current news on Messy Church and other church based events in Harnham. One of the families has been involved with planning and is part of the Zoom team as well as delivering the MC bags.

3 families took part in the Nativity scenes held in the parish on 20 December.

A reminder for those who are unsure what Messy Church is:

Messy Church is a way of being church for families based around hospitality, creativity and celebration. It is an all-age church for children with their parents, grandparents, family and friends, where everyone is valued equally.

If you would like to know more, please talk to: Jean Mercer [jean.sandways@gmail.com](mailto:jean.sandways@gmail.com) 07990582238 or Penny Joyce 01722 416054 [pennyre.joyce@gmail.com](mailto:pennyre.joyce@gmail.com)



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## POP UP YOUTH

Pop up Youth met in December, January and February 2020 and the group of 9-13 year olds were contacted via email in lockdown. It is hoped this will begin again as our pathway out of lockdown allows.



Due to Covid 19 in 2020 we were only able to hold 2 meetings. Since then members have kept in touch and cared for one another and, via email and Zoom, have shared in Diocesan and National Mothers' Union events.

And we have not been idle! All 3 altar kneelers for St George's are now complete and ready for use. Baby blankets have been knitted and taken to the Neonatal unit. The refreshments at the first card sale raised money to help pay the rental for the Holiday Scheme mobile home, and the cakes and preserves sold at the October card sale enabled us to send £225 to the Women's Refuge to help refurbish the residents' kitchen.

Katharine Callard



### **Pause for Prosecco**

A group of between 9 and 12 ladies have continued to meet once a month either outdoors or online via Zoom to discuss the larger questions in life such as What is courage? What is prayer? Where is God in the pandemic? What are angels like and for? We held an angel night exchanging small gifts and messages with another group member without them knowing who it was from. It has been a valuable group to encourage and support one another and to continue to be inquisitive about life and faith.

### **Pause for a Pint**

A group of 6-8 men met in January and February 2020. Since then, the group has been on hold partly because the pubs have been shut and partly because of the increased daily workload of Neil who runs the group.



### **ECO CHURCH REPORT**

Eco Church working group: Joanna Woodd, Olivia Thomson, Robert Salkeld.

#### PRAY

The Eco Church Group, being very dispersed have not met during this strangest of years. However, meetings have taken place outside with interested members of the Community, who have offered advice and their working skills, especially in the churchyards, and in this way, I believe we have tried to listen to God's voice, to grow His Kingdom for creation in the two churchyards. Many of us have been enthralled and captivated by the agility of the swifts when with us over those summer months, darting into their nests in St George's Church, which they obviously appreciate as their breeding home. During the season of Harvest we had a number of prayer stations in significant places in both churchyards for both adults and younger members of the community to use.

#### SERVE

Over the year relevant articles have been written periodically for the parish magazine. A couple of us were involved with the swift count. We are grateful to Piers Mobsby for his continuing advice and work on the wildflower patches in both churchyards and for planting grass over the eastern end at All Saints' churchyard. Also, we are grateful to Pam Rouquette for the wildlife hedge she has installed in the parish hall field; this will be developed further for younger members of the community to enjoy and discover. We are grateful to everyone who has participated in the work in the churchyards, and especially Ian and Heather Hobday for managing the green bin. Not to be forgotten is Kevin Clark, our contractor who offers not only his time and skills, but his love and depth of knowledge for both those resting in the grounds of the two churchyards, and the land itself, which he tends with care and respect.

#### GROW

As stated last year, we are registered with the Eco Church programme run by A Rocha. Unfortunately we have not made any further progress with achieving higher awards, as we are still waiting to change our energy supplier at All Saints and the Parish Hall, and for the cycle racks to be installed at All Saints. As explained previously it will take longer for St George's to achieve a higher award, as its assessment includes the scores for the Harnham Parish Hall, which will only improve significantly once the Hall Transformation Project is able to go ahead.

Joanna Woodd

## SOCIAL – EVENTS – HALL FUNDRAISING

Events committee: David Baker, Linda Baker, Jane Greenaway and David Stone.

Hall fundraising: Linda Baker, Jane Greenaway, Charles Woodd, Sacha Blanchard, Lucy Rouse, Sharon Garrick and Isabel Waters.

Social: Pam Macklin, Robert Salkeld, Ann Paterson, Josa Snow, David Baker, and Ayesha Nickol. Sue Witt sadly passed away during this year.



For obvious reasons social gatherings in 2020 didn't happen. However, the Hall Fundraising Committee was able to raise some funds in the following ways:

- ✓ Tesco token scheme
- ✓ Donations specifically for the Hall transformation.
- ✓ 100 Club
- ✓ Wreath making kits
- ✓ Virtual and one open garden

Linda Baker

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## COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE

Communications Committee: Revd Becky, Revd Julian, Charles Woodd, Linda Baker, Ian Davidson, David Stone, Ian Hobday, Olivia Thomson, Matthew Stone

### PRAY

The pandemic meant that our pattern of worship over the last year was forced to change dramatically. Crucial to our response to the required closing of our churches was the creation of the Parish YouTube channel. Seventy-two videos have been uploaded, including weekly reflections, parish services, Messy Church, weddings and funerals, and one-off events such as the Drive Round Nativity in December and the Harnham Virtual Gardens video in the summer. Numbers of views ranged from a handful of people, to over 200 for the Easter Sunday service, and 379 for the virtual Carol Service, which was partly recorded remotely by our faithful young people's choir. We are immensely indebted to Revd Julian for his work on recording and preparing videos for the channel, Revd Penny and the Messy church team, Matthew Stone for his technical support, as well as Revd Becky and other clergy who recorded reflections and services.

Another popular innovation was the holding of services outside in the Parish Hall Field, and here again this was made possible thanks to Revd Julian's equipment and technical expertise. As the year progressed, the importance of being able to offer services live online became apparent, and we were able to use Zoom for this. Possibilities were also being explored to equip All Saints for the live streaming of services, since the PCC felt this would continue to be an important way of reaching people, even when we are again able to worship in church. It was ironic that, thanks to a generous anonymous donor, we were able to renew and upgrade the sound system in St George's Church, at a time when church closure meant we could not immediately enjoy the benefits!

### SERVE AND GROW

We have continued to reach out to Harnham residents through the Parish website, the Parish Magazine, and social media. Various improvements to the website have been implemented, and the calendar was switched to Google calendar, thanks to the efforts of Ian Hobday. During successive lockdowns, we were forced to suspend delivery of the Magazine, instead emailing it to as many subscribers as we could, and leaving a supply in Harnham's three local shops for free collection. We are grateful to One Stop, Nisa and Harnham Local for their cooperation. The end of the year marked Grace Hickman's retirement from the role of overseeing Magazine distribution - huge thanks to her, and to Pam Ashley, who has taken over the responsibility.



Social media continue to be important vehicles for informing people about Parish activities, in the capable hands of Linda Baker and Olivia Thomson.

At the beginning of the year, the Communications Committee approved a protocol for the effective publicising of Parish events. Unfortunately, the pandemic has meant that events were largely off the agenda, so the protocol has still to be fully tested!

One further innovation that everyone will have noticed - there are now smart new noticeboards for the Parish Hall car park and St George's Church. All Saints' Church will soon also have its own, once Diocesan permission for its erection has been obtained.

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## **SAFEGUARDING REPORT**

The diocesan microsite where the Parish Safeguarding Officer (PSO) records volunteers and their roles is now completely up and running. This gives an "at a glance" register of people who help within the parish. It also allows for automatic renewal of DBS certificates as they fall due.

The PSO took the opportunity of the first lockdown in March/April to encourage those volunteers who had not completed C0 or C1 online to do so. Unfortunately plans to give help in person to those who did not feel confident of their technical skills, had to be postponed because of lockdown restrictions on social interaction. A number of volunteers successfully completed their DBS applications as these could be verified using Zoom, Facetime or similar.

The Vicar and the PSO have met on Zoom to update paperwork appertaining to safer recruitment, job descriptions and relevant policy amendments.

The PSO would also like to express her thanks to the Diocesan Safeguarding Team based in Church House for their support and prompt replies to queries.

Pam Macklin

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## **FINANCE TASK GROUP**

Finance Task Group:           Revd Becky, Michael Fisher, David Bartlett, Charles Woodd and David Curzon

## **PRAY, SERVE AND GROW**

The primary focus of the Finance Task Group has so far been to organise an annual Stewardship Campaign, the purpose of which is to ensure that the Parish has sufficient funds to support all its activities across the whole spectrum of Pray, Serve and Grow.

Because of lockdown, the Stewardship Campaign originally scheduled for May was eventually launched at the Harvest Festival service in September. Just under a quarter of the pledges returned reported an increased commitment. The number of donors opting to give through the Parish Giving Scheme continued to grow, which is very beneficial to the Parish in saved administration. In a year when our churches were forced to close for a number of months, the importance of planned giving not dependent on weekly collections was clearly reinforced, and its overall level held up well.

The increasing relevance and value of online giving also became apparent this year. To respond to this, the Parish registered with the online donation platform [www.give.net](http://www.give.net) which also allows for the creation of temporary pages for specific appeals. This worked well for the Harnham Christmas Appeal, which raised £2,156, shared between Salisbury Trust for the Homeless and the Parish's pastoral work, and for a Laptops for Home Learning appeal, which raised enough to purchase 3 laptops for children at Harnham Junior School, who lacked the facilities for online learning at home.

Charles Woodd



## MUSIC REPORT

At the start of 2020 who could have guessed at the year that lay ahead?

January saw our, by then, well established pattern of services with their normal musical content. In early February, following a short spell in hospital, I had to take a break so playing that month was covered by William Alexander and Malcolm Sturgess. Thank you to them for being so willing to step in. I must also mention the one service at the beginning of March when Revd Canon David Callard played the organ for the service he was conducting. He told me later that he wouldn't

want to repeat the experience! Then by mid-March Covid-19 had struck and we entered lockdown with all communal worship in church stopped.

This situation continued until August when services resumed, although in a much reduced form with some being held outside on the field. Organ music was provided at all 11am services at All Saints and a keyboard was used for outdoor worship along with archived Harnham and A Capella recordings both in outdoor worship and in our online services. As no congregational singing was permitted, Revd Julian Poppleton acted as Cantor and sang as and when required. As far as outdoor services were concerned, three of particular note were Harvest Festival Eucharist, celebrated by the Bishop of Salisbury, Remembrance Sunday with its 75th anniversary commemoration of the end of WW2 and a memorable but rather chilly Christmas Morning service.

It was really good that a locally recorded Parish Carol Service was made available on YouTube and all the thanks for that are to Revd Julian, who spent many hours, through the wonders of Zoom and social media, putting it together. Thanks also to his family and all those who took part from their various home locations all over the country.

Looking forward to getting back to something like normality in 2021.

Ian Davidson

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## DEANERY SYNOD

Deanery synod met once in 2020 to discuss a Deanery action plan.

Deanery chapter has met regularly to support each other in decision-making regarding Covid-19 and Church of England Guidelines.

## CHURCHES TOGETHER

Churches together have not met in 2020. There have been ongoing communications via emails promoting support systems and prayers for the city during the Covid pandemic.