

APCM Reports May 2021

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Rector's Report Annual Report for 2020

2020 began well enough but the COVID-19 Pandemic was to greatly affect and disrupt mission and ministry throughout the year and beyond leading to unprecedented disruption to church and society alike.

As the pandemic took hold during February, anticipating restrictions and mindful of the safety of our peoples, we first withdrew the 'common cup' and then took all precautions as recommended by HM Government. This resulted in special seating arrangements to socially distance persons and reduce intermixing and movement. A communion table was set up in the nave, all ceremonial reduced - communicants were to receive the consecrated bread from surgically gloved priest, all standing in the nave. 8am and 9:30am congregations were separated in transept and nave, pew cushions removed, seating arranged two per alternate pew. This greatly reduced seating capacity, but it proved sufficient. Our Churchwardens and Sidespersons have served us all very well in keeping us safe. Andrew Patrick advised us on safety by continuous reference to the C of E National Guidelines which frequently changed. Thank you!

On 23rd March 2020 the Government greatly curtailed freedom of movement and this led to the general closure of all things including church (the first 'Lockdown').

The need to halt and/or reduce social contact meant that social events planned for our 900th Anniversary celebrations throughout 2020 and all our carefully formulated Easter to Advent programme was lost. Sunday worship was quickly enabled online by Zoom in the form of an Agape Communion. We were now all on a steep learning-curve. We did well!

During the electrical works an audio-visual system (AV) was installed with three fixed high-level cameras and a mobile High-Definition camera, utilised to broadcast our services on YouTube as well as Zoom. We increased our order from two to four large video screens to improve visibility, anticipating the use of side aisles and transepts. Wiring was installed to connect screens and WIFI at strategic locations throughout the Minster. Our internet connection speed then proved insufficient, so steps were taken to move our telecoms contract to both save costs and appoint a new provider of Super-Fast Broadband. I record the assistance of our Member of Parliament in interceding on our behalf with BT. The new arrangements proved complex to achieve, and I wish to record special thanks to Beatrice Dopita for her sustained hard work and successful spearheading of this vital work.

The ability to share online worship on Sundays and Wednesdays thus progressively advanced over time. A distinct feature has been the conduct of Daily Prayers on Zoom, morning and evenings, with a much larger number of participants than was the case when they were held in the Minster Crypt.

The Annual Parochial Church Meeting due on 27th March could not take place and was finally held on 14th October 2020, as soon as conditions allowed (Bishop's dispensation granted to cover the exceptional delay).

In 2020 The Minster remained either fully closed, or only open for limited-numbers services and funerals and weddings. Two weddings were suddenly brought forward to 26th September in anticipation of an impending new ban. The disruption to the Occasional Offices of weddings, baptisms and funerals was severe. We spare a thought for all so affected.

Face to face meetings were not possible so 'business' was conducted online by Zoom, with the Standing Committee overseeing all matters.

Oversight of the Minster congregations in terms of pastoral care and practical management continued by telephone and Zoom. It was a very busy time indeed. Regular letters were written, recognising that perhaps half of our congregations did not access the Minster online. My thanks to Anne Pollard and our other LPA's and the Oasis team for all they were able to do. I also appreciate all the inter-congregational support - fully in the biblical spirit of loving one another. Home Communion, pastoral visiting by clergy and LPA's had to cease. All group meetings ceased, but several then resumed on Zoom - such as House Groups.

Early on in the crisis one couldn't do much but procure shopping and medications for others. The Mayor, Councillor Shane Bartlett*, organised a team to provide daily cooked food deliveries of which I was part in the early weeks. This provided food from the Allendale Centre as a local scheme with Dorset Council involvement as time passed. *Praise is due.

In the early weeks Wimborne FM asked me to provide a weekly spiritual input which was a novel experience of recording a piece to mobile phone and sending it in to be broadcast. Bible readings and sermons were also recorded and uploaded to our Minster Website. Many thanks to Anthony Wakeling for his extra time and trouble in steadfastly updating our site.

As normal activities ceased, income was curtailed. Vergers and Shop/Administration staff were promptly furloughed, under the government Job Support Scheme, and support payments duly claimed. The Parish Secretary and Finance Officer continued to work, but mainly from home - for which again, appreciation and thanks are offered.

In anticipation of the ending of the original government furlough scheme, I held consultations with staff and redundancy terms were offered. As a result, we sadly bade farewell to Ashley Coombs (Verger) and Donna Gosney (Shop Manager and Administration Officer), recognising and thanking them for their service. The Minster Shop (Wimborne Minster Ltd) was closed from March onwards, and the directors subsequently took the difficult decision to cease trading.

The Chained Library and Minster Guides were also forced into suspension.

Nick Wells joined me as an Ordinand and Assistant Curate in Training and was finally ordained Deacon by Bishop Nicholas at the Cathedral on 26th September (delayed from 28th June). I appreciate Nick's patience and flexibility in doing all he was able to join in with us here – what a way to start a curacy, with no welcome party at 'The Inn'!

In July the Minster re-opened for worship on Sundays at 8am (BCP) and 9:30am (CW) Holy Communion under the strict COVID-19 restrictions. This limited numbers, dictated spacings and prohibited mixing. 'Track & Trace records' were kept as required for 21 days and then destroyed. Singing by choir and congregation in churches was banned for our safety.

Our many external Carol services and bookings for Advent were cancelled. Minster Crib and Carol services, at which we could not sing, were quite a difficult proposition! These became 'Said Services' at which music and images were displayed using our video screens. The public had to book places – two Crib Services were organised and run by Revd Nick.

By the year-end a 'Second Wave' upsurge of COVID-19 infection was spreading. With careful attention to all the safety considerations I consulted with the Church Wardens and the difficult decision was made to voluntarily close again, until it was safe to reopen.

I spent considerable time with David Steele (thanks) revising the Organ Contract. This PCC contract for £504,325 plus VAT (which we reclaim) and a further £50,000 of associated costs merited careful management.

Although we have been variously 'locked down', we have been active in many spheres to which this report will refer, and distinct progress has been made. It has been a testing time and has necessitated hard work, patience, and adaptability. The Standing Committee: Church Wardens, Peter Cook and Bruce Jensen and Assistants, Andrew Patrick and Richard Knott have met regularly together with our PCC Secretary Beatrice Dopita; we have been diligent these past months. We owe them our gratitude and sincere thanks. There is of course a hidden team of many others who each play their important part to enable this major church to

function. Resilience and faithfulness have been our watchwords. Well done good and faithful servants (sorry there is no master's rest yet!).

2020 was an historic year which will be remembered like no other before in our lifetimes, not as the intended celebration but as a year of confinement and lamentation.

Interim Report January 1st – 26th April 2021

Due to the present unique circumstances, I offer an interim report for the delayed 2021 APCM, now scheduled for May 19th 2021.

In January we were closed (voluntarily) once again. Clergy and Wardens, together with Organist and Cantor (once allowed) broadcast worship from The Minster until it was finally judged safe to re-open, on Sundays only, from Passion Sunday 21st March 2021.

The Easter liturgies were adapted to enable the best worship we could offer in the limiting circumstances. We washed one set of hands instead of twelve sets of feet on Maundy Thursday!

My special thanks to Rev Heather for her assistance, hard work and imagination in adapting our liturgy. The Easter Dawn liturgy with its Easter bonfire raised a Pillar of Cloud to be proud of. Heather Davey sang the Exultet. There was a full programme of worship through Holy Week and Easter. We kept the feast. Alleluia! Flowers decorated the Minster and we were raised to new life! Thank you to Christine Oliver and team. Our congregations were however much reduced from normal levels.

I would like to offer, on behalf of all of us, special thanks to Colin Davey and the Choir for their important contribution to leading and enabling our worship during this unusual time which we all hope and pray will be both a time of recovery and new beginnings.

My thanks to Jane MacCaig who has run the Parish Office with great care and skill and kept us organised. She has kept the channels of communication open and helped me to write regularly to those who cannot readily access the internet. We have now bid farewell and happy retirement to Karen Manneh who retired from the accounts role in April, and welcomed Jackie Morgan as Accounts and Administration Manager, to bolster our growing team ministry here and at the Wimborne Villages (adding oversight of Kingston Lacy and Shapwick from May 1st).

Revd Nick Wells has been a great help to us all and we are enjoying the real blessing of his presence in our midst. We look forward to his ordination as Priest on 26th June and finally a party to celebrate.

The Daily Prayer 'Offices' on Zoom have greatly helped to sustain us, spiritually. They reach through the ether across the entire benefice, and beyond. Thank you for your prayers and companionship.

We marked the recent death of HRH, The Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh with a Memorial Eucharist on Sunday 11th April and an Act of Thanksgiving within Choral Evensong on Friday 16th April with Karen, Bishop of Sherborne and Civil Dignitaries of Dorset. My thanks to Anthony Oliver with his help in organisation and for his role in Public Relations which has been very successful. Thanks also to David and Flick Warwick for tolling the bells – how we miss the full peal.

We currently plan to fully open The Minster from 21st June, but will have to organise a team of volunteers to facilitate seven day opening, which will otherwise not be possible.

With thanks to God for all that is past and looking forwards with hope through 2021, and beyond.

Revd Canon Andrew Rowland – Rector, Feast Day of Saint Mark, 2021.

Churchwarden's Report

Although it was less than a year ago that I gave my previous report, a lot has happened in the last few months. The Minster, in spite of being closed for almost three months at the start of the New Year, has featured in the national press with pictures of young choristers and a large feature picture of the removal of the trumpets from the organ.

At the time of the last APCM, in October 2020, there was no heating as our boiler had failed a safety inspection because of a rusted and corroded gas pipe. The steel pipe that ran parallel to the North Aisle wall between the gas cupboard and the boiler was replaced with a modern PVC-type pipe, buried slightly deeper to keep it away from the (buried) lightning-conductor tape. New fittings now connect it to the boiler. The opening which was allowing water into the boiler room was sealed. A safety device, a solenoid that automatically cuts off the gas when the electricity fails, was purchased but has not yet been installed. More recently we made changes to the boiler settings as an ongoing experiment to lower the carbon footprint of the Minster. We are monitoring the temperature and humidity in the Chained Library to make sure the books are not adversely affected. This year we hope to buy and install a separate heating/humidity control system for the Chained Library. Also, while the organ is not there, we plan to re-lag the heating pipes which go underneath the floor below the organ.

Also, in October, we were still awaiting confirmation of the process for a faculty for the organ work from the DAC. The faculty was finally granted in December. The builders fortunately did not increase the quoted figure as the New Year dawned and my thanks go to a certain member of the PCC who carefully scrutinised the contract along with the Rector to ensure we signed a water-tight document which was endorsed almost unanimously by the PCC. All of the costs of this work are being met from grants from our own charities together with some from local trusts and one or two national bodies. For a week at the beginning of February the Minster was full of organ parts which were removed in double quick time. However the builders left the Minster clean and tidy after this, with two of their staff spending a further few weeks in St George's Chapel cleaning and repairing pipes. St George's is now clear, with those pipes remaining being stored in the Crypt. Further progress reports will be issued as the work continues. The latest being that final design work, on the new cases, has been agreed with our architect. The area will be professionally cleaned and tidied, as recommended by our architect, before the organ is returned.

The risks of the pandemic were brought home to us in December when our Churchwarden Bruce contracted the virus and had to spend several weeks at home. I am personally very grateful to him for his continued work following his recovery and his careful watch on the temperatures and humidity in the chained library.

New Chairs were delivered in December in time for Christmas with some additional ones with arms being received just before we re-opened in March.

With help of Contour Design, who are moving into the building next door to Church House (formerly Almondbury's) Bruce unblocked & repaired a drain-pipe, moved the old flower tubs and installed some anti-pigeon equipment to help improve the appearance and to get rid of a damp problem. With the aid of the MEG group we are trying to make the building more energy-efficient. We have lagged an exposed hot water pipe and are planning to put reflectors behind the exterior-wall radiators. We have investigated the insulation in the roof and obtained a quote for double-glazing the windows. Following a survey of the lighting, we are having those fittings that cannot take LED bulbs replaced.

The God's Acre team have managed to continue to meet and keep the area looking beautiful for those people who have been using it for an outside meeting place. I look forward to joining them for coffee again in the near future.

A Big thank you also goes to the "Minster Team" Bruce Jensen, Andrew Patrick and Richard Knott for keeping things going and supporting both the Rector and myself. Particular thanks go to Beatrice, our PCC Secretary, for managing the transfer to Fibre Broadband and installation of a new digital telephone system.

Colin Davey has done a sterling job with the music, arranging some superb music over Christmas and then keeping music going at a high standard with various cantors from the choir during the lockdown in the New Year. We are also grateful to his family for their support and being an active part of the Minster Family.

Karen Manneh retired in March and we are very appreciative of her work over the last several years, not made easy during the past 12 months as she had to shield at home. Fortunately, we have been blessed in her replacement, Jackie Morgan, who has taken on not only the finance but also the admin that Donna used to oversee. Our Parish Secretary, Jane, has continued to provide support for the Parish, producing the weekly sheets and much other work behind the scenes to support the Rector and Churchwardens.

Holy Week and Easter this year, whilst different from a normal year, was highly successful. The sung Compline by candlelight was atmospheric and very moving and several people came on all three nights. Easter Day was busy but a joy and the weather was kind, especially as we managed to actually join together in song again – albeit on the Minster Green rather than inside. There has been continuing maintenance work on the sound & AV systems in the Minster and we are taking advantage of the absence of the organ to clear out redundant sound and electric cabling. The video system, despite teething problems, is enabling us to broadcast the Sunday services from the Minster over the internet. Gordon Edgar, Bruce Jensen and Beatrice Dopita have spent time on ensuring we provide a good service to those who watch online. This means that we were able to continue services in the Minster throughout the lockdowns, including the long lockdown from Dec 27 2020 to Passion Sunday, March 21 2021. Since Passion Sunday, we have continued with social-distanced services.

Going forward, we expect work to start on the replacement of the rear nave floor later this year once we have an archaeological plan in place to satisfy the terms of the faculty and we soon hope to obtain the faculty to install the new stairs in the Bell Tower.

The Rector and Revd Heather have managed the liturgy during the lockdown and Revd Heather has produced some thoughtful and inspiring variations to the regular rubric. Revd Nick Wells has had an unusual start to his curate-ship but he has easily fitted into the clergy team and his contributions to worship are much appreciated.

Our Rector, Canon Andrew, has provided us with positive leadership in difficult times and *Team Wimborne* has been able to move forward on a number of fronts in spite of various restrictions.

Anthony Oliver and the sides-people have managed the communal worship with all its special requirements especially during Christmas with a booking system. Verger John, as always, has been immensely helpful in all situations giving us advice on various aspects of the Minster, as I am still learning something almost every week. He has helped both Bruce and myself in checking the inventory which is a requirement of the churchwardens at this time of year.

Inevitably, I have probably left someone out and so profuse apologies to them, whoever they are. Everyone who has given help and advice to Bruce and myself is much appreciated and valued.

Looking forward, we are considering how to open the church to the public for tourism & private prayer, initially for just a few days per week, and re-establishing volunteer rotas on things like counting, silver cleaning, vestry linen, guides and the Chained Library. We are also in the process of organising the Monday Lunch-time recital series and we should be able to mount the Michael James Trust Music Box week, though probably it will not be a full week this year. Outside groups are already starting to book events – we have two concerts in July plus the regular visit by Laudemus for Evensong on 17th July.

Indeed an unusual year for your Churchwardens, but nevertheless an interesting and an educational one.

Peter Cook & Bruce Jensen, Churchwardens.

Treasurer's Report Minster Finance Report on 2020

This a report of two halves: projects and day-to-day finances. The former has undoubtedly been a success; the latter was expected to be a problem and Covid has exacerbated the issue.

To start with the good news, the cost of the new lighting, audio-visual and Wi-Fi, costing nearly £250,000 has been entirely paid. Generous grants from the Governors, Friends of the Minster, Talbot Trust and others have meant that none of the expense has fallen on the Minster itself. At the time of writing there are still some teething problems to be addressed but, overall, the improvements have been impressive, apparent even when attending services online. When in the building itself, those in the aisles feel much more part of

the service, the lighting is much more flexible, and soon we can use the improved Wi-Fi to move forward on the contactless giving.

The second project, to completely overhaul the 17th century organ at a cost of almost £600,000, has now raised enough of that to start the work, as evidenced by the pipes that are lying round the Minster and the dismantled pieces of the instrument that are being taken away. Financially, the target is now to raise the rest of the £1,000,000 that we need to launch the organ scholarship and other aspects of the Minster's music programme. Along with other lesser projects, such as the restoration of two ancient tombs and the Victorian automatic chiming system, there is no doubt that the hard work raising money from a variety of sources will have a welcome impact on the life of the Minster.

Our regular costs remain a problem. The subsidy we negotiated with the diocese went from 21% in 2019 to 14% in 2020 (2021 will be the last year with any subsidy at all: 7%) which would have presented problems by itself but, when Covid arrived, while our monthly giving remained fairly steady, our collections and donations fell off a cliff. In addition we were unable to let out our buildings or organise fundraising activities. Some significant furlough money from the government and a small grant from the local council helped, but we were forced to make one Verger redundant (which didn't actually save any money in 2020) and the shop, for so long a significant contributor to our funds, now loses money so has had to close.

As I mentioned in last year's report, we have only been able to pay this year's Parish Share by using part of a bequest. There are those who believe all such bequests should be used for particular projects which can maintain the memory of those giving the legacy, but most charities outside the church rely hugely on legacies for running their charities and I see no reason why that shouldn't be the case here. Not to do so undermines the importance of our mission, to some extent, as the Parish Share, the largest cost we face, is used to pay the stipends of our clergy whose role is to lead that mission. Most bequests will not be used to pay electricity bills (which are paid from other funds) and other prosaic costs, but to subsidise the good works that are fundamental to the Minster. In normal circumstances we would by now have joined the diocesan campaign to raise awareness of bequests, but that has been delayed until late in 2021, so we will need to decide whether we also wait.

Our long term aim is not only to make sure our income matches our expenditure, but to rely less heavily on the various Trusts which, ideally, should be used for more exciting prospects than our gas bills. We are examining further projects that could also help generate funds but, even if those are some way off, I remain optimistic that we will always be able to pay our full Parish Share.

As I write we have just appointed a new and very experienced Finance and Administration Manager whose skills will not only ensure that the PCC receives accurate and useful financial reports, but will help us on our way to financial stability.

Richard Knott, Treasurer

Curate's Report

It's hard to believe that it has been nearly 10 months since my family, and I arrived in Wimborne. During that time Ruth has been licenced to her role as Lead Chaplain for the multi-faith chaplaincy team at Bournemouth University and Arts University, Esme has started at Queen Elizabeth's, Eden at St Michaels Middle and Etienne at Forest school. I am pleased to report that we have settled in well are all loving our life in the Wimborne area. Whilst arriving during a global pandemic has limited some of the activities, I'd normally been engaging with it has also provided opportunities.

Over the festive period I was able to take part in several online services for the local schools and worked with a group of young people from 'Innovate Dorset' to prepare gift bags for our crib service. I am currently in the process of learning how to organise Christian Aid Week so that I can take the baton on from Robert Pierce as Christian Aid Week co-ordinator. As well as meeting people in their gardens, when it's been possible, and visiting some of the many groups associated with Wimborne Minster, I've also Joined the Wimborne Community Hub as the Church representative. This recent venture promises to be an exciting opportunity to develop links between local churches, the Wimborne Academy Trust and other key organisations in order to provide support and opportunities for our young people.

Thank you again for your welcome so far

Revd Nick Wells

Captain of the Bell Tower,

From the Ringing Chamber - APCM May 2021

During the summer months of 2020 we were able to ring seven bells for Sunday services only, somewhat disjunct in sound as we were required to stand 2m apart, and then in the Autumn this was reduced to the 'rule of six'. Following the November lockdown the bells fell silent again, and have remained so, excepting a joyous sounding for 15 minutes on both Christmas and Easter mornings.

The tenor bell was tolled on Remembrance Day, 100 times on 31st January to remember the 100,000 deaths from Covid19 in the UK, and 99 times on the day of HRH Prince Philip's funeral in April.

Meanwhile during lockdown, the ringing team has been holding virtual practices on Zoom, practising on handbells, repainting the belfry frame, and looking forward to a resumption of proper ringing in June.

David Warwick Tower Captain - April 2021

Choir Report

The Minster Choir has risen to the demands of Covid-based restrictions. We celebrated Christmas with the choir at full strength; and the choristers have been rehearsing twice a week on Zoom whenever we've been unable to meet in person. Every week, while we were unable to sing in the building, a cantor from the choir led the musical parts of our streamed services. We are currently recruiting new trebles and have had a good level of interest in the opportunities we offer. The regularisation of an additional adult soprano line has brought in a mixture of returning old choristers and new singers, and has extended the range of services and repertoire. We look to the future with excitement.

Colin Davey

Diocesan Synod Report,

The 2020 Diocesan Synods were inevitably disrupted by the Covid 19 pandemic and were held on 29 February (St Nicholas', Corfe Mullen), 10 September (on zoom) and 17 October (on zoom). See full minutes on Diocesan website at www.salisbury.anglican.org

The year was dominated by the difficult financial challenges confronting the Diocese and the wider church. The intention to establish a 5 year financial framework with the goal of eliminating the Diocese's annual deficit over 4/5 years, a revised Fairer Share scheme and a stewardship campaign were overwhelmed by the emergence of the pandemic shortly

after the February meeting. Instead, Synod concentrated during the rest of 2020 on preparing, discussing and agreeing a 'transitional, holding steady' Diocesan Budget for 2021 in order to give time to assess the impact of the pandemic. The longer term plans are likely to be moving forward during the second half of 2021.

Bishop Nicholas has now announced that he will be retiring as our Diocesan Bishop in July 2021, and this will be followed by an inter-regnum of unknown duration under the leadership of Bishop Karen.

The use of the Cathedral as a Covid vaccination centre has been widely acclaimed.

David Steele

Deanery Synod Report,

Wimborne Deanery Synod has held regular meetings on Zoom which have been very helpful in keeping the community together and up to date. In addition to the normal meetings, a special meeting considered the Statement of Need to feed into the process of the appointment of a new Bishop of Salisbury. We considered what is important to us in a new Bishop.

The regular meetings covered a broad spectrum of issues, focusing on what has been affected particularly by the pandemic – for example finance, the Deanery Action Plan and what we, as a Christian community have learnt from the experiences what we can incorporate into the life of the church. Small break out groups helped us to focus on important lessons we can take forward; as well as giving us the opportunity to get to know people from other parishes.

Unlike many Zoom meetings, the Deanery Synod ones have been very well run.

Mrs Anne King, 3rd May 2021

Friends of Wimborne Minster Report,

The Friends of Wimborne Minster is a registered charitable incorporated organisation originally set up in 1945 to support the Minster with regard to its buildings and its mission.

During 2020 grants were made to the Minster for:

- New Altar Linen and vestments
- Organ rebuilding

Our major contribution to the Minster in 2020/21 has been a total grant of £170,000 towards the rebuilding of the organ and we look forward to its re-appearance in early 2022.

We are actively seeking new members, so if you are not a member, come and join us now. We are also seeking volunteers who may wish to become trustees of the charity at the AGM on 12th July, at which the Dean of Salisbury will be present. The Secretary (Peter Cook) will be happy to discuss membership or trustee duties of the Friends with anyone who is interested after Parish Eucharist on Sunday 29th March (or any other last Sunday in the month) or can be contacted via the Parish Office.

Sadly we have not been able to hold any events for our 75th anniversary due to the coronavirus but we have secured a visit by the Dean of Salisbury for our AGM on 4th July. The concert postponed from May 2020 is scheduled for 23rd October this year and we hope to be able to hold the double Cuthburga Lecture in September.

Peter Cook – Secretary

God's Acre,

It has of course been a stop and start year for the God's Acre team. Much of the time during the later lockdowns however we have felt able to work at a safe distance from each other in the open air. Work continues to try to make a small area to encourage wildlife and a place of peace and tranquillity in the midst of a busy town.

Mrs Margaret Turner

Greenbelt Group Report on 2020

With a break during the summer, the Greenbelt Group has continued to meet throughout 2020, starting the year together in Church House and then switching to on-line meetings in April. With an average of twelve faces on screen, we have learnt about and discussed a range of subjects; social, ethical, environmental and personal, asking what these mean for us as individuals and for the church today. It was even possible to hold a Write for Rights session on-line. In the early months of the pandemic we also had some social on-line meet-ups and, for some of us, these were a kind of lifeline as we adjusted to a world with little personal interaction. We have grown closer as a group, sharing our stories and, schooled by Zoom, have been learning to take time to listen to each other properly. This has been the silver lining that we would hope to bring with us when we return from the virtual to the real world.

Ms. Rosemary Lunt

Home Groups: (Combined Report)

Despite not being able to meet in person, home groups have flourished during the lockdowns. Most groups have continued to meet regularly on Zoom but others have focused on keeping in touch by phone. All the groups have been able to encourage one another by prayer and many have found this a time of special growth, as other demands on our time have been less. It's been particularly encouraging to see the progress of a new group - Wellspring - which was formed only shortly before the pandemic struck but has nevertheless continued to thrive.

Groups have followed a wide-ranging section of study material including a course from the Alabare homeless charity, 'Spot the Difference' about Christian life and service and 'Busyness' looking at the way we chose to prioritise time in our lives, as well as more traditional studies such as Psalms, The Holy Spirit and Prayer. The Barclay Group has continued to give financial support to Mamadu, a young boy in Senegal.

There will shortly be an article in print with more details about these and other activities. If you would like to find out more about being in a Home Group please contact Tricia Knott 01202 885078.

Mrs Tricia Knott

Lay Worship Team Report,

Under the direction of Revd Heather Waldsax, with Revd Nick Wells, the Minster's team of commissioned Lay Worship Leaders has taken two main services since the last APCM, "Christmas Sunday" and Mothering Sunday, otherwise focussing on the twice-monthly "Minster Praise". Before Easter this was on Zoom only. To continue offering it on Zoom or YouTube more AV operators are needed. The AV system now means "Minster Praise" is paper-less (helping reduce the Minster's carbon footprint) so we are learning how to make the most of this media opportunity. More trained Lay Worship Leaders are needed to enable "Minster Praise" to go weekly.

Andrew Patrick

Lay Pastoral Assistants

Sadly due to the Covid virus we, as Pastoral Assistants, have been unable to visit those in need, however contact through the phone etc. has been kept up and many have been grateful for that call and have expressed their appreciation that they have not been forgotten. Prayer has been a big part of our pastoral care. The Oasis Group have been very active and our thanks and admiration goes out to those who run this very vital group - they have met in small numbers and have contacted, as best they could, those who have recently been bereaved. It is a difficult time for everyone, but to know that you are not on your own is a blessing.

Mrs Anne Pollard

Minster Environment Group (MEG)

2020 was a quiet year for MEG as the Covid restrictions prevented activities. However we continued to work 'behind the scenes' and met 4 times in total, 3 by video conferencing.

The members of the group are: Alison Francis (Chair) Derrick Powell, Elfie Mills, Jackie Leever, Linda Bunting, Mary Allen, Mike Lunt, Robert Pearce.

We have been:

- Continuing to work towards the Eco Church silver award. The only section of the award in which we are not able to achieve a level of silver or gold is for our buildings. But we continue to make progress towards it.
- Continuing to monitor our carbon emissions and seeking ways to reduce them.
- Assisting the PCC in forming a pathway to Net Zero carbon emissions. This has involved learning more about the ways to do this – particularly through webinars run by the C of E and renewable energy companies.
- Starting to formulate a Minster Environment Policy.
- Instigating Toilet and Tap Twinning in Church House.
- Linking with local organisations
 - Wimborne War on Waste
 - Win on Waste
 - Wilding Wimborne
 - Repair Café
 - Planning for Wimborne Green Festivals
 - Planet Wimborne – which is an 'umbrella' organisation for all our local 'green' groups

- Providing input into the consultation for Dorset County Council Environment Policy.

The COP 26 Conference is expected to be held in Glasgow later this year and we are looking ahead to this event. A Climate Sunday will be held on 6th June.

Mrs Alison Francis

Mothers' Union

Mothers' Union members have really missed meeting together. A third of the members have no access to technology and we have tried to keep in touch by phone. Email has been used and a few members joined in the Deanery Wave of Prayer led by Liz Bowler in West Moors and the Salisbury Diocesan Lady Day Service on Zoom. When at all possible we have met in my garden in small groups for tea and chat. Each member had a posy and card on Mothering Sunday to remind them that they weren't forgotten! We look forward to meeting as a group soon even if it outside in the garden!

Mrs Di Hiscock

Oasis

Lockdown has been especially difficult for many of the group, and there are several new members who have lost loved ones during the past year. Because of lockdown, support has been very difficult both from ourselves and from friends and family. We organized telephone contact amongst the members themselves and from the leaders. We have had a number of zoom meetings, sharing news and reading out interesting items to the group. For those without computer technology it has been especially difficult and several have missed going to church. Fortunately, we are now able to meet outdoors in small groups and are currently having some coffee mornings in God's Acre, then in members gardens.

Mrs Carol Jarvis

Open the Book

'Open the Book' is the scheme by which volunteer Christians take Bible stories into schools. Members of the Minster participate with members of St John's Wimborne and other local churches to take stories to Wimborne First School. Since March 2020, this has been done through edited

recordings of stories acted out individually in our own homes on Zoom, the resulting films being sent to all our first schools, not Wimborne First only. We have performed seven New Testament stories, including 'Just Hoping', about Christmas, and 'A Soldier's Story, about Easter. During this time the school has relocated, so we hope to be invited into the new building when COVID-19 restrictions and the school's busy transition period permit. It is a great privilege - and great fun - to share with the children the heritage of Bible stories. Many thanks are due to our organiser, Sheila Soper, and our technical wizard, Kevin Metcalfe.

Mrs De Ashton 28.04.21

Publicity Officer's Report, Anthony Oliver

In spite of three lockdowns over the past year and the lack of the normal round of events to either advertise or report on I have managed to keep the Minster in the Public Eye particularly since October in both the Local and National Press and on Radio Solent. Pictures have appeared in the Daily Telegraph and The Times and the Locals on issues such as Flower Arranging, the Choristers at Christmas, Pancake Tossing, Organ Trumpet dismantling and Chris Slocock's Walking 900. I have managed to form a good relationship with the Daily Telegraphs Russell Sach who is up to visiting in the hope of capturing the most unusual of photos. The Minster has also appeared on a number of occasions on the Diocesan website. So whenever possible Press Notices have continued to be sent to all the media in the hope of gaining some additional publicity.

The latest articles have also appeared in the New Stour and Avon Magazine which although under new ownership is good to have back as a fortnightly community newspaper which will help to give even more up to date publicity than the former monthly publication. The Magazine is available to be picked up from various sites around the Town including the Minster.

Anthony Oliver - Minster's Publicity Officer.

Wimborne Minster Musical Heritage Trust

The trust was established in early 2020 to manage the finance of the Minster Makes Music Appeal. It is a non-membership charitable incorporated organisation. The five trustees have met during the year and have overseen grants to the PCC for the organ rebuilding. We also have some funds in reserve towards the cost of an organ scholar. The accounts

have been duly audited and agreed as required by the Charity Commission and the trust is now registered for reclaiming of VAT on donations. Cheques for the appeal should be made payable to: Wimborne Minster Musical Heritage Trust.

Peter Cook - Trustee