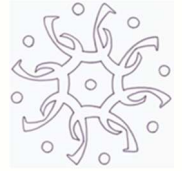




ST. CATHERINE'S CHURCH, LITTLETON



DIOCESE OF WINCHESTER

**ANNUAL REVIEW OF ACTIVITIES
BY THE
PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL
FOR THE
YEAR ENDING 31ST DECEMBER 2020**

RECTOR:

THE REVD JJ MACHIN

CHURCHWARDENS:

SIMON KINGSTON

CLIVE THOMPSETT

ST CATHERINE'S CHURCH LITTLETON

ANNUAL REVIEW FOR 2020

CONTENTS

1. INTRODUCTION	1
1.1 Context	1
1.2 Representatives	1
1.3 Explanation of Strategic Priorities	1
2. STRATEGIC PRIORITY 1	3
2.1 Church Membership	3
2.2 Ministry Team	3
2.3 Services.....	3
2.4 Deanery Synod	4
2.5 House Groups.....	5
2.6 Downs Benefice – 2020 series of Lent Talks	5
2.7 Prayer	6
2.8 Peace and Wholeness	6
2.9 Music.....	6
3. STRATEGIC PRIORITY 2.....	7
3.1 Littleton Church Toddler Group.....	7
3.2 Children's Work	7
3.3 Messy Church	8
3.4 Social and Fundraising Events.....	9
4. STRATEGIC PRIORITY 3.....	9
4.1 Parish Visitors.....	9
4.2 Village Outreach.....	9
4.3 Mission Support Group.....	10
4.4 Littleton Luncheon Club	10
4.5 Residential Care Homes	11
4.6 Christmas Gifts for the Winchester Nightshelter	11
4.7 Safeguarding.....	12
5. STRATEGIC PRIORITY 4.....	12
5.1 Finance.....	12
5.2 Volunteers	13
5.3 Church Fabric.....	15
5.4 Churchyards	15
5.5 The Church Room.....	15
5.6 Eco Church	16

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 Context

St Catherine's Church, Littleton, sits within the Downs Benefice, which was created in 2008 and comprises St Catherine's Littleton, St Stephen's Sparsholt with Lainston, St Mary's Crawley, St Mary-the-less Chilbolton and St Peter and Holy Cross Wherwell. The Downs Benefice lies within the Andover Deanery.

The Revd Jax Machin, as Incumbent, leads the Benefice with support from a ministry team comprising retired clergy, Licensed Lay Ministers and other lay leaders.

The five Parochial Councils and Benefice Council continue to be supported by the benefice administrator and a vast host of others, each of whom make a valuable contribution to the work of God in this place.

In 2020 and continuing into 2021 there was major disruption to the life of the parish occasioned by the Covid-19 pandemic. There was a full 'lockdown' with effect from 23rd March and more limited restrictions imposed, partially released and re-imposed during the second half of the year.

Simon Kingston
Churchwarden

1.2 Representatives

During the year the following served as members of the PCC:

<i>Incumbent:</i>	The Revd Jax Machin
<i>Wardens:</i>	Mr Simon Kingston
	Mr Clive Thompsett (Treasurer)
<i>Representative on the Diocesan Synod:</i>	Mr Michael Coleman
<i>Representatives on Deanery Synod:</i>	Mr Simon Kingston
	Mr Clive Thompsett
<i>Elected Members:</i>	
Mrs Carol Coleman	
Mr Bryan Harris	Secretary
Mrs Lucy Kington	(until October 2020)
Mr Michael Lupton	(until October 2020)
Mr John Morrell	
Mrs Sheila North	
Mrs Helen Retter	

Bryan Harris
PCC Secretary

1.3 Explanation of Strategic Priorities

The following strategic priorities were identified by the Diocese in 2013 and mission action plans (MAPs) have subsequently been formulated to focus on these priorities by the Deanery (dMAP) and through the Deanery by individual benefices (bMAPs) and parishes (pMAPs). The strategic priorities have not changed, but in 2018 a sub-group of

the Downs Benefice Council started a review of the current bMAP to chart progress and to refine the objectives for the next three years by reference to the individual parishes. The most recent published version of the bMAP (updated in September 2019) can be found on the benefice web-site (www.downsbenefice.org). As in the last 6 years, this Annual Review has been laid out in sections by reference to each of the 4 strategic priorities.

Strategic Priority 1 - Discipleship

We grow authentic disciples going out as individuals passionately, confidently and courageously sharing our faith, and coming together as creative church communities of prayer and worship that live out Kingdom values.

- *dMAP Objective:* To train, resource, and motivate people more readily to live out their faith.

Strategic Priority 2 - Re-imagining the Church

We re-imagine the Church intentionally connecting and engaging with our local communities in culturally relevant ways. We shall rejoice in the richness of the 'mixed economy' of all ministry and proactively promote vibrant parochial and breath-taking pioneering ministries amongst 'missing' generations, *eg.* children, young people, under 35s.

- *dMAP Objective:* To engage actively with young families, children and youth, especially in schools.

Strategic Priority 3 - Working for Social Transformation

We are agents of social transformation using our influence as a Diocese to transform public and personal life. We shall demonstrate loving faith at work in local communities and across the globe, bringing healing, restoration and reconciliation, *eg.* through education, social enterprise, health care, spiritual care teams.

- *dMAP objective:* To develop a Pastoral Care Ministry which will transform lives in our local communities.

Strategic Priority 4 - Sacrificial Giving and Good Stewardship

We belong together in Christ, practising sacrificial giving and good stewardship of all that God has entrusted to us. We shall combine radical generosity, care and capacity building with a clear focus on directing finance into the mission of Jesus. Sharing and multiplying local good practice, using people, buildings and other resources wisely, we shall seek to prune, plant and invest boldly in building for the Kingdom.

- *dMAP objective:* To continue developing a more unified Deanery identity, sharing our resources more eagerly.

Simon Kingston
Churchwarden

2. STRATEGIC PRIORITY 1

2.1 Church Membership

At 31st December, 2019, there were 148 persons on the electoral roll. Of these 55 (37%) were non-resident in the parish. The following movements have taken place:

	Members
Electoral roll as at 1 st January 2020	148
Post January 2020: Died	-4
Moved away	-4
Returned to parish	2
Electoral roll as at 31 st December 2020	142
of whom 92 (65%) lived within the parish and 50 (35%) lived outside the parish.	

Bryan Harris
Electoral Roll Officer

2.2 Ministry Team

The Revd Jax Machin continues as our Incumbent, having now completed her sixth full calendar year in what is her first parish. She manages a daunting workload in the Downs Benefice combining leadership with preaching, pastoral care and the myriad *ex officio* commitments which she undertakes with passion and good sense.

We have also been fortunate to have the assistance of retired priests, Canon Bruce Kington and the Revd Peter Haughton, to take services for us. Our Licensed Lay Ministers (formerly known as Readers), Alan Disher and Charlotte Nash, continued to contribute to and support the ministry team joined by lay leaders Carol Coleman (Littleton), Alastair Barron (Sparsholt), Andrew Kent (Chilbolton) and Sally Wesley (Sparsholt). We owe them all a great debt of gratitude, not only for their hard work but also for the enriching diversity of worship we were privileged to enjoy during the year.

Simon Kingston
Churchwarden

2.3 Services

Church Services and Attendance

The Sunday services for 2020 were as follows:

			Held during the year
1 st Sunday	4.00pm	Café Church	9
2 nd Sunday	10.00am	Family Communion (shorter format)	8
3 rd Sunday	10.00am	Morning Worship	6
	6.00pm	Peace and Wholeness Service	3
4 th Sunday	10.00am	Family Communion	3

There were no services on Easter Sunday, and Christmas Day attendance was limited to 26 so as to comply with Covid-19 restrictions.

BCP Holy Communion at 9.30am on Wednesdays took place on only 9 occasions.

The average attendance was 15

We look forward to a return to normality in Spring 2021.

*Clive Thompsett
Churchwarden*

Café Church

St Catherine's Café Church service normally takes place at 4pm on the first Sunday of each month. We meet in the Church Room for worship, study, singing and fellowship, accompanied by a wide array of cakes and biscuits generously donated by our members. During the first quarter of 2020 we had the final two services in a series, led by Revd Canon Bruce Kington, looking at various natural elements in the Bible (Flowers, vegetables and herbs, and Rivers and mountains) and another looking forward to Lent. But then, of course, physical services were prohibited, and we had to look at an alternative way to continue our worship.

For the rest of the year, Café Church moved online, with video services being hosted on Facebook and the Benefice website. In June we joined in the Diocese's Generous June initiative with a series of four services looking at the importance of generosity. These were followed with "Generosity in Mission", which included contributions from some of our mission partners in the UK and around the world. Rural Mission Sunday in July gave us the opportunity to engage with the Arthur Rank Centre's "Heaven in Ordinary", encouraging us to look for God in 'ordinary' things.

We would like to thank everyone who has helped keep Café Church going over the past year by contributing prayers and readings, or by sharing their thoughts with us. The services have reached many who do not usually attend the physical service, including someone from outside the Benefice who stopped one of us in the queue for Waitrose to express how helpful she had found them.

For details of future services please visit our Facebook page (Littleton Café Church) or look out for notices in Across the Downs.

*Carol Coleman and Carol Ward
Café Church leaders*

2.4 Deanery Synod

The Andover Deanery Synod met only once in 2020. As usual the meeting was an opportunity to share good news from across the parishes and discuss topics that apply to our deanery. With the meeting being in March, one of the topics was the guidance which was starting to come in relating to Covid-19 and some of the precautions that were being taken. Little did we know at the time how the rest of the year would look.

The Deanery Mission Action Plan (dMAP) lays out our agreed aspirations as a deanery and is hence a regular topic on the agenda. Progress was being made across many of the items in the dMAP; any parishes which had not yet registered for EcoChurch and performed an initial assessment were encouraged to do so. I'm

pleased to note that our parish did go ahead and successfully join the ranks of churches that have achieved the Bronze award.

Michael Coleman
Lay Chairman of Deanery Finance Committee

2.5 House Groups

The Mid-week House Group meets on Wednesday evenings during term time for a mix of fellowship, study and prayer. This year started with sessions based on the Holy Habits presented by Luke in Acts 2: 42-47. (for more information, visit <https://www.holyhabits.org.uk/>) Little did we know that our series, which had a common theme of community and fellowship, would be so rudely interrupted by a global pandemic that would keep us all physically apart!

Undaunted, the group swiftly moved to a mixture of email and Skype contact. Spurred on by our initial studies, we have progressed through the whole of Acts, as well as occasionally dipping into the Psalms, which we have found to be especially pertinent to our present situation. Inspired by the weekly Morning Prayer, sourced from the Northumbrian Community, we spent the autumn considering the main themes of Celtic Christianity before turning to the book by former Archbishop of York Dr John Sentamu, "Wake Up to Advent!", to finish the year on a stirring note.

We sadly had to delay the final session of the Celtic Christianity study as it involved holding an Agape meal – hopefully it won't be too much longer before we can indeed do this in person.

Carol Coleman
Mid-week House Group leader

The Tuesday Discussion Group did not meet during 2020 because of the pandemic.

Tim Speakman
House Group Leader

2.6 Downs Benefice – 2020 series of Lent Talks

We began a cracking series of Lent Talks, asking speakers to reflect on 'How has your faith influenced your work and how has your work influenced your faith?' We had encouraging numbers of folks in attendance for the first two events at Sparsholt and Chilbolton. However, our rich schedule of guest speakers for this year was foreshortened by the advent of Lockdown on 23rd March.

Happily, we were able to welcome Mark Hibbert-Hingston, Co-ordinator of Winchester Street Pastors, to Sparsholt on 3rd March for a fascinating insight into a Street Pastor's experience through a night-shift on the alcohol-fuelled streets of Winchester; and Tom Burden, Headmaster of Pilgrims' School in Winchester gave us a moving account of God at work in his life as he prepares to train for ordained ministry.

Sadly, the talks by Jonathan de Sausmarez from The Children's Society at Crawley on 18th March, Howard Rowe, former Lead Chaplain of Winchester City Centre Chaplaincy at Littleton on 27th March; and Dr Roland Guy, Consultant Endocrinologist, at Wherwell on 2nd April had to be postponed. I very much hope that we shall be able to invite them to come and speak in the future.

It is almost hard to imagine the streets of Winchester filled with Friday night revellers as we came to the close of 2020!

Revd Jax Machin

2.7 Prayer

The Benefice Prayer List is produced monthly and copies are available at the back of the church for anyone wishing to use it in their own intercessions.

Until the first lockdown in March 2020 a short service of prayer was held in the church room each Tuesday at 4.15pm. It is based on the Evening Prayers for Healing liturgy, a psalm and the Prayer List. The Revd Jax Machin produces a weekly list of people who have asked to be prayed for and these names are included in the service. Everyone is welcome and in early 2020 there were ten regular attendees. Since March 2020 the participants have agreed to simultaneously follow the same service of Evening Prayers in their own homes at 4.15pm each Tuesday. The service sheet, psalm and Prayer List are circulated by email before the service. Anyone wishing to be prayed for by name should contact Jax. For information about the Prayer List or the Tuesday service, please contact David Targett at dandctargetto@gmail.com.

The Mission Prayer Diary is produced every two months and is designed to help church members pray for the mission interests of St Catherine's. It is available at the back of the church. When lockdown restrictions allow the Mission Support Group meets every two months (second Monday of alternate months) to share information and prayer. It is held at the house of Alan and Christine Disher in Vernham Road, Weeke, Winchester. For more information, contact Alan at alan@disher.org.uk.

The Prayer Chain is a means by which prayers may be offered immediately in response to a critical situation. Lockdown restrictions have not affected this confidential chain of prayer, which offers support in times of urgent need. To activate the Prayer Chain contact the Benefice office or the Revd. Jax.

The Julian Meeting continues to 'meet' each Friday at 4.00pm but instead of physically getting together a weekly reading is chosen and circulated to all participants in advance so they can all use it as a focus for simultaneous individual meditation in their own homes. Tea and biscuits are also enjoyed in fellowship, albeit now apart. For further information please contact Sheila Trussler on 01962 881089.

David Targett

2.8 Peace and Wholeness

For the first three months of 2020 our Service of Peace and Wholeness continued on the third Sunday of each month, preceded by Saturday meetings for prayer and preparation. Lockdown followed the day after our March service and we have been unable to meet together since that time.

Betty Allen

2.9 Music

The year began as before with the Choir numbering eleven regular members. The Choir sang at the Sunday Communion Services, usually with a sung anthem. The Choir was again well supported by organist Tim Rogerson, who also led many of the Friday

Practices. In addition Deirdre Wratten and Nikita Petrine played at the monthly Peace and Wholeness Services, with Nikita also playing at the third Sunday Morning Worship Services. Harry Halliwell also continued to assist by playing the organ at Practices and Services where needed.

The Church Service schedule showed organists pencilled in until the end of June, but by February there had been news about a respiratory illness in far off China, and on Sunday 15th March St Catherine's held what would prove to be the last Service in 2020 at which Choir and Congregation would sing (or even hum), inside the church building.

There were no Services attended by the Congregation inside the church until August. Thereafter a few Services were held with restricted numbers and with the Congregation wearing masks, between August and early November. Tim Rogerson and Nikita Petrine played organ music, but with no singing allowed. There followed another pause until December when some more Services were held on the same basis, again with organ music played by Tim and Nikita, culminating with the Service on Christmas Day, organ music being played by Tim Rogerson.

The Choir, and all organists, hope for better times in 2021, and a time when sung music in church can resume.

John Morrell

3. STRATEGIC PRIORITY 2

3.1 Littleton Church Toddler Group

This group meets in the Church Room every Monday morning during term-time, and is open to all babies, toddlers, pre-schoolers and their carers from across the Benefice and beyond. The year started normally enough but, of course, in the middle of March we were forced to close as the country went into lockdown.

As we are a small informal group, we do not keep contact information, but members are encouraged to 'like' our Facebook page to keep in touch, so that channel has been used for occasional contact and sharing of relevant information. We were still able to have our Easter Celebration, albeit remotely and without the Easter egg hunt around the church. It has been especially sad not to be able to wish a proper "Farewell" to those Toddlers who moved on to school in September, and not to be able to offer a support network to those families with new babies, or who have recently moved to the area.

We have also maintained contact with the village pre-school. Normally we have a combined Harvest Celebration, which obviously couldn't happen this year, but the pre-school very kindly carried out their usual collection of donations which resulted in multiple bags being added to the Church's contribution to the Nightshelter and Basics Bank.

For more information on the group, and to be notified when we are able to restart, please visit our Facebook page: Littleton Toddler Group.

Carol Coleman
Children's Work Coordinator.

3.2 Children's Work

In addition to Toddler Group and Messy Church (see below), the main focus for children's work at St Catherine's is usually our very popular Posada. This year Mary,

Joseph and their entourage were not permitted to carry out their usual tour of the village, so we had to think ‘outside the box’ or, in this case, ‘inside the bag’ with our Christmas ADVENTure.

Carol Ward and I put together bags of activities for families to try out during Advent, such as making angel tree decorations, and people paperchains to represent friends and family members that they would normally see over the Christmas period. A Posada sheep was also added to each bag, along with the challenge to take photos of the sheep in various places as the weeks progressed.

The bags were advertised to our Posada and Littleton Messy Church families, as well as Toddler group members and families in the wider village. In total 11 bags were distributed to families, along with a bumper bag for all 19 children at the village pre-school. As well as enabling us to connect with new families, maintain contact with others, and provide opportunities for those families to focus on the Christmas story, the event raised in excess of £170 (including Gift Aid) for Toybox, a charity which works with street children around the world.

Carol Coleman
Children’s Work Coordinator

3.3 Messy Church

In the Downs Benefice, Messy Church normally takes place on the second Saturday of each month (except April and August) between 4 and 6 pm, and circulates around the parishes of Littleton, Sparsholt and Crawley. Sessions take the form of 1 hour of crafts and other activities around a central Christian theme; a celebration with a Bible story, song and prayers; and a delicious meal to round the afternoon off.

The year started normally enough, with sessions on Jesus in the Temple as a boy, and Mary and Martha, but by the time of our March session (Messy Esther) it was rapidly becoming clear that we would have to rethink how we did Messy Church for the next few months.

Our first attempt at an online offering was Messy Rainbows at the end of March. To aid us in our outreach, BRF (Bible Reading Fellowship – Messy Church’s parent organisation) started providing Messy Church at Home sessions which we have been able to share with our families each month. In September we tried our first Messy Church in a Bag – Messy Trees, looking at various trees of the Bible, and accompanied by an online Celebration. Our final initiative for the year was an online Advent calendar with Bible story and video for each day.

There have been drawbacks to moving online, but a major benefit has been the ability to make contact with other Messy Churches and families – the Messy Advent Calendar was enjoyed by one of our families who had moved away during the year, and Messy Rainbows was shared as far afield as Brisbane, Australia! We have also joined in BRF’s Easter Celebration and Ascension Day Messy Adventure, with contributions from Messy Churches around the world.

For more information, and for news on when we might be able to meet again, visit our Facebook page: Messy Church in the Downs Benefice.

Carol Coleman
Messy Church Leader

3.4 Social and Fundraising Events

The fund-raising committee had ten events planned with a target of raising £4,750. All ten had to be cancelled because of Covid-19. Such events are not only missed financially, but the impacts on the social life of the church and its community are also very negative. We hope to arrange a truncated programme for 2021 starting from the end of June.

*Clive Thompsett
Churchwarden*

4. STRATEGIC PRIORITY 3

4.1 Parish Visitors

During 2020, Parish visitors were hard at work re-imagining what it means to 'visit' in a pandemic. They managed to forge 'remote' relationships with those visited, by telephone, email and other social messaging mechanisms. In many cases their generosity of spirit included collecting shopping or prescriptions, and delivering the odd cake to the doorsteps of those they care for. During this year, when we have all felt moments of loneliness and isolation, it is moving to hear from individuals how much these kindnesses by PVs have been appreciated. Along with the wider village networks which have also operated to help neighbours cope with the exigencies of shielding, the work of our PVs has helped many people to feel connected to the life and witness of our church community. They have done all this whilst also having to manage their own and their families' safety and care.

This comes with my thanks before God for all our Parish Visitors and for Anna Cockram for her invaluable support in administering the PV programme during this unprecedented time; and with the assurance of my prayers for each of you and those to whom you minister.

Should anyone reading this feel a call to be a PV, please contact me on 07761 055228.

Revd Jax Machin

4.2 Village Outreach

St Catherine's hosts:

- The weekly Toddlers' Group, which provides a much-appreciated opportunity for parents and carers to get together. Carol Coleman is the organiser. The weekly meetings had to cease from mid-March.
- The monthly lunch club for our more senior parishioners. This is now managed by a new management team of Deirdre Wratten and Ros Hobbs. Again, only three lunch clubs were possible in 2020.

In addition to these regular events there are other activities:

- Bereavement Anniversary cards are prepared and hand-delivered where possible.
- There was no All Souls service in 2020.
- We also owe a big thank-you to Geoff and Betty Allen for their regular coffee mornings, which are much appreciated and offer friendship and the opportunity to meet and chat to many of our neighbours. These had to cease in mid-March.

- We had a benefice holiday organised for July 2020 with 35 attendees. Sadly, this had to be postponed, first to April 2021 and now to May 2022.
- We are grateful to the team of drivers who continue to pick up residents from the Sunrise Care Home, enabling them to attend our Sunday services. They really appreciate the participation and the welcome they receive from the St Catherine's congregation. This same team also provides a pick-up service to parishioners who are otherwise unable to attend church. It ceased operating in mid-March and will recommence, we hope, in May 2021.

The St Catherine's Links system in Littleton continues to ensure that each road has a 'Link' who sees that newcomers are welcomed, and that the clergy are informed of sickness or special needs.

*Clive Thompsett
Churchwarden*

4.3 Mission Support Group

During this strangest of years, the group has been less badly affected than many others. However, for most of the year we have been unable to meet together. There has been no opportunity to welcome any of our overseas 'families', and very little involvement with our 'Home' charities has been possible.

On the other hand, there has been no restriction over emails, nor upon financial support, and our overseas folk have kept up with sending us regular news and prayer needs. Coronavirus has had a big impact on their work, and has highlighted once again the additional challenges associated with poverty — physical, spiritual and medical. We have had more than usual contact with Bishop Nick and Catherine Drayson, who arrived in the UK last March and then were 'locked down' and only now is there a prospect of a return to Argentina. But they, and our other contacts, have made good use of modern electronic communication. Perhaps this may play a part in our future interactions and support.

The group would love to hear from anyone interested in joining us!

Alan Disher

4.4 Littleton Luncheon Club

We had a very enjoyable Christmas Lunch 2019, and many thanks to all who cooked and made it such a warm and sociable event. First Friday Lunches took place in January and February. Numbers were very much reduced on the first Friday in March...people were starting to be cautious. Since then, we have not been able to hold any more.

We have tried to keep in touch with members by chatting on the phone, and we sent Christmas cards, and then delivered a little pot of spring bulbs to members doorsteps in the New Year. Most folks were happy to respond to a ring on the doorbell, and to have a socially distanced chat. Many of them have not been out for months, and are so happy to see another face !

We are hoping to be able to hold a tea-party at the Millennium Hall or a Garden Party in Summer 2021, if and when it is safe to do so. We shall have to be cautious about returning to the Church Room (and kitchen) because of the lack of space.

Deirdre Wratten.

4.5 Residential Care Homes

The year began with our usual flurry of visits to Care Homes and the Holy Communion services at Flowerdown and Westholme. My thanks to Shirley Lupton and her team for their devotion to the residents of Flowerdown, and to Sylvia Arnold and Deirdre Wratten for playing their keyboards at these services, helping to bring folks alive through a shared memory of beautiful, classic hymns.

Thanks to the swift action by Hospitals, Hospices and Nursing Homes in this area, external visits were cancelled early on in the pandemic and as a result, the impact of Covid-19 in these settings has been mercifully limited. However, the consequence of isolation from family and friends, and from visits such as ours, has been devastating for residents. I keep in touch with Sunrise, Westholme and Flowerdown, though these opportunities are sometimes brief owing to the very great pressure on care staff at this time. I have provided the Homes with resources so they can hold Festival worship for themselves. In a few cases, I have been able to visit the sick and the dying, communicating with them through open doors and windows; for others I have spoken with them by 'phone. I have also supported some families who are unable to visit, by seeing residents from outside the building on their behalf, by sending prayers and verses of scripture, and by letting them know I have lit a candle for their loved ones.

I know that the care teams and residents, along with their families, have felt upheld by our prayers during this difficult year. Bless you all for your commitment to these important places of care. May our prayers fill them with a sense of our loving Father's healing presence and bring them the blessing of His merciful peace, strength and comfort.

Revd Jax Machin

Flowerdown Care Home

The same small group of people from the Downs Benefice continued to visit Flowerdown Care Home twice a month, for a Holy Communion Service and a Games Afternoon, for the first three months of 2020. Since then Covid-19 regulations have prevented us from visiting. We keep in touch with Flowerdown where the good news is that they have had no Covid-19 infection there. All residents and staff are now vaccinated.

We look forward to being able to resume St Catherine's-linked activities at the Care Home and to welcoming at least one new volunteer to our group.

Shirley Lupton

4.6 Christmas Gifts for the Winchester Nightshelter

The congregation of St Catherine's once more responded magnificently to the request for an Advent collection of Christmas presents for the Winchester Nightshelter, despite the prevailing restrictions of access. Sixty-eight gifts were collected, ranging from vouchers for food and drink, cash, sweets, chocolates and biscuits, a wonderful array of underwear, socks, scarves and gloves, and numerous bottles of aftershave.

We would like to thank everyone who contributed to our appeal and helped to spread a little comfort and joy during this particularly hard 2020 Christmas.

Margaret Harris

4.7 Safeguarding

Safeguarding has been a major concern over the last year as we have experienced an unprecedented pandemic. As a result of the vigilance of our Rector and church wardens we have been able to open St Catherine's church for private prayer and reflection when it was deemed possible under the government and the bishops' guidance.

The church had pews sectioned off and hand sanitisers as well as masks made available. All hymn books and prayer books were placed away at the rear of the church. Records were kept over the statutory time of all the people who entered the building. Parishioners were also encouraged to remain not less than two metres apart. The church was thoroughly cleaned after use by an outside cleaning company.

The church rooms have been kept closed for the majority of the year because of the potential spread of Covid-19. Church meetings and Café Church have gone ahead but through Zoom online again to avoid the potential spread of Covid-19. Messy Church submitted safeguarding guidelines on how it could safely run a different type of activity which would meet all necessary safety needs.

The safeguarding phone has still had no incoming calls over the past year.

The safeguarding of parishioners has been thanks to the sterling commitment of our church wardens Clive and Simon.

*Helen Retter
Health and Safety and Safeguarding*

5. STRATEGIC PRIORITY 4

5.1 Finance

Full accounts have been produced detailing the income and expenditure of the church during 2020. The accounts have been adopted by the PCC and reviewed by an independent examiner. Copies have been posted on the notice boards in the church porch and the church room and will be available to download from the church website following the APCM. If you have any questions on the accounts, then please contact Clive Thompsett (01962 885039) who will be able to respond.

St Catherine's Friends continues to provide financial support and the church is very grateful to the people who are now helping the church in this way. Including tax refunds, this scheme contributed £5,190 to our income

We remain blessed with many people who continue to support the church faithfully through regular planned giving.

As can be seen from the accounts, in 2020 the church's routine expenditure exceeded its income by £4,663; there was an increase in the market value of our longer-term investments of £3,870, and we completed a major project on the Main Road steps costing £4,616. Fortunately, during the year we also received two generous legacies totalling £57,619. This means that we ended the year with an increase in reserves of £52,208.

Until now, the PCC policy has been not to have designated funds for specified purposes. Instead, the PCC has one all-embracing General Reserve. The reserve carried into 2021 is £117,042. At their meeting on 26th January 2021, the PCC made two decisions on how the legacies should be used for the benefit of the community and the

church. They voted to set up designated funds of £42,000 for an Anna Chaplaincy appointment and £13,500 to facilitate matters relating to ECO church concepts (heating, lighting, insulation and window repair). Thus, with effect from 26th January 2021, this restates the opening unrestricted reserve from £117,042 to £61,542 which is equivalent to 41 weeks of expenditure; our aim remains to build unrestricted reserves so that they equate to one year's expenditure.

The PCC has continued its policy of supporting a range of mission partners both financially and through the development of long-term relationships. The list of donations made in 2020 is as follows:

	2020 £	2019 £		2020 £	2019 £
<i>UK Based:</i>			<i>Overseas Based:</i>		
Basics Bank	400	400	Open Doors	600	600
Night Shelter	500	500	International		
Trinity Centre	750	750	Tearfund	600	600
City Chaplaincy	300	300	Guyana Mission	500	504
Messy Church	150	150	CMS	500	500
Winchester Hospice	400	500	MAF	500	500
H & I Historic Churches	25	25	OMF	500	500
British Legion	30	30	Karis Kids	450	300
A Rocha ECO Church	85		Brickworks	500	400
	£2640	£2655		£4150	£3904

Clive Thompsett
Treasurer

5.2 Volunteers

During the first two months of 2020 we contacted a wide range of church members to try and add to the numbers of volunteers. This fell into two parts.

- a) We identified 18 jobs that need to be filled each year to ensure a smooth-running routine. The volunteers for the church-year 2020/21 were as shown in the following table. Volunteers to fill these positions will be sought each Spring for endorsement at the APCM.

Number	Responsibility	Agreed to serve for Church year 2020 / 2021
10	Electoral Roll Officer	Bryan Harris
11	Terrier, faculties & insurance	Simon Kingston
12	Maintenance of church & church room, Quinquennial, etc.	John Maskill
13	Church room management	Barbara Kingston
14	Gift Aid Secretary	John Morrell
15	Allocation and mapping of burial plots	Eryl Thompsett
16	Banns & Wedding registers.	Barbara Kingston
17	Link with Baptism families	Louise Williams
18	Verger for Funeral services	Whomever is available
19	Children / Youth Co-ordinators	Carol Ward & Carol Coleman
20	Link with Sunrise	Sheila North
21	Link with Flowerdown	Shirley Lupton.
22	Road Links co-ordinator	Eryl Thompsett
23	Mission Group	Carol Ward, Alan Disher, Margaret Heaps and Hilary Shaw
24	Magazine Distribution co-ordinator	Shirley & Mike Lupton. Followed by Barbara Kingston and Diana Briggs
25	Organisers for First-Friday Lunch Club	Deirdre Wratten and Ros Hobbs
26	Churchyard Maintenance	Clive Thompsett & Ian Muir plus Tony North, Dave Retter, Rod Machin, Ian Stuart, John Maskill, David Briggs
27	Events Team	Carol Ward, David Targett, Eryl & Clive Thompsett

b) During the year it has become clear that we shall need to adopt a new system for supporting the parish's services and outreach. An extensive 'trawl' was launched, and it is very encouraging that the volunteers came forward to ensure that, as and when the church can again open (after coronavirus), all necessary tasks can be filled.

For services this covers welcoming, lesson reading, car lifts, flowers and coffee.

For cleaning this covers Church, church room and brass.

For outreach, we have cover for Care Home support, Lunch Club and Messy Church

The PCC is indebted to all of our volunteers; without them we would not be able to sustain our regular church services nor our many and varied outreach projects. If any

reader is inspired by these words and wishes to volunteer in any capacity, please contact me.

Clive Thompsett
Churchwarden

5.3 Church Fabric

The church building is generally in a good state of repair, and the log book and terrier are up to date.

In July 2020 the required quinquennial inspection was carried out by the appointed architect, Duncan McKellar. The subsequent formal report noted that 'the church was well-maintained at every level' with no significant items requiring immediate attention. Those items of repair and maintenance which require early attention will be carried out in 2021. The next quinquennial inspection is due to be carried out in 2025.

Refurbishment works to the Main Road entrance and steps and replacement of the fencing in front of the War Memorial were completed in 2020. Repairs were also carried out to one of the vestry walls. This work has been delayed but it is expected to be carried out in 2020. Routine inspection and maintenance work were also carried out in the church during 2020.

Simon Kingston
Churchwarden

5.4 Churchyards

The churchyards continue to be well maintained, in spite of the annual clear-up having to be cancelled on account of Covid-19.

In addition to the paid contractor who cuts the grass, throughout the year a rota of people who can operate strimmers keep the area tidy. We are also indebted to Paul Clegg who mows the large new burial area. In the autumn there is a need to collect and dispose of the huge volume of leaves. Ian Muir again assembled volunteers for regular leaf-blowing sessions to ensure that the leaves are kept under control. The year finished in early December with a 'strimmer-fest', leaving the whole area tidy for Christmas and the winter

The way the churchyard is maintained continues to be really appreciated by all those who have loved ones buried at Littleton and thanks are expressed to all who have helped.

Clive Thompsett
Churchwarden

5.5 The Church Room

The year 2020 started well, with all the regular groups continuing to use the church room as in previous years. In January and February the Toddlers, the Art Group, the Tuesday Prayer Group and the WI Choir all met weekly, in addition to the after-church coffee gatherings; and the Lunch Club, the PCC, Messy Church, the Gardening Club committee, the Parish Magazine committee, the Littleton Show committee and of course the Café Church service continued in their monthly slots. And then Covid-19

struck! The room was closed in the middle of March and life as we had known it was cancelled. The Art Group bravely started up again in the autumn, but very soon another Lockdown was announced and they had to accept defeat. Everything was cancelled and the room remained closed through to the end of 2020 and beyond.

Let us hope that normal service will be resumed before the end of 2021.

Barbara Kingston

5.6 Eco Church

In July 2020 the church was given a Bronze Eco Church Award in recognition of efforts to care for God's earth encompassing Worship and Teaching, Management of Buildings and Land, Community and Global Engagement and Lifestyle. It is intended to make further efforts in 2021 and beyond to reduce the carbon footprint of the church buildings and to pursue other eco- friendly initiatives.

Simon Kingston
Churchwarden

.....
Simon Kingston
Churchwarden
On behalf of the PCC

Date: 2021

.....
Clive Thompsett
Churchwarden
On behalf of the PCC

Date: 2021