



**The Annual Parochial Church Meeting
will be held in St Nicholas Church on
Sunday 23rd April 2023**

10.00am Morning Worship
Coffee 11.10am
APCM 11.30am

Agenda - Annual Meeting of Parishioners 'Vestry Meeting'

1. Minutes of the Annual Vestry Meeting 11th May 2021
2. Appointment of Churchwardens 2023– 2024

Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM)

1. Apologies for absence
2. Minutes of APCM held on 14th May 2022
3. Matters arising from the minutes
4. Presentation of Electoral Roll
5. Presentation of Annual Accounts
6. All reports sent out and therefore no verbal reports will be given
7. Opportunity for questions or clarification of reports (to be notified in advance please)
8. Appointment of Independent Financial Examiner of the Accounts
9. Elections for PCC vacancies and election of Deanery Synod Representatives
10. Rector's report -Farewell to Matt and Lisa
11. Any other business (to be notified in advance please)
12. Closing Prayer

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Rector's Report

Rejoice in the Lords always. I will say it again: Rejoice! Philippians 4:4

I find it difficult to comprehend that another year has gone by since our last APCM! I can only conclude that time seems to pass so quickly because so much is always happening here. Just this week two people have commented to me that they enjoy coming into St Nicholas midweek because there is always a buzz of activity.

I do particularly rejoice in seeing our facilities and churches so full of life, both midweek and on Sundays. We have had a great team of staff and volunteers who have enabled growth and development post pandemic. I hope as you read these pages of our annual report you will also want to rejoice in all the good things that are contained in the report.

We rejoice in seeing both numerical and spiritual growth in both our congregations. Precious testimonies of God's working in people's lives have been shared over the year. It has been a delight to welcome new people to our congregations Sunday by Sunday and to see them embedded into the life of the Church Family. After much prayer it has been a joy to welcome a Worship Team Leader - Chris - to head up our sung worship at St Nicholas and it is great to see people of all ages sharing their musical gifts with us.

We rejoice in seeing the growth of our engagement with our community. A great team formed around the community lunch to ensure that it continued, after 'Community Payback' could no longer support it. This has become a valued service providing lunch and companionship for up to 40 people each week. A monthly community singing group has formed, again providing companionship and friendship and lots of fun for those who attend. The Saturday morning Community Cafe continues to attract regular customers who value a place to meet week by week as well as occasional visitors.

Not only has our engagement grown with an older generation but with the younger ones too through Evie and those working with her. We are particularly excited to be working with both Lockyers and Henbury school.

We are encouraged that despite these difficult financial times for our country, we are able to report that both our giving and rental income has increased this year. While giving still does not meet our cost of ministry in the parish, the gap has lessened, and this year, after supplementing our ministry costs from the rental income, there has been a small surplus to be able to reinvest toward the updating and upkeep of our buildings. We have been able to continue the ongoing Jubilee project at St Nicholas because of generous legacies left which have then enabled us to secure more funding. The major work which has benefited from this has been the installation of solar panels at St Nicholas thanks to Neil Stevens who secured a major grant from carbon Dorset for us and saw the project through to completion. This included the installation of a water buffer tank which can supplement the hot water for the under floor heating. We hope soon to also be able to sell any surplus energy generated to the grid. Together with an ongoing project to install LED lights we have significantly reduced our carbon footprint this year which is an ongoing aim.

Of course a highlight of the year for Charles and me was our sabbatical. It was a gift of time. It was great to be able to take a step back and reflect on the journey travelled during our time here but to also be attentive to God's voice as we continue forward. A genuine cause for joy was when we watched services online week by week and saw the church thriving in our absence with different people stepping forward and growing in confidence as they took on roles. It was a particular joy to see Matt grow in confidence week by week, knowing he was well supported by the Church Family. On my return the inevitable happened - he was ready to fly the nest! I know I feel like all of you, delighted for Matt that he has got the post he wanted, but equally sad that he is leaving us so soon. We are so grateful for having had Matt and Lisa with us these past three years and we look forward to celebrating their time with us at the APCM and blessing them on their way.

It has been a year of real blessing, but we take nothing for granted and ask for your prayers for our continued unity as we seek to enact our vision to grow together towards God, each other and our community. We can only do that through the power of the Holy Spirit and as we all respond to God's call to play our part in the body of his church here in Corfe Mullen.

St Paul's letter to the Philippians exhorts us to 'rejoice!' but also to 'press on'. My prayer for us as we start this new season is that we will enter it rejoicing - without complacency - ready to press on – and indeed be open - towards all that God has for us both individually and as a Church Family.

Press on towards the goal to win the prize for which God has called us heavenwards in Christ Jesus...Do not be anxious about anything, but by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. Philippians 3:14 & 4:6

Revd Jane Burgess (Rector)

Churchwardens Report

It's been a year of getting back to normal, whatever that is, after the trauma and restrictions of the pandemic which had such a significant impact on our church life.

Getting back to "normal" has not been without its own unexpected twists and turns but one thing has remained constant and steadfast within the church family, and that is how we support and care for each other. People are at the heart of all we do. It is often said that in times of adversity we find the strength to pull together and keep our focus.

The standout event of the year outside of the church was obviously the passing of our dear Queen on 8th September. We very quickly opened the chapel for prayer, and our services at that time reflected the mood of the nation as we came to terms with a loss that seemed so personal to each of us. With Jane being on sabbatical at that time, Matt led us in an exemplary manner and he was able to call on Nigel Lloyd when an experienced head was needed. Salisbury Diocese issued some comprehensive guidelines during the mourning period and everyone was given the opportunity to pay their respects to that remarkable monarch.

Within the church Jane and Charles were away for three months which gave many of us the opportunity to step up and support Matt as he led us through what turned out to be very eventful time. It was so reassuring that Jane could

use modern technology to keep us up-to-date with her travels, and her video messages were so important to us during that time.

St Nicholas really is a very special place within the village of Corfe Mullen, as was shown on Remembrance Day when the church was packed with local residents who wanted to show their ongoing support and gratitude to those who paid the ultimate price for our freedom. The service was attended by local councillors and dignitaries and truly captured the mood of those present.

The church centre is a vibrant hub of activity, not just on a Sunday but literally every day of the week. Tracie Jackson runs the much-needed Food Bank from the building which has seen its busiest year to date. Our Thursday Community lunch has remained extremely popular with numbers often as high as 30. The meal is brought in by a local caterer and served with a smile by our wonderful volunteers, without whom the meal would not be possible.

As you visit the centre during the week you never quite know what you are going to see: it may be Judo Black Belts, Parents / Carers and Toddlers enjoying Tots, Tea & Toast or the senior citizens Model Railway Club!! It's wonderful to see the church centre used in such a positive way and how important it is to connect with our local community.

Whilst the lettings are an important part of our income, we never forget that the church is a place of worship and where we welcome everyone, no matter where they are on their journey with God. To encourage and help the church members grow their faith we have run several courses during the year including How to Pray, Growing Leaders, Lent, Bible Study and Alpha amongst others. Revd Charles Burgess and Paul Eaton, one of our LLMs, have had a large input to these courses, which have been well received by those who have attended them.

Sadly, things don't stay the same for ever and we learnt recently that Matt has been appointed as team Vicar at Canford Magna. This is a church that he knows well and he and Lisa are already loved by the congregation there. We are all very excited for him and Lisa but there will not be a dry eye in the house as they say goodbye in early April. Be sure to join us when they come back for a shared lunch on April 23rd. It goes without saying that they will be greatly missed but we can be pleased that we have played our part on Matt's journey in faith.

As Wardens, Alison and I are very grateful to Tracie and Karen for their unfailing support during the year. They have been extremely patient with us as we get to grips with our warden duties. Thanks also to Rachel Stevens who has been a great support to us and has always been happy to steer us in the right direction.

There are many exciting and inspirational things planned for the year ahead which are only made possible by the unfailing support of our many volunteers. We can honestly say that the unity and togetherness at both churches is truly unique and something to be very proud of.

We are pleased to report to the Annual General Meeting that the Terrier and Inventory have been checked and that all items are present.

Thank you for all you have done during the year and we know that we will all have the opportunity to grow our faith at a pace that is right for each and every one of us.

Neil & Alison
Church Wardens

Finance Report

We are very grateful to John Cordner who has compiled the annual Financial Statement of Accounts for our Parish. The full report is available from the church office on request and on both church notice boards.

The full report includes both restricted and unrestricted funds. The figures used in this summary do not include restricted funds (for example, income received by the foodbank and holiday club) to enable a focus specifically on our main sources of our income; namely that received from the regular giving of congregation members plus the income from rents from the use of the St Nicholas Centre by all the various groups that use the facility through the year.

The total income from the parish in giving and donations (i.e. not including the income received by the St Nicholas Centre) for 2022 was £68,873 which is an

increase from the previous year of £8,673. This is very encouraging and is a reflection of the growing numbers in our congregations and of course the generosity of the church family. However, expenses for the running of the parish during the year was £82,077 which is £5,348.45 more than the previous year. This means that the parish expenses exceeded the income by £13,204.

The total income from the St Nicholas Centre was £51,758 which is an increase from the previous year by £8,914 which, again, is very encouraging. Expenses incurred from the running of the Centre was £24,515. This means Centre income from room hire exceeded the expenses of running the Centre by £27,243.

Therefore, taking both parish and Centre operations together, the total income for this year was £120,631 which is an increase on the previous year by £17,587 while total expenses was £106,591 which is £2,543 more than the previous year. Overall this left a positive position of £14,040.

As a church family we have also given money to charities such as Routes to Roots and our link with Sudan.

Looking ahead, the PCC agreed that as far as possible we should aim that the giving and donation income from the parish should balance its own running costs so we are not so reliant on the room hire income from the St Nicholas Centre. This is to enable any surplus generated by the Centre to be invested in the ongoing upkeep and renovation of our church buildings as well as the wider mission and ministry of our churches.

There has been an increase in the amount given through planned giving and the Parish Giving Scheme and less is being received through envelopes and personal donations. This indicates that more people have decided to use the planned giving scheme as a way of giving to the church which is both helpful and beneficial to us in managing our finances.

Wages and salaries, utilities and share payment remain the key expenditure items for the parish. We recruited a Worship Leader in November. Half the salary of the Worship Leader is coming out the Wilmore Fund and half from a legacy. The salary of the Children and Families Worker is coming out of the

Wilmore Fund. Hence, the cost of these particular wages are not included in the summary figures above but all other salaries are included.

We have also had some major upgrades to the St Nicholas building including a new oven for the kitchen and solar panel installed on the roof. These have been funded in part by grant and legacy income. Without the legacies we wouldn't have been able to do these large one-off upgrades.

Looking further ahead, the PCC agreed that the primary use of remaining legacy funds (and indeed any future legacy income) is to further the mission and ministry of the church within the local community as well as enabling us to fund major building upgrades, together with any grant income we receive. We are thankful to all who give to our churches and for the generous legacies left to us which we seek to steward wisely. To this end, over the last year the PCC has agreed a plan to invest remaining legacy and gift monies into easy access and long-term investment accounts to ensure careful stewardship and prudent management of our funds.

Once again, we are encouraged by the increase in our overall income over the year and very grateful to all who generously give.

Tom

Safeguarding

This year, Corfe Mullen PCC has complied with the duty to have “due regard” to the House of Bishops’ guidance in relation to safeguarding. Our Safeguarding Policy was updated in October 2022 in order to incorporate new guidance from the National Church.

We currently use the Model Parish Safeguarding checklist to sense-check where our church is on Safeguarding. However, guidance is changing so quickly that this is no longer fit for purpose. Corfe Mullen is a pilot site for the ‘next generation’ way of doing this through something called the Parish Dashboard – a system currently being used in other parts of the UK to keep on track regarding all things Safeguarding. The diocese hopes to be rolling this out to every parish later this year.

Sadly the covid pandemic unearthed an increase in the number of cases of domestic abuse. Last year many of our church officers and volunteers took part in a workshop on “understanding domestic abuse”. This learning is now available on line from the Church of England training portal.

The national church has continued to issue refreshed guidance on safer recruitment and Churches must be compliant with this. In future we will be using suggested templates from the national church when we recruit paid staff or volunteers to roles where they will be working with children, young people or vulnerable adults. The PCC has approved a policy document relating to the recruitment of ex-offenders.

The requirements for safeguarding training are unchanged. In summary these are;

Basic Level-for all who volunteer for roles in the church

Basic and Foundation; required for anyone who has safeguarding responsibilities or has contact in their church role with children/young adult and/or vulnerable adults for example, children’s workers, youth workers, leaders of groups, Lay Pastoral Assistants, Lay Worship Leaders, Choir Leaders, Church Warden’s.

Leadership; only for those who lead a congregation or are significantly involved in shaping the culture of the church, for example, rectors, vicars, Licensed Lay Ministers, Parish Safeguarding officer , Bell Tower captains.

Safer Recruitment and People Management; for anyone involved in the recruitment of volunteers or paid staff

Understanding Domestic Abuse; this is a requirement for certain roles (such as clergy, parish safeguarding officers and PCC members) and a recommendation for others who hold pastoral posts.

Training needs to be refreshed every 3 years by completing the highest previous level of training e.g. for a Licensed Lay Minister who has completed basic awareness, foundation and leadership training, the refresher requirement would be to only repeat Leadership training. In theory, the diocese is working toward reminding everyone when their training is due.

However, in practice this is unlikely to happen anytime soon so please tell Tracie or Alison when you complete any training. The office holds a spread sheet of training so they can nudge those who require updating.

Basic and Foundation, Understanding Domestic Abuse”, “Leadership” and “safer recruitment” courses can be accessed online via the [Church of England Training Portal](#). Leadership courses can be booked via the Salisbury Diocese website. There is also some opportunity for face to face foundation training opportunities at St Nicholas. Please let Alison know if you are experiencing problems with the online courses.

Safeguarding is a standard item on the PCC meeting’s agenda. We are near to completion of our volunteer handbook which incorporates the new guidance from the national church.

Thank you all for helping to make St Hubert and St Nicholas a safe place to worship.

A very big thank you to Tracie, our parish verifier, who manages the Disclosure and Barring Service process and safeguarding spread sheets.

AJD 2023

Children and Families

This past year has seen some wonderful growth in our children’s and families’ ministry. I hope you enjoy reading more about the various aspects of our children’s and families’ ministry and that it brings you a sense of God’s work in this place.

Holiday Club

Once again, we hosted a popular holiday club with the new theme of castaways! One difference was that we signed up to be a part of the councils HAF (Holiday Activities and Food) programme, enabling us to offer free spaces to children in receipt of free school meals and to the Ukrainian children who were very new to Corfe Mullen! The HAF team visited us during the holiday club and said ‘we really enjoyed our visit to your venue, it was a joy to see all of the children’s happy faces’. To ensure the holiday club was accessible we

created resources for the Ukrainian children such as: communication cards, phone translators and signs in Ukrainian and Russian. I am so grateful for each person who gave their time to the holiday club, and who made the Ukrainian children feel so welcome despite the language barrier! Each day we had around 40 children attend for a morning full of fun. Rachel and Jennie were our marvellous chefs for the week and kept us well fed and watered. On the final day we had some castaway themed bouncy castles which were enjoyed immensely! A huge thank you to the whole team of people who enabled this holiday club to run so smoothly, and to bless so many families.



Christmas

We hosted our first ever Christmas Tree Festival this year, with different businesses and organisations from Corfe Mullen each decorating a tree to represent them. It was a very festive display that brought the community together, with Wild Church winning first place, Craft Company Knit and Natter coming 2nd and Jack and Jills Nursery coming 3rd. Additionally, we ran the Nativity Trail again this year, which although quieter than previous years was still a lovely way to connect with families. Salt Mine came again to deliver a brilliant performance of 'Neverland', it was lovely to see the church full of

families all enjoying the show! Our Nativity Service on the 24th December was full of excitement as families gathered to retell the nativity story with children getting dressed up and fully involved up front! Katrin and David took on the very important roles of Mary and Joseph with little Samuel playing baby Jesus. All were marvellous. It was lovely to have some children on Christmas day and a couple at the Christmas Day Meal!



Tots Tea and Toast

Each week we are completely full to capacity at Tots Tea and Toast which is testimony to how wonderful the group is. Our move to an online booking system has gone very smoothly and I feel we have built some really meaningful relationships with the parents and grandparents that come along. Tots Tea and Toast has also served as a fantastic place to signpost families to other things we have going on, such as Wild Church, Baptisms, Sunday Church, Holiday Clubs and other events. Over the past year we have welcomed Anne Thrasher to our team who does a wonderful job of leading our craft each week and helping the tots with this! As I'm sure you are aware, Lisa has now stepped down from Tots Tea and Toast as she and Matt prepare to move on in April. We continue to adapt Tots Tea and Toast for the families that come along, with each session including play time, toast and fruit break, story time (sometimes biblical) and lots of nursery rhymes. Mandy leads the group marvellously with the help of Ann Beale, Anne Thrasher and occasionally Heather Fletcher.

Wild Church

Wild Church started on the 25th September 2021 and has been growing ever since. Each month we have new families coming along, and it has become a lovely community! We have also seen cross over from Tots Tea and Toast, with families coming along to Wild Church. Wild Church runs on the third Saturday

of the month 9:30am-11am and is a time for children and their parents/carers to hear a story from the Bible, get crafty using tools, share snacks around the campfire and play with our mud kitchen, sling shot and tree swing. Wild Church brings me such joy and I know our volunteer team would say the same. It is a wonderful new way to bring these families to Jesus.

Having spoken to our local Diocesan community hub team who visited Wild Church, it seems we are leading the way in Wild Church and bringing families closer to Jesus in this kind of environment, which is exciting! Our parachute has endured many periods of stormy weather but is still fit for purpose thanks to Hazel and Roger Kingsmill and Margaret and Stuart Wilding who have patched it up when needed. The newest addition to Wild Church is our lovely new fence, built by the wonderful Matt Smith, Stuart Wilding, John Burbidge, John Metcalfe, Neil Wellington, Tim Christian, George Webster, Neil Stevens, Paul Eaton and Evie Ford.



Kids at St Nic's / Family Services

It has been a real joy having different people getting involved in our family services each month, whether that's been playing a role in the service as Mavis or Gordon, doing our reading or helping with prayers! We have welcomed a few new families at our regular Sunday services and are now providing a breakout space in the Narthex for those with little ones. We continue to provide ready to run children's activities for when we do have older children attending. Thank you to those who are always ready and waiting to support this.

School Links

We have built good relationships with both Henbury View First School and Lockyers Middle school throughout the past year. I regularly visit Henbury View each week with Ann Richmond, Jennie Marsh and Neil Wellington where we take time to be read to by their pupils in year 1 and 2, to help build upon their reading attainment. Henbury View have also visited us for their Nativity show and will be visiting soon for an Easter Experience and an Easter Service. Jane has met the new headteacher at Lockyers and frequently speaks at whole school assemblies. We hope to continue to build on these relationships.

Evie

Church Centre Report

In 2022 the centre has continued to be busy with a wide variety of external groups using our facilities. We have several new regular bookings that have started and all our existing groups have continued. This means that every week day there is a minimum of 3 groups in, covering all ages, and our income from the lettings has increased.

In December we welcomed back Henbury and Lockyers for their Christmas concerts. The feedback from both schools was positive and the concerts went well. Both schools are already booked in for this December 2023. We also had a variety of other concerts and carol services for external groups in December making it a very busy month.

As I am sure you have all seen we now have solar panels on the roof which are helping to reduce our energy bill. We have also replaced the lighting in some of the rooms. The new lighting is more energy efficient and has improved the quality of the lighting in the rooms. The feedback from the groups using these rooms has been very positive. The plan is to continue to replace the lighting during 2023 as funding allows.

Staffing changes. In 2022 we have had several changes in the housekeeping team. This has meant at times we have struggled to stay on top of the cleaning. I would like to thank Danny, John Cooper and Kevin for helping during this period. I am pleased to announce that from February 2023 we are back to a

full complement of housekeepers and the team are working hard to catch up with all the deep cleaning required.

Looking forward to 2023

Continue to welcome new and existing groups to the centre so that the space can be fully optimised by the local community. From a building maintenance perspective, there will be the continuation of the upgrading of the lighting in the building and to address all urgent works identified in the Quinquennial report.

Karen

Church Worship Band

‘Praise the Lord! How good it is to sing praises to our God, how pleasant and fitting to praise him!’ Psalm 147:1

It is said that worship is the fuel for Christian mission and the two church’s worship teams couldn’t agree more! We have had a lively year with many styles of worship expressed in our churches.

The year began with the PCC advertising for a Worship Team Leader and I was appointed and started on 1 December.

St Hubert’s continue to have the organ playing at the beginning and during 8:45 am Holy Communion, often accompanied by the clarinet, which provides a lovely reflective ambience to the Service. St Nicholas’, with its wide range of instruments, is a lively mix of traditional and contemporary hymns and songs and our repertoire of songs is increasing.

In February 2023 a working party chaired by the Worship Team Leader was appointed by the PCC to review sound and lighting in the main church space at St Nicholas’. A survey to all users has been circulated and several contractors invited to submit sound and lighting solutions to improve our worship and community facilities in this wonderful space. We hope by early summer to have a proposal to put before the PCC.

We are always open for new members to join our music team. If you play an instrument and would like to express your talents through the music, please contact me and we can arrange to meet and go through what's involved. Similarly for the audio-visual team – Neil Stevens would appreciate anyone with skills in this area to contact him.

Chris Tebbutt – Worship Team Leader
chris.tebbutt@parishofcorfemullen.church

Buildings Committee

We would record our sadness at the passing of Robin Barker. He was a stalwart and active member of the Committee who took the minutes and always contributed wisely and with humour to our discussions. Our thanks to Margaret for her continued work in St. Hubert's church yard.

St. Nicholas:

- Heating Engineers - 'upgrade to heating completed with buffer tank connected to solar system.
- Upgrading of lighting to LED's - work in progress Solar panels were installed on roof.
- Spire repair/replacement work under discussion.
- Rainwater guttering, down pipes and gulley's inadequate. Quotes now in hand and awaiting discussion.
- Quinquennial inspection report discussed and items prioritised.

St. Hubert:

- Interior lighting is now 95% LED.
- Electric testing of Church wiring and fittings under way
- Quinquennial inspection report discussed and site visit made to view the urgent items.
- An enquiry is being prepared to obtain quotations for the works.

The committee would record their thanks and those of the congregation to John Burbidge for his work on St. Hubert's church yard.

Lastly our thanks to Matt for his wise council and practical expertise on building matters.

Barry Wilcox Chairman

Small Groups

The beating heart of any church is the small group. Whether we meet at church or in someone's home for a course or to study, it is in the small groups where we learn together, laugh and cry together, encourage and inspire each other and, most importantly, pray for one another. Over the past year, we've had plenty of opportunity for all of that. In our home and church groups we've studied the sermon series and shared our thoughts and experiences. We've plumbed the depth and breadth of our extraordinary faith on the Alpha Course. We've thought about Life on the Front Line in our recent Lent course and about how we can each make a difference where we are. On the Prayer Course last year, we learned how to pray for others and to practise going deeper into the more contemplative, meditative and mindful aspects of prayer. And all these activities are also opportunities for us to spread our wings as leaders and helpers in a safe and supportive environment.

But small groups don't always have to be serious; in our – slightly larger – men's group we've had great fun together, working in teams, challenging one another and, most importantly, getting to know one another better. We're a family and families are allowed to celebrate and enjoy themselves! So if you're relatively new to St. Nic's and St. Hubert's or haven't dipped your toe in the small group lake, why not join us over the coming year? You'll never know what you're missing till you've tried it!

Paul

Lay Pastoral Assistants

Lay Pastoral Assistants or LPAs are members of the congregation who are licensed by the Bishop to assist the Incumbent with the spiritual support of the parish.

In January 2022, Alison Duyvesteyn, Heather Fletcher, Esther Andrious, Karen Sherman, Lisa Smith and Joanna Eaton started their six months of training as LPAs. In September, having successfully completed this training, we were all licensed by Bishop Karen at a lovely service at Wimborne Minster in front of family and friends and joined our existing LPA, Heather Sims.



Over the past year we have been quietly working in the background supporting those going through tough times. That includes visiting and keeping in touch with those who aren't able to get to church and arranging home communion where appropriate, including at Hartnell Court.

Alongside our LPA work, we all volunteer at different activities during the week, enabling us to interact with many different parishioners. This helps us to become aware of any who may benefit from a friendly chat or extra support.

All the LPAs were involved in supporting the bereavement service at the end of November and had some very intimate and deep conversations with those who attended, and in some cases were able to offer personal prayer.

I would like to take this opportunity to publicly thank the team for the time and effort they put into their role.

Jo

Community Lunch

The community lunch has been going since September 2021. We have an outside caterer who provides a lovely 2 course meal every Thursday during term time only. Since September 2022 the price has increased from £5 to £6. Everyone is happy to pay this.

Our team of volunteers has increased over the last several months although sadly we have had to say goodbye to Matt and Lisa as they move on to new pastures.

We would like to continue to build our team up so that we can have a rota system for those helpers that cannot do every week. We have regular people that attend most weeks and have seen new people come. Unfortunately we have had a drop in numbers due to illness and people moving away. We have a lady who has joined us who was signposted to our lunch from the local health centre, one lady who has joined the church has started coming and a grandparent from our toddler group has started coming along.

Once the tables have all been set up for lunch we stop to have a coffee and chat. This has become a lovely time of fellowship.

We would like to say a big thankyou to all our volunteers who make this ministry possible.

Lisa Mandy, Heather and team.

Men's Group

The men enjoyed a terrific skittles evening at the British Legion where their competitive muscles were well and truly flexed. The evening was dominated by the overall prowess of Revd Matt Smith whom the men suspected of using some kind of divine powers to knock the skittles down, but even his sharp shooting skills eventually fell to the Uri Gellar style powers of 'Mighty Mark Jackson' who sneaked in and took home the prize. This was a great evening and a real chance for some of our newer guys to get to know one another and to enjoy some banter.

We also got together practically to build a fence for Wild-Church, harnessing the skills and strengths of a working team, and the expertise of John Burbidge. There was some disagreement over the proper way to use a handsaw but with Evie keeping watch the air remained clean. Rachel kindly kept us fed and watered which was much appreciated.

Recently we enjoyed a team building evening, with the men utilising their gifts as engineers, builders and general dogs-bodies in order to see which team could build the tallest free-standing structure out of newspaper. The guys got well and truly stuck in, George utilising his skills from working on the London Shard, Richard 'the friendly Postman' folding the paper in ways only a postie could. Charles breaking all the rules as always and our winners managing to receive a perfect 5G signal from their Aerial tripod construction.

Onwards and Upwards, as they say!

Coffee @ ST Nics

Coffee @ St Nics continues to offer a place for people to meet, hot drinks, and cake purchased from a local bakery. The welcome to all provides a connection between church and community. Each Saturday within a month has a different pace. However, the weeks when the Centre is being used by a variety of groups, Coffee @ St Nics provides a friendly welcome and central hub within the building.

It takes place every Saturday morning from 10am-12noon at St Nicholas Church, using the Narthex space. We currently have 15 volunteers who serve on a five

week rota and we are hugely grateful for their ongoing commitment to serve in this way.

We've been able to serve hot drinks as a gift to those who take part in the monthly litter pick. Coffee @ St Nics has also been able to serve refreshments to other groups using our Centre at the same time on a Saturday morning. The profit ensures we are able to offer breakfast as part of our family worship once a month, our community litter pickers a complimentary drink, and refreshments before and after our weekly Sunday services.

For more information, ideas or if you'd like to volunteer then please speak to Hannah Burbidge.

St Hubert's Bell Ringers

A busy year!

Mar 2022

- Visitors from Wareham came to ring.
- Noel Church Corfe Mullen brought their Rangers for a talk about the bells and have a go.
- Salisbury Guild held branch meeting at St Hubert's to honour Roy Lench's memory with ringing half muffled with 25 people attending the meeting.

April 2022

- We have had visitors from the Guild using St Hubert's for practice sessions.
- We have had visitors from the Guild using St Hubert's for ¼ peal.

May 2022

- Visitors from Southover Tower Sussex completed ¼ peal.
- Visitors from Worcestershire completed a peal.
- New learner snapped the no. 2 stay which had to be renewed.

June 2022

- New timber Ash was brought from Linwood Sawmill where 3 new stays were made.
- The main event in June was ringing the bells for Her Majesty the Queen's platinum jubilee with a ¼ peal.
- Fourteen Corfe Mullen cubs came to St Hubert's for a talk about the bells and have a go.

- Donation made by JV Upholstery in giving spare leather for our muffle repairs.

July 2022

- We have had visitors from the Guild using St Hubert's for ¼ peal.
- St Hubert's had an open day with cream teas and 21 visitors came to the bell tower to carry out simple ringing learning back stroke, and used handbells.

Aug 2022

- We had another new member join our band to learn to ring the bells.
- We have had visitors from the Guild using St Hubert's for ¼ peal.

September 2022

- The main event in September was ringing the bells for Her Majesty the Queen's death. We followed the Operation London Bridge protocol with the bells fully muffled for 10 days. The protocol dictated the dates and times of ringing the bells for the Queen's death. We rang the bells for 1 hour before the state funeral took place.
- Aaron completed his first ¼ peal ringing at Sturminster Marshall for the death of the Queen.
- We cleaned the belfry, removing years of cobwebs and dust from the bell frame and floor.

Oct 2022

- Aaron Fall collected his first Quarter peal certificate from the guild.
- We helped the Guild out with training other new ringers.

Nov 2022

- We have had visitors from the Guild using St Hubert's for practice sessions.
- And to finish the year on a low our number 2 bell sheared from the frame and wedged itself.
- We have been busy acquiring quotes and sorting possible grants out for the repairs needed.

Dec 2022

- 16th of December was the start of making the bells safe in St Hubert's church for the church to open again as repairs follow on.
- The treble and number 2 bells have been removed from frame and head stocks removed for repairs on the 16th of Dec.

Jan 2023

- I would like to personally thank Paul Tyson from Canford Magna for the use of his church for our Monday night practice, for which our band is very thankful. We had started ringing there from the 14th of November to the present.

- We had another new member join our band to learn to ring the bells.

Feb 2023

- Aaron Fall completed his second ¼ peal at Sturminster Marshall
-

Weddings have been carried out during the year at St Hubert's and members from St Hubert's visited other towers during the week, going to Sturminster Marshall and Canford Magna to assist in helping. We have had visitors on a weekly gathering to St Hubert's practice nights and Sunday evenings from Sturminster Marshall, Canford Magna, Spetisbury, Lytchett Minster and Lytchett Matravers, and I would personally like to thank them for all the support given. We attend Ringing branch guild meetings quarterly through the year of 2022/2023

The focus must be on the raising of funds for the repairs to St Hubert's Church Bells, so our band can come together and set back into St Hubert's, where the bells will once again ring out across Corfe Mullen to the joy of its residents.

Any support would be most welcome, using the just giving [page](#).

Kind Regards Andy Fall (Tower Captain)

Compass

Finding your way through bereavement

The Compass group offers an opportunity to meet informally over a cup of tea or coffee with others who have been bereaved and to receive help and support from each other.

We have continued to meet once a month, on the 3rd Tuesday of each month. We have now moved our meetings to the Kingfisher room, which is a cosy place with very comfortable chairs.

Our numbers vary with some attending every month and others coming less frequently, but all enjoying the company.

We are always pleased to welcome anyone who would like to join us.

Jenny Gibson

Sing @ St Nics

A year ago we started a new monthly “singalong” session in church. It’s not a choir; just a time when people, regardless of singing ability, come together to sing their favourite songs from films, shows and the pop charts of yesteryear. The sessions are ably led by Lynne whose musical ability and infectious enthusiasm bubbles over, and carries you along with it. We begin with a light-hearted warm up, singing ridiculous rhymes, short songs and choruses, sometimes even managing to sing in rounds, before progressing onto longer songs. Half way through, we break for refreshments and a catch up. It’s lovely to hear the chatter. The numbers have slowly increased since we started and we now have a steady 15-18 attending each month, but there’s room for plenty more!

The session is run in such a way that those suffering from dementia can come along with their carers and enjoy themselves just as much as anyone else. The smiles on everyone’s faces as they leave is testimony to how much they enjoy themselves. To cover Lynne’s costs, the venture was started with money from a fund and we charge a small fee per session which helps, but we will need to grow if we want to confidently maintain this activity beyond the end of the year. So please come and join us! Singing is a lovely way to relieve stress, improve our mental health, relax and to exercise our lungs.

Jo

Corfe Mullen Foodbank

With lockdowns lifted and life returning to a new normal, it was going to be interesting to see what sort of year the foodbank had. We were busy, the busiest we have ever been. The foodbank helped over 1300 people, giving out just under 400 food parcels. Not only that, we expanded taking on new volunteers as well as our offering.

Volunteers

I always say that the foodbank cannot operate without its volunteers, and I am blessed to have a wonderful group of people whose commitment truly makes

the foodbank what it is. Most of the nine volunteers have taken on secondary roles to support the foodbank's operation, such as Public Relations and Data Management.

The foodbank has received a number of requests from Duke of Edinburgh Award students to do their voluntary work with us. It has its challenges because the foodbank is open when the students are at school. What we do is set them tasks to do from home, such as creating activities for craft or testing recipes for our recipe bags.

Outreach

We worked with the Friendly Food Club during lockdown and decided to run an event during October half-term with them. It was unfortunate that errors were made in setting up the online event which stopped people signing up; meaning we were just short of the required numbers so had to cancel the event. The upside was lessons were learnt from the experience and no costs were incurred.

One of my volunteers stood in at the last minute for a Harvest Festival service at Castle Court; which was amazing. Castle Court's harvest donation along with the many other donations meant we held a 'speed dating' Saturday, where a great bunch of people came along to sort, date and stack them all over the church as we had ran out of room!

Castle Court was so impressed by their assembly they chose us as their Christmas charity and delivered over 100 decorated shoe boxes filled with amazing gifts. Christmas was a magical time for a number of our family as along with these gifts we were able to provide hampers from a grant by Corfe Mullen Town Council. We are currently in discussion with the school, as they would like our support in enriching their studies.

Donations

Again, a blessed year of donations; so many people, groups and organisations continue to generously support us. Despite that, we are often short of things, which seems incredible, but it is because people tend to donate 70% of the items we give out and it is that balance that we get short of, typically main meals, tinned meat - the more expensive items.

Extra Bags

Since lockdown we have continued with the initiative of giving out fresh bags, which include fresh veg, milk, bread, spread and eggs. These are well received and we have been given a generous donation to fund this going forward. We continue to give out our recipe bags during school holidays as well as activity packs for the children.

Grants

We have been fortunate to be allocated grants from Dorset County Council as well as Corfe Mullen Town council, which often come with strict criteria on how it is spent. Whenever we receive donations which have a specific request we ensure that those requests are honoured.

Future

We are very grateful to PCC (and Karen) for overseeing our accounts and for their continued support. We are all excited about the future. Our development plan is centred around building relations with agencies so we can offer sensible sign-posting, starting with the Mobile Citizens Advice Unit in April.

Finally, we celebrate our 10th Anniversary in November 2023, so please look out for more details on how to join in with our celebrations!

Tracie

Deanery Synod Report

Deanery Synod Annual Report April 2023

Synod comes from Greek *synodos* “assembly” in the Christian church, so these are meetings of local church officials for discussion of administration, questions and ways forward.

Corfe Mullen PCC lay reps to Wimborne Deanery are Alison Duyvesteyn, and Daphne Hayward. Revd Jane Burgess is Assistant Rural Dean.

Synod meets quarterly. This year, meetings were back to meeting in host churches.

Meeting the New Bishop of Salisbury

Bishop Stephen is now actively involved with duties in the Salisbury Diocese.

Lay Chair, Canon Gill Clarke talked through the photo presentation of Bishop Stephen's visit to Wimborne Deanery on Wednesday 1st February-

Finance

The Parish Share - The parish share enables the Diocese to fund: Clergy stipends, national insurance and pension, clergy training and much more

Payment of 2022 Share - Wimborne Deanery achieved a 2022 Share Contribution of 97.4% against a Request of £1.091M, second only to Salisbury Deanery which achieved 98.6% against a Request of £560K (approximately half our total)

Unfortunately, across the whole diocese, due to lower payments than budgeted, the Contribution rate was only 86.9%. This means that the diocesan accounts for 2022 are likely to show a deficit of around £1.3M which is greater than the target of £999K which was set as part of the 5-year plan to achieve a balanced account by 2025.

2023 Share - There was a 3% across the board increase in the 2023 Share Request, a figure way below inflation in the hope that as parish finances recover during the year.

Eco Church

We are working towards zero carbon by 2035. All are involved and must do something even if only to seek/give advice. Sherborne Abbey has installed a Bi-vane system. Kingston Lacy's project is to use the constant 13°C found underground. St Nicholas Church Corfe Mullen has installed solar panels. Encourage folk to turn down thermostats.

Sharing Experience

Sharing News of Mission/Outreach Activities

- Claire Lehman, Wimborne Minster – Muddy/Messy/Sensory Church

- Rev Matt Smith, Corfe Mullen – Wild Church – Delivered by Daphne Hayward
- Pam Reynolds, St James' Alderholt - Alderholt Parish magazine
- Rev Andy Muckle: Sturts Farm - West Moors Community Group

All participants gave interesting insights into their various roles, each embracing the wider vision and discipleship of church and drawing in families and local community.

Short update from the South Sudan

Sheila Soper's Mother's Union visit was greeted warmly. She gave \$100 to sponsor a nut grinder, witnessed 30 people living in one house, met Archbishop Samuel Peni, led a workshop for 120 in the Yambio region and 80 in Nzara. Visited primary schools which look to set up links with schools in the Salisbury Diocese. She is to return in 5 years. Who will go with her?.

A full account can be read on the Salisbury Grapevine, Feb 23rd
comms@salisbury.anglican.org

For further information & school links, please contact Sheila –
sheilasoper47@gmail.com

Guest Speaker –Revd Canon Karen Hutchinson Lay Ministry Development Officer on Lay Ministry and Mission Opportunities

Motivation for Ministry must be compassion and collaborative. There are many ways to respond to God's call. We have 62 LPA's in the Deanery.

Diocesan training course offers insights into how to be diplomatic, understand legal issues, use tact, delegate, support the incumbent etc.

Safeguarding

All PCC members are encouraged to complete the online Domestic Abuse training.

Congratulations were given to Matt who is to be the Team Vicar at Canford.

Minutes of Deanery Synod meetings are available with PCC minutes.

Daphne

Hartnell Court

It has been a sparse year for visiting Hartnell Court! After my September visit last year, I was not able to visit as all the residents were having new kitchens fitted, and the lounge area was being used by the workmen to store items, and to have their coffee breaks! So I couldn't give communion in October or November! Finally, in December I was able to give Communion and a week later Jane and I gave them a short Carol service, which was enjoyed by all!

Then on January and February of this year, they were all having new carpets fitted throughout- with new sofas and chairs in the lounge- so again- I couldn't visit! So hopefully in March I'll be able to give communion and visit the five regular ladies and two gentlemen.

I so enjoy going to Hartnell Court----they give us such a good welcome!

Heather Sims LPA

End of Reports

Just a reminder, that if you would like to raise a question to be considered by the rector and / or the PCC, then please submit it by Tuesday 18th April to Jane Burgess (revjaneb@gmail.com).