

The Annual Parochial Church Meeting will be held in St Nicholas Church on Sunday 11th May 2025

10.00am Holy Communion
Coffee 11.10am
APCM 11.30am

Agenda - Annual Meeting of Parishioners 'Vestry Meeting'

1. Minutes of the Annual Vestry Meeting held 28th April 2024
2. Appointment of Churchwardens 2025– 2026

Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM)

1. Apologies for absence
2. Minutes of APCM held on 28th April 2024
3. Matters arising from the minutes
4. Presentation of New 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. Safeguarding
10. Elections for PCC vacancies
11. Rector's address
12. Any other business (to be notified in advance please)
13. Closing Prayer

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Rector's Report

Before writing my report I sat down in the sunshine with a cup of tea to read through all the reports- I encourage you to do the same! My response at the end was to say wow! The fact that the reports are so fulsome reflects the commitment and enthusiasm of our church family. I am filled with joy seeing so many engage in mission and ministry, contributing to making Jesus known here in Corfe Mullen and growing in their own faith.

I'm not going to repeat what has been said in other reports but, rather, will focus on what has occupied some of us for the past few months. We have been invited by the diocese to be part of a project for which the diocese are seeking significant funding from the national church. The project would see us become a mission hub for this area and the invitation is an affirmation of all the good work so many are doing here.

The funding would allow us to accelerate our vision and grow further our mission in making Jesus known but also help us to help and enable other churches in the area. We don't know yet what the outcome will be, but the process has helped sharpen our vision for the next stage of the life of our church. Indeed, this next season was the focus of our recent PCC away morning.

When I came, now almost eight years ago, the calling was very clearly to restore the church to a place of health where people genuinely felt safe and part of a family which, in turn, would enable people to explore the gifts God had given them and find their place in ministry. Only then could the church really flourish and grow and move into a season of growth.

I believe we are now in this new season in the life of our churches and God is clearly doing a new thing. The mission proposal is one element of this but as we move forward two things are clear: first, if we want what God wants for our churches we need to stay close to Him and be a body of people who pray; so it is genuinely encouraging to see how many people have signed up for the prayer course in the coming term. The other thing the PCC are clear about is that whatever the future holds, we build on our values – the things that really matter to us, those things we have learned and invested in over the last few years. You will find these on the back page of the reports. We want to keep these values in clear sight as we move forwards, and they will help to guide our priorities and path.

I want to thank all of you for playing your part in our church family. Some are able to do more in this season and others less but everybody's contribution is what enables the body to flourish.

St Paul's prayer to the church at Philippi reflects my own heart as we consider all that God is doing here:

May God bless you all. Yes, I pray that God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ will give each of you his fullest blessings and his peace in your hearts and your lives. All my prayers for you are full of praise to God! When I pray for you, my heart is full of joy because of all your wonderful help in making known the Good News about Christ from the time you first heard it until now. And I am sure that God who began the good work within you will keep right on helping you grow in his grace until his task within you is finally finished on that day when Jesus Christ returns.

Philippians 1:2-6 The Living Bible

Rev'd Jane Burgess (Rector)

Churchwardens Report

In last year's report we spoke about how we were inspired by the launch of the Diocese "Making Jesus Known" campaign. We said at that time that we wanted to play our part in taking our faith into the community to do just that, Make Jesus Known.

Well, a year on and we are pleased to be able to say that we feel so pleased with how St Nicholas has grasped the challenge and made great strides both inside the church building and in the wider community.

If one thing stands out above everything else that has been achieved this year it must be that we can genuinely say that we have widened the age range of those who worship regularly here at St Nicholas. We now take enormous pleasure in welcoming so many young families every week to our Rise Service, our Life Group for the younger church members and the Dads and Toddler Group. Not to mention the continued success of Wild Church. Evie has been amazing in everything that she has done with the youth within our church.

Underpinning everything that happens at the church is the unwavering unity that exists amongst the church family. The support that is shown to each other is so special and is a huge part of why we are growing both in our faith and our numbers.

It has been a huge pleasure to welcome our new curate David, his wife Roseanna and their children Nora and Jonah. It was great to see members of the church family pull together to redecorate their new home to make it a welcoming environment for them to move into. David has taken to the role with great enthusiasm and is proving to be wonderful asset to both churches. He has undertaken a variety of roles across all age groups and has made a significant impact in all that he has been asked to do.

The memorial garden at St Hubert's is now more established and has become an integral part of the church. John Burbidge has maintained the grounds to a high standard and it is a pleasure to be able to celebrate the changing seasons. As well as the work that John has undertaken himself, he has coordinated the very important contribution that has been made by the Community Payback scheme.

As churchwardens we hope to be the eyes and ears of the church family. We constantly strive to engage with the congregation taking on board comments and opinions. This gives us the opportunity to make sure that there is clear communication with the leadership team.

Another important aspect of the role of the churchwarden is to make sure that the building is safe and well maintained. Again, this year some very important projects have been completed including the installation of the kitchen shutters and at last the recovering of the spire along with the work that has been done on the roof to stop the leaks. Several other smaller projects have also been completed so much has been done to keep St Nicholas and St Hubert's in good order.

It was lovely to see the church family come together to enjoy the annual cream tea on the lawns of St Hubert's. The sun shone for us and Andy Fall along with his team rang the bells which we were invited to join in with. We have also been blessed with some very special concerts given by Emma-Marie. The church building lends itself so well to the music she plays.

On Mothering Sunday, we took great pleasure in welcoming Bishop Karen to St Nicholas to speak to us. She told us that she had heard of the wonderful things that are happening at St Nicholas so she wanted to come along and see for herself. She told us that she was very pleased with all that she had seen. Bishop Karen visited Rise and saw our youngest members of the congregation in action. She also preached,

presided at Holy Communion and socialised over coffee. It was a very special morning.

Throughout January and February, we learned so much from our Walking with Jesus sermon series. There was a real sense of engagement as we looked at faith around the word, faith in the Holy Spirit and showing our faith in our witness.

Wherever we are on our journey in faith there is a place for us all at St Nicholas. There is plenty of opportunity to learn more of God's word and we are actively encouraged to take our faith out into the community.

Daphne and I would like to thank Tracie and Karen who have supported us through the year. They give us a gentle nudge when we need it and timely reminders when deadlines are approaching!!

We feel extremely privileged to serve as wardens and we are grateful for the unwavering support that we receive from everyone whilst we go about our duties.

God Bless,
Daphne and Neil.

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 use of restricted funds is confined to a specific purpose while designated funds may be used for any purpose but should ideally be used for the purposes intended.

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 throughout 2024. This report reviews the operating costs and income for the parish separately to that of the Centre and then combines both operations to provide an overall financial position.

Financial position of the parish

The total income from the parish in giving and donations (i.e. not including the income received by the St Nicholas Centre) for 2024 was £86,242 which is an increase from the previous year of £11,660. This is very encouraging and is a reflection of the growing numbers in our congregations and of course the generosity of the church family.

Expenses for the running of the parish during 2024 was £91,416 which was a decrease of £3,281 compared to the previous year. This may seem surprising considering we had an increase in parish share of £4,093 and a higher wages and salaries bill of (£928 more in 2024 relative to 2023). The reason for this reduction is because the utility expenditure of the parish, (the total utility bill is split 35% towards the running of the parish and 65% against the running of the Centre and is based on usage), decreased by almost £3,000 owing to the solar panels that that are installed at St Nicholas. The solar panels not only supplement our day-to-day electricity usage (thereby reducing our bills) but also feed any excess back into the national grid; this feed-in element has generated an additional income of £417.

The expenses of running the parish still exceeded its income by £5,173. Despite this, this figure is encouraging as at the end of 2023 the expenses of running the parish exceeded its income by £20,000. This is £15,000 lower than in 2023 and means we are going in the right direction towards our longer-term aim for the parish to pay its own way without reliance on income from the Centre operations.

We would like the parish to eventually be able to pay its way completely so that any surplus generated by the Centre can be invested in the ongoing upkeep and renovation of our church buildings, in addition to the wider mission and ministry of our churches.

One final point on parish income - 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.

Financial position of the Centre

The total income from the St Nicholas Centre was £60,605 which is an increase from the previous year of £3,157 which, again, is encouraging. Expenses incurred from running the Centre were £34,305 which is an increase from the previous year of

£7,716. This reflects the increase in wages and salaries bill of £2,200 and the utility bill of £1,300. This means Centre income from room hire exceeded the expenses of running the Centre by £26,300.

Overall financial position

Therefore, taking both parish and Centre operations together the total income for 2024 was £146,847 which is an increase on the previous year by £14,817, while total expenditure was £125,721 which is £4,435 more than the previous year. Overall, this left a positive financial position of £21,126.

However, it must be remembered that the income and outgoing figures above do NOT include the full salary bill for the church. This is because currently half the salary of the Worship Leader and the full salary of the Children and Families Worker are paid from grants and legacies; eventually these monies will run out. If we were to include these salaries in our overall income and outgoings figure, then in fact we have an annual deficit of £16,138. Our substantial financial reserves mean this shortfall does not create any immediate or even medium-term problems but I have noted it, to give an indication of how much our income has to increase if we wish over the much longer-term to retain these posts.

Church giving and building

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

We have also had some major upgrades to the St Nicholas building. New doors have been installed at the entrance to the building to improve accessibility and the guttering has been replaced which was leaking. 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.

Investments

In recent years the parish was left generous legacies. In total, the finance team invested £303,000 in seven different easy access and long-term investment accounts to ensure careful stewardship and prudent management of our funds to achieve interest from our investments. The value of these investments now stands at £359,000.

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.

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 report covers the period May 2024 to March 2025, a difficult time for the Church of England, in relation to safeguarding, with the publication of the Makin and Soul survivor Review. Our thoughts and prayers are with survivors and their families.

In 2024/25, Corfe Mullen PCC complied with the duty to have "due regard" to the House of Bishops' guidance in relation to safeguarding. Our Safeguarding Policy has been updated in October 2024 in order to incorporate new guidance from the National Church. Our policy is a go to document which advises "How to –safely" e.g. safer recruitment.

Safeguarding is an agenda item at every PCC meeting. This ensures that our church leadership is kept informed of good safeguarding practice and is held to account to follow this guidance.

We were an earlier adopter of the parish safeguarding dashboard. This is an on line tool that enables parishes to check levels of compliance with safeguarding. We are currently registering a high level of compliance, over 97% at level 3.
Another tool becoming available to parishes this year is the Parish Safeguarding hub. This helps parishes to record safeguarding training and safer recruitment. Corfe Mullen are currently trialling this system. We hope this tool will enable us to provide our volunteers with a friendly nudge when their safeguarding training or DBS needs to be renewed.

On 17th November we held Safeguarding Sunday at St Nicholas and St Hubert which was well received.

The Safeguarding team at Salisbury led by Suzie (ex-social services) and Jem (ex police) are brilliant. They do not just inform us about the guidance and provide training but more importantly advice. They are the go to people where we report all

concerns or allegations against church officers. Fortunately, to date we have not had to report any allegations but have had lots of queries and request for advice which is given that same day. Learning from this is disseminated to PCC and volunteers involved.

In 2024 Alison took part, alongside other PSO's, in an external audit on Safeguarding in Salisbury. Salisbury was the first diocese and cathedral to take part in such an audit. The auditors found that a culture of safeguarding was embedded and on the whole parish staff and volunteers felt able to speak truth to power.

Arising from the recommendations, Salisbury has focused on increasing levels of support available for those in safeguarding roles within parishes. A new initiative has been monthly on line drop in sessions attended by around 40 PSO's. PSO's were sent a 7 minute briefing regarding Makin and Soul Survivor review, so that learning could be disseminated across the diocese. There has been a greater emphasis on training to help survivors. This year Alison attended a "Trauma informed approach" course and is scheduled to attend "Hurting in the contact of church".

Corfe Mullen PSO (Alison) and parish verifier (Tracie) have attended PSO workshops this year. These workshops enable teams to share good practice and learn latest guidance from the diocesan safeguarding team.

There are plans afoot to change the DBS provider to one used by the majority of diocese around the country as they are more effective, agile and offer a higher level of support than our current provider. A highlight for many of us (PSO's) was an invite to a PSO garden party at South Canonry in the summer.
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.. PCC have 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.
Safer Recruitment and People Management; for anyone involved in the recruitment of volunteers or paid staff

Understanding Domestic Abuse it 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. Please tell Tracie or Alison when you complete any training so we can add your name to the parish safeguarding hub so that you can receive a reminder when your training needs updating.

Basic and Foundation, Understanding Domestic Abuse", "Leadership" and "safer recruitment" courses are 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 on line courses.

Thank you all for helping to make St Hubert and St Nicholas a safe place to worship. To quote Bishop Stephen "Safeguarding is not an added extra, it is a gospel imperative"

Finally, I wish to give a very big thank you to Tracie, our parish verifier, who manages the DBS process and parish safeguarding hub.

Alison Duyvesteyn Parish Safeguarding Officer 2025

Children and Families

It has been a busy year for our children and families ministry. Full of joy and so many blessings! It has really been a privilege to have become full time in my role this year, a role which I love and cherish. So please do read on to see all the marvellous things we, with God, have been up to.

Stories in the Wilderness

We had the pleasure of hosting Christian children's author and national speaker, Bob Hartman, to our wild church space for a 'stories in the wilderness' morning. This was an event we put on in collaboration with St Barnabas church, The Lantern and St John's church. Bob was incredibly inspiring in the interactive and exciting way he shared stories from the Bible and families loved exploring the stories through various crafts, prayer activities and food! It is always great to run



events in collaboration with other churches as it brings us all together and helps share the workload.

Holiday Club

The Circus came to our building for the summer holiday club this year, and it brought a whole load of fun with it! Children had a great time as we discovered that God is actually a lion tamer, a fire tamer, a giant defeater and so much more. I have received so much wonderful feedback from parents, here's a snippet of some feedback:

'I would like to thank you and the team for putting on the circus holiday club this summer, my children really enjoyed it. They said they had a great time and always had plenty of activities to do. They loved doing the craft and bringing it home to show everyone! They also enjoyed the food telling me there was even seconds available! The kids look forward to your next holiday club!'

There was a new addition to holiday club called 'messy games' this year, where the volunteer team were challenged to a 1v1 circus skills show off! The loser (voted for by the children) was then pied in the face with some lovely shaving foam. I really do need to thank each and every one of the volunteers who made this holiday club so memorable and fun. So much work goes into holiday club, with different people helping with the planning and preparation, then those who attend to help each day of holiday club, people praying behind the scenes for us throughout the week, those that popped in to help serve lunch and wash up, and of course those that help to pack everything down at the end. It's a team effort and it truly blesses the families in our community as we offer an affordable week of fun for their children. So, thank you for your support in this.






Sunday

<u>Family Service</u>

The first Sunday of each month is our family service where we all come together to worship, aiming to be appropriate for all ages. We begin by sharing breakfast with each other and then open the service with worship. There is usually some kind of starter activity to introduce the theme of the service, followed by our bible reading

and talk which is delivered in a whole variety of ways as we hear from different people. We often have a craft, although this is sometimes just for the children, and we end the service with a prayer activity and worship. This is a wonderful time for multi-generational worship, and I have witnessed how beneficial it is for the children to build relationships with other members of the church. In particular, I have noticed how a few children gravitate towards the worship team as they love the live instruments in worship. How blessed we are to have each other!

Creche

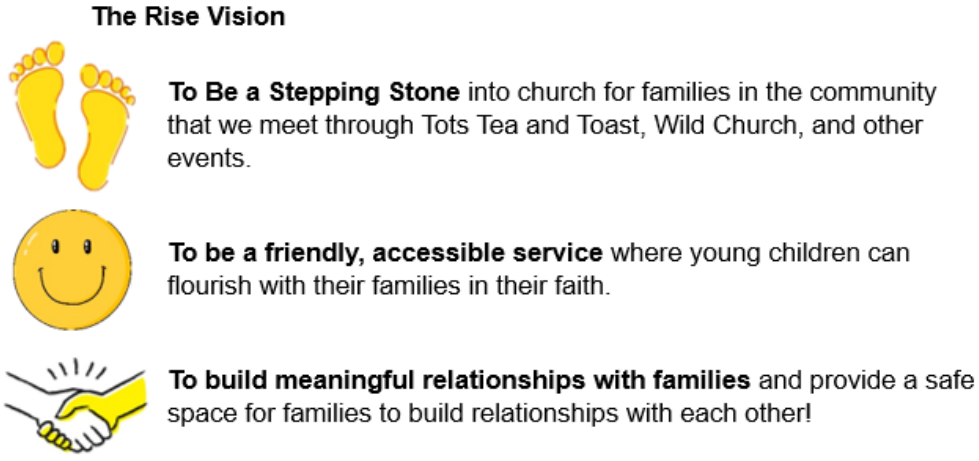
Across the other Sundays of the month, we offer a creche where parents can watch the service on the TV with their little ones and a few toys. This has been useful for families with children that can't engage in the service!

Future Children's Group

As the children that come to church are growing older, we are planning to launch a children's group in September that will run alongside the 10am service. This will be for children that are comfortable being left by their parents, so that their parents can sit in at the 10am service. More information on this to come soon, but if you'd be interested in helping to lead a children's group, please speak to Evie!

Rise

Who can believe it has almost been a year of Rise, our early morning, 9am-9:30am Sunday service for families with young children. With puppets telling the Bible story, action worship songs, weekly Makaton signs, crafts and games, prayer and fellowship. Rise has been such a wonderful space for families to grow in faith together and has been a great 'first step' for families checking out the church or those going for Baptisms. It has been heartwarming to see the little ones forming friendships and to watch them come in each morning excited for the service. We started Rise with 3 families faithfully attending and most recently have had 15 families, who continue to regularly attend. When we started Rise, our vision was:



and I truly feel we are meeting that vision! I'm so excited to see what God has planned for this ministry over the next year. Please do continue to pray for Rise as it grows and thank you to those who help to run Rise.






Bonfire Night

After the awesome time we had last year, we decided again to run a free bonfire night social event for families. All the tickets went after just 24 hours of being available, and we had 110 in total attend the evening of fun. With crafts, games, toasting marshmallows on the campfire, fireworks and hotdogs with hot chocolate, it was a joyous evening. So many parents have spoken to me about how they couldn't believe it was free – what a wonderful way to bless these families. Thank you to those that helped with the preparation including lots of cutting out for crafts and to those that helped on the evening to make sure everybody had a great time. These events can't run without those that give their time, so really and truly thank you!





Christmas

I'm certain you are all aware of how busy the Christmas season is, and we certainly packed in as much as we could! As always, a huge thank you to all those that made these events run so smoothly, it was particularly lovely having life groups run events.

Christmas Tree Festival



We were incredibly blessed to have our building decorated with 21 trees from the community! There was such an amazing variety, showcasing the creativity of everyone involved. I often overheard people walking past my office commenting on how beautiful the trees were. It was also a great way of getting Lockyer's Middle School and Henbury View First School involved as they each decorated their own tree. Thank you to all those that got stuck into the Christmas festivities quite early on in order to provide such wonderful trees! The top three trees were decorated by: 1st Blossoms Day Nursery, 2nd Corfe Mullen Health Walk Group, 3rd Knit and Natter, as voted for by the community.

Saltmine Theatre Company Red Riding Hood

We kicked off December with the marvellous Saltmine Theatre Company who came and performed a retelling of Red Riding Hood. The church was a joyful buzz with 182 people that attended, 70 of which were Brownies! Thank you to the life group who so willingly volunteered to support the running of the event, and a big thank you to Rachel & Neil who again facilitated the Saltmine Theatre Company crew.

Christmas Craft Fair



We had lots of crafts for children going on at this year's craft fair and it was lovely to again have stalls in the hall selling some wonderful creations. With many enjoying the BLTs from the café too! Overall, a lovely event for all generations and a great place to sign post our other Christmas happenings. It was particularly lovely seeing the joy on children's faces carrying their bags full of crafts!

Experience Christmas

Jane, Charles, David, Chris, Rachel and I had a fantastic opportunity to deliver 'experience Christmas' at Henbury View First School. This is a set of stations that explores the nativity story in an interactive way. Two classes (60 children) explored the stations with us, and the school were very thankful stating that 'it was excellent, and the children learnt a great deal'. We're so blessed to have a wonderful relationship with Henbury View First School and enjoyed sharing the nativity story with them in such a fun way.

Christmas @ Tots Tea and Toast and Wild Church



We were very blessed to have Father Christmas visit the children at Tots Tea and Toast and Wild Church this year, where he gave each child a nativity story book. At Wild Church there was a nativity trail for families to explore, and at Tots the children enjoyed making Christmas crafts and having a party snack together. Both Tots and

Wild Church were great spaces in December to highlight other Christmas events to families.

Nativity Service Christmas Eve

Once again, we hosted a nativity service where children enjoyed getting stuck into the retelling of the nativity story! The wonderful sewing ladies made us a variety of new nativity costumes that many enjoyed dressing up in. Even baby Jesus (Jessica) made an appearance with Mary (Clare) and Joseph (Chris)! It was truly a joyful way for families to celebrate the true meaning of Christmas.

Tots Tea and Toast





Tots Tea and Toast continues to be a wonderful group for those with babies and toddlers. The children get an hour of free play (including craft and messy play) before all the toys are packed away and they then gather for snack time which is always toast and fruit! We then finish the session with a prayer that the children have chosen, a short story and some nursery rhymes. Mandy and Ann B have served so faithfully at Tots Tea and Toast for many, many years, and it is particularly wonderful to see them in their element with the children and parents/guardians. We are also very grateful to have had additional help from Ann Thrasher, Marilyn Bean, Val Simcock and Daphne Hayward over the past year. Parents and grandparents have given us wonderful feedback over the year, most recently Clare shared in church that 'Coming each week gives me a chance to speak to other mums about the many changes babies go through, and to know I'm not alone on this journey', which I think perfectly captures part of the Tots Tea and Toast mission, which is to provide a space for parents and grandparents where they feel welcomed and are able to connect with and build friendships with others in a similar stage of life! Mandy and I strive to keep the Christian roots in Tots Tea and Toast in a variety of ways such as, having a prayer table with prayer cards so that the children can build our prayer for the morning, singing Christian songs during our nursery rhyme time, sharing appropriate Christian stories during story time where children can engage with actions and by sharing about events happening within the church that might interest families. This has served as a great way of introducing families to the church and we have seen families attend Rise and Wild Church, having first come to Tots Tea and Toast!

Wild Church



Wild Church is just as it sounds, a wild expression of church aimed at families! Running every third Saturday of the month 9:30-11am. We meet in the wooded area at the bottom of the carpark where we explore bible stories around the campfire, use tools to get crafty, sow plants, play with the mud kitchen, tree swing and giant sling shot, cook on the campfire, hunt for bugs and enjoy each other's company. This has been particularly well received by families that are busy Sunday mornings, as they are able to do church with us on the Saturday morning. But is also popular with families that already attend on Sundays too! We often have Duke of Edinburgh students coming along to volunteer, some of which enjoyed it so much that they've come back just for fun. Our volunteer team continues to be amazing as they dive into whatever wild church activities we have planned! I think I can speak for all of us when I say that we enjoy Wild Church just as much as the families do.

School Links

Henbury View First School

<u>Reading at Henbury</u>

We continue to support Henbury View First School by going in weekly to listen to children read for an hour and to help them develop their reading skill. It really is a lovely way to spend an afternoon and Ann, Veronica and I are always amazed by how quickly the children progress. Big thanks to Ann and Veronica who are so wonderful with the children and for giving their time to this cause. The school are so very appreciative.

<u>Choir Club</u>

Each week on a Thursday I have been at Henbury View to run an afterschool choir club, and it has been such a joy! With permission of the school, the children learn Christian songs as well as secular songs, often wanting to make up their own actions to go with them. The choir club was able to come to our nativity service on Christmas eve to perform one of the songs they learnt, which was such a beautiful performance! We hope the choir will be able to perform again at church in the future too.

<u>Governorship</u>

Having built a good relationship with the school, I have been appointed as a governor for Henbury View First School. The governors are a vital part of the school partnership, working together for the benefit of the children and the effective running of the school. It has been lovely to support the school in this way and a privilege to share my knowledge

<u>Assemblies</u>

Henbury continue to welcome us to do assemblies with the whole school. Jane has additionally been welcomed to speak at parent assemblies at Easter and Christmas time.

Lockyer's Middle School

Walk and Talk

Walk and Talk is such a precious activity where a group of volunteers take children, that have been chosen by Lockyer's staff, for one walk a week over a block of 5 weeks. It is an opportunity for those children to have an adult's full attention, and to enjoy going on a local walk and talking about whatever they fancy! We try various activities with the children to promote mental wellbeing like journalling, breathing techniques, clay modelling and even walking with Finley pup. And we also share a little bit about our faith and have conversations with the children about what they believe. It is hard to put into words how important Walk and Talk is, but here is what the school's wellbeing leads have said: 'The children of Lockyer's have benefited greatly from the Walk and Talk sessions that have taken place. The sessions have allowed the children to explore various nature spots/areas within their local community, many of which were new experiences for the children. The volunteers who give up their time are always so kind, patient and approachable and their support has been invaluable as it has allowed the children to talk to other trusted adults away from a home or school environment. The sessions have allowed the children to learn mindfulness activities, meet new people, see new places and experience new things. This has given them their own special time to unwind, relax and reflect away from the day-to-day commitments, efforts of stressors of home and school life'. We look forward to continuing this activity over the next year.

Young Carers Group

The Lockyer's Young Carers Groups have been making good use of our Wild Church space which is a pleasure. Stuart and I have manned the fire to enable the children to toast some scrummy marshmallows and enjoy the space with their teachers.

Easter

We have had a very sunny and joyful start to the Easter celebrations this year! Starting with a visit from Henbury View First School where the Year 3 and 4 children explored the easter story through interactive stations with a church member at each one (Experience Easter).

The school really value this offering as the children were able to ask questions and explore the meaning of easter for Christians with our team who are confident in answering those questions! We were thrilled to receive a beautiful thank you card that the children had made for us.

The following week we visited Henbury to do an Easter assembly which involved cracking an egg of David's head... Rest assured it had a great message which was that Easter is about love - the amazing love that Jesus has for us! A couple of children

read prayers that they had prepared at Experience Easter and the children's choir performed a worship song which was amazing. We are so grateful for the relationship we have with Henbury, and absolutely love spending time with the teachers and pupils.

Most recently, we held our children's easter craft fair which was a big hit, with 65 children coming along for crafty fun! There were 6 crafts the children could get stuck into, an Easter story trail and of course an easter egg hunt. We also announced the winners of the Easter Drawing Competition that we held, and it was wonderful to see the creativity and effort put into their drawings. It was a real family event with many bringing along grandparents to enjoy the fun too. It is such a joy to host these events and I'm so thankful to all those that volunteer their time to make it possible.

Each year writing this report reminds me of just how much God has been working within our children and families ministry. I hope reading it has filled you with joy and anticipation for what is yet to come, and for what God has up his sleeve! As always, thank you all for your support, whether that has been in giving your time, financial donations, prayer, words of encouragement and any other bits and bobs.
Evie

Church Centre Report

2024 has been another busy year in the centre. We have had an increase in booking from some of our existing groups which means the centre is now fully booked out with the exception of Saturdays. While this is great news and means that the booking income continued to increase it does bring with it an element of risk as most of our booking are now from 3 organisations. The aim for 2025 is to try and attract new organisations but with limited availability this will be challenging.

The caretaking and housekeeping teams continue to do a great job managing to keep the rooms clean and ready for the groups. Feedback from groups using the centre is always positive about the environment. The caretaking team also maintain the grounds both here and at St Huberts and do a great job keeping the areas tidy with limited time. John Burbidge has been working hard on the field area at St Huberts and this year has planted wild flowers which will hopefully provide a lovely display later in the year. Clive Moss has joined the Caretaking team and helps out regularly on Mondays.

During 2024 Community Payback were not able to give us as much time as previously. As a result they focused their time down at St Huberts and have done an

amazing job in the old memorial / graveyard section. We have rediscovered paths that have been hidden for a while making access to this area easier and memorial markers that had been engulfed by the hedgerow can now be seen. They are hoping to be back this Spring / Summer to help us to continue to maintain the area and to do some work in the field as well as help with maintaining the grounds at St Nicholas.

Over the course of the year a variety of improvements have been undertaken in the building including the installation of the new sound system, the automatic doors and new fire shutters in the kitchen. All of these have been positively received by the groups using the centre.

Projects for 2025

- Maintain the level of external bookings while looking to diversify the organisations using the centre
- Continue to work in partnership with Community Payback to maintain the grounds at both sites
- Undertake remaining works required for Quinquennial at both sites

Karen

Church Worship Band

I'd like to begin with a huge thank you to not simply the music team, but everyone who contributes to the music worship. That means the tech team on the sound and audio/visual desk, the staff who input into the creative process and help choose the music and hymns we play, and the office who puts the Services together and ensure the space is free to practice. It's a big enterprise which we hope brings glory to God. I'm reminded of the opening words of Psalm 95, 'Come, let us sing for joy to the LORD'!

I preached on 'Walking with Jesus in Worship' and shared my thoughts on all aspects of worship being about 'Our story/God's story/Transformation/Sending Out'. I find this model very helpful in understand what is going on when we encounter God in our worship, and what it says and does to our souls.

This year we have had some new personnel come into the music team, and some depart. We were sad to say goodbye to Peter Hoar at St Huberts but congratulate him on his new appointment as organist at St John's Broadstone. New members have joined us on the team at St Nicholas' and we hope that others who have been on sabbatical will again be joining in. We continue to look with optimism for

someone to take over from me as Worship Team Leader although I will continue to play in the band. Do hold this in your prayers.

Our music repertoire continues to expand as we carefully introduce new music to augment what is now a large catalogue of songs and hymns. The choice depends to some degree on the theme and season of the year, but always with an emphasis on giving glory to the Lord. We have also worked hard to provide space in the main Sunday Service with reflective songs and hymns, both old and new.

We have now lived with our new sound system at St Nicholas' for a full year and it is a huge improvement on what we had before. However, it has highlighted how much we could further improve the sound quality by careful acoustic treatment to reduce the considerable echo, without losing the natural lively acoustic which bands and choirs so enjoy. I'm reminded of the 'gap' in quality when I go to St Huberts, where the spoken word is crystal clear, and it is incumbent on us to strive for similar high quality sound at St Nicholas'. This will be phase 2 of our work for the coming year.

That makes up the music side of the dynamic nature of our worship which is hopefully lifegiving and joyful to all who embrace it with heart, body, mind and soul. And so, I return to my opening line from Psalm 95:

> *'Come, let us sing for joy to the LORD'!*
> *And may I hear a hearty: "Amen!"*

Chris Tebbutt
Worship Team Leader

Buildings Committee

The building Committee consists of: Karen Dale, John Burbidge, Neil Stevens, Neil Wellington, Anthony Sherman and myself.

Items and issues addressed during reporting period:

St. Nicholas
Completed activities

- Installation of Automatic Doors to main entrance
- Replacement of Kitchen Roller Shutters
- Water tightening of the Spire and main church roof.

Following meetings with the Finance Team and PCC, an annual maintenance budget has been agreed, allowing the Buildings Committee to plan and deliver proactive maintenance, under due governance.

Near-term planned activities include

- Repainting main church ceiling, following spire works and pre the installation of acoustic materials being installed in the ceiling
- Roofing repairs, outside gent's toilets
- Replacement of external fire doors
- Repairing Brickwork and refixing railings in the car parking area, closet to the Vicarage
- Replace the x8 Velux windows throughout the church.

St. Huberts

Completed activities

- Reinstatement of Outdoor Lighting
- Belfry Painted
- Hedges maintenance - front and field side
- Pathways and tree line cleared
- Bell tower maintenance.

Near-term planned activities include

- Inside painting work
- Guttering replacement.

Jason

Life Groups

The Life Groups continue to be a key ministry in the life of our churches. They are a place in which we can come together in smaller groups to reflect on sermons, share with one another in more depth, and laugh and pray. The four Ws format - Welcome, Worship, Word and Witness - has enabled the groups to retain an outward focus (in particular reminding us to live out our faith in the various places God has put each of us during the week) but also for all to have an opportunity to contribute to the running of the group, growing in our own gifts and leadership skills. One of the things Jane and I have sensed in recent years from numerous conversations is the growing number of church members reading the Bible, being

more intentional in prayer and practically seeking to live out their faith through the week. The Life groups have played a significant role in encouraging this momentum.

The Life Groups have run fortnightly through the autumn, winter and spring seasons looking primarily at “walking with Jesus ”; exploring at a very practical the what it means to live out our faith not only in all the daily ups and downs of life but also in a secular culture which can sometimes feel hostile to faith. Most recently during Lent, we have been looking at some of the spiritual disciplines which the Bible gives in strengthening our faith and drawing us closer to Christ.

The feedback has been positive from all the groups and, as with last year, it’s been particularly encouraging that all the Life Groups have been creative and committed in responding to the Witness element. This has included organising the support for those major services where we have a large number of visitors and spending a day helping at the homeless charity we support, Routes to Roots.

Special thanks must go to Leaders Neil and Rachel, Ade and Heather, Tim and Caroline, Chris and Sandra (who took over the group led by Paul and Jo), and David and Alison for their hospitality and commitment in facilitating the groups. And thank you to all who have been part of these groups.

In the coming spring/summer term we will take a break from the home-based groups to come together as a wider church in St Nicholas to embark on the Prayer course and the revised Bible course from the Bible Society. The plan will be to go back into Life Groups based in homes in the autumn.

Charles

Licensed Lay Minister (LLM)

In the Diocese of Salisbury, *a Licensed Lay Minister is a lay (ie volunteer) leader in church and/or the wider community who has been identified, trained, and licensed by the Bishop in order to teach the faith and enable mission. In some cases their ministry is rooted in the community or in the workplace rather than in the life of the local church.*

(https://www.salisbury.anglican.org/missionandministry/lay-ministry/licensed-lay-ministers/

This has been an interesting year for the Licensed Lay Ministry in the Parish. We began the year with three people in this role; Carol Bendenelli, Paul Eaton and Rachel Stevens. During the year, both Carol and Paul felt it right to move on to different churches.

LLMs form part of the Ministry Team of the Parish and support the Clergy in their work as well as working with the PCC to develop the vision and mission of the church.

During this year, Paul supported funeral ministry, Sunday preaching, men's ministry and leading a Life Group alongside Jo. Carol supported with leading the daytime Life Group.

Rachel has supported Evie to create the new Rise service for young families, Sunday preaching, leading a Life Group with Neil, worked with a team to put together our second annual Ladies Teaching Day in October, and started a Book Club with Agatha. Rachel's LLM role is alongside a full time job leading Pastoral Care and Safeguarding in a Purbeck Secondary School, where her gifts are also used.

Hopefully, this provides a flavour of what LLMs get up to. As a role it is as varied and diverse as the gifting of the individual. LLMs go through a discernment process and some theological training alongside formation of character and spiritual gifting before being Licensed by the Bishop.

If you feel that this may be a ministry that God is calling you to and would like to find out more about what it involves Rachel would be happy to speak to you about her journey, and Jane would love to hear from you to start the process of exploring with you where God may be leading you.

Rachel Stevens, on behalf of the LLMs

March 2025

Lay Pastoral Assistants

Our vibrant pastoral team work with a variety of church family members whether they are elderly, young, recently bereaved, sick or housebound. The team, recognised by their rainbow lanyards, help to run the community lunch and offer prayer to those in need after the church service. Some trained team members (LPA) take communion to those who are unable to come to church. LPA stands for Lay

Pastoral assistants who are trained and authorised to engage in pastoral ministry on behalf of the local church.

All team members focus on pastoral care, but an individual's ministry varies according to their gifts and skills. We meet every 2 months, offering each other support and obtaining continued education. For example, this year we had a talk from the local surgeries social prescriber. A social prescriber connects individuals to community activities and services to address their social, emotional, and practical needs, ultimately improving their health and well-being. The team helped to man the church stand on carnival day and played an active role in the remembering loved ones service in December.

We follow guidelines laid down by the National Church regarding home vising and have our own written policy and risk assessment template.
Last year Jo Eaton, who had been running the group since 2022, stepped down. We give thanks for all Jo's work and wish her well as she moves to new pastures.

I am delighted to be coordinating the team and am looking forward to our forthcoming talk on the work of the hospital chaplaincy. We hope to link up with LPA's from other parishes in the forthcoming year. If you know of anyone in our church family who may benefit from a visit from our team please let me know. The email to use is: pastoralcoordinatorstnics@gmail.com

Alison
LPA and Pastoral care coordinator.

Threads of Faith

We finished the Trinity altar frontal by adding 3 rows of gold binding down each side. New costumes have been made for children for the nativity service and the Christmas banners have backed and so hang much better.

At one Family Service everyone was tasked with sewing a button on a square of material. All the patches were then sewn together and the whole piece backed. Jane explained that this represented us as patchwork people - all different, which led to the strapline PATCHWORK PEOPLE being appliqued and embroidered across the top. It now hangs on the wall by the sound desk.

Our latest project is to resurrect an old Pentecost banner and back it with another obsolete banner. We have welcomed another person to our group.

Jenny

Community Lunch

Our Community Lunch has been running for 4 years; Matt, our outside caterer provides a good, nourishing 2 course meal including tea or coffee for which we charge £6 a head. Members enjoy the companionship of sharing a meal with others instead of simply sitting at home alone.

We provide a warm, friendly environment, offering a listening ear for those who want to share issues that they might have. It is gratifying that we have had some people living within a 5 mile radius that have been sign-posted to us through social prescribers.

We produce a monthly menu which is posted on the Community Notice Board. Matt is very good at responding to our feedback and meeting different dietary requirements. His Christmas lunch was well attended and Matt provided all the requirements for a traditional Christmas meal. A raffle was organised and the proceeds, which was £120, went to Roots to Routes.

Typically after the tables have been laid the team stop for a coffee and chat together. After Easter we are looking at developing some fellowship discussion with David.

During the Summer holidays Caroline Hearn, the Customer Relations Manager from the Potteries Care Home, organised a coffee morning for community lunch club members, providing them tea/coffee, cakes and cookies. At this session members were given handouts detailing activities for the coming period in the care home. It was clear this was a very successful morning.

In January all the Thursday lunch volunteers that could attend enjoyed a lunch together at the Dorset Soldier. We would like to say a very big thank-you to all our volunteers who make the ministry the success it is.

Mandy, Heather and the Team

Men's Group

Men's Ministry is extremely important here at St Nicholas. At our re-launch meeting last year, we considered the following questions before deciding how we wanted to take it forward.

Who is it for?: Congregation members plus friends and family
What is it for?: Fun and fellowship

Getting to know each other better, sharing our faith.
Opportunity to invite others from outside the church
Fitness…e.g. walking could be one activity

How often should we meet (initially at least) Every two months

Other points: Good to have food and nibbles whenever possible
Could also undertake practical work on behalf of the church
Try and be creative
Maintain a kitty - need to at least break even

Using this as our base we then sent out requests for men to come forward and host or run an event. We were looking for enough volunteers to able to hold a men's meeting about once every 6 weeks or so. We felt that doing it this way we were not imposing on anyone to contribute to the group too often. No-one hosted more than two events.

I am pleased to say that we achieved that and we were able to enjoy a wide range of events. We visited The Hall and Woodhouse Brewery, The RNLI College and Museum, including lunch, and the Royal British Legion for a skittles match. We also enjoyed a BBQ and a German themed Playing Card and Food Night amongst other things.
We also held a maintenance morning clearing the garden, dismantling the old shed, and erecting the new one.

It's fair to say that we have enjoyed getting to know each other a little better and it has been wonderful to welcome some new men to the church. We of course want to build on what we have achieved and we will be setting out this year's activities shortly.

The events are an important part of bringing us together but the real benefit is how we have grown in our faith and how comfortable we have become in sharing that faith with others.

Neil

Women's Group

Well what an exciting year! It's been of varied activities and gatherings bringing all age groups together; it has been wonderful to witness the love of the Lord in these activities. We varied from 9 ladies to about 18 ladies per session.

Quite varied activities ranging from valentine's lunch, a walk at a local park, Garden party, quiz evening - finishing the year with Christmas decoration.

Garden party summary.... A glorious afternoon at Himmond home. A church family member kindly opened up her garden for the ladies group. Beautiful flowers, shrubs and bird song; a real blessing in Gods glory. Everyone had a good time enjoying each other's company. Chilling, relaxing, sharing and caring. A super afternoon tea was served and we played the hoop game, which was very competitive and the excitement was challenging. We were all winners in Gods sight, He loves us all for who we are. A great time had by all. AMEN

Finishing the year with some extremely professional flower arrangements. Everyone had a good morning with coffee and mince pies.

Looking forward to welcoming as many ladies to the events planned for this year, which we hope to produce a leaflet for.

Jackie and the team.

Coffee @ St Nics

Coffee @ St Nic's is our café-style coffee morning that takes place every Saturday from 10am to 12 noon in the Narthex. We regularly welcome a core group of about 16 people who come each week to enjoy hot drinks, cake, and each other's company. It's clear that this time together is an important part of their social life, and they really value what we offer.

We are hugely grateful to the team of 10 volunteers who make this happen. They serve in pairs on a four-week rota, and their faithful commitment on Saturdays is what keeps the coffee shop running smoothly.

Earlier this year, I took on the role of point leader for Coffee @ St Nic's, following many years of dedicated service from Hannah. The PCC felt it was a good time to bring a fresh perspective to this ministry, and to consider how it fits into the wider mission and viability of the church.

As I've spent time getting to know the team and the rhythm of the Saturdays, I've come to see that Coffee @ St Nic's brings real benefits to us as a church. First, it gives us a regular point of connection with the wider community. Second, it ensures that we're able to offer hospitality on Saturdays—which is especially impactful when other events are happening in the building. And thirdly, it provides us with a really easy first point of contact for inviting people into the life of the church.

From January through to Easter, I deliberately avoided making any big changes so I could get a clear picture of how things currently run. It's become clear that we need a bigger team of volunteers to share the load more widely. On busier Saturdays—when multiple events are taking place—we ideally need to have three people serving in the kitchen rather than just two.

During this period, we have had new church members try out a Saturday shift to see what it's like. It's great to have new people joining the volunteer rota.

Looking ahead, I'd like to trial some additional Saturday events that will give people an added reason to come into the building. My hope is that these could open the door to more evangelistic or pastoral conversations on a Saturday morning with people who don't normally come to church. I'm also keen that Saturday mornings becomes a space in which church members can grow their confidence in evangelism, by gently leaning into conversations with people about their faith and experience of being a church member. Come and grab me if you're interested in taking part!

David

St Hubert's Bell Ringers

March 2024
Two training sessions took place with the Ringing Guild.
Two ¼ peals were rang.
The whole ringing chamber was re decorated, treating the walls at the same time.

April 2024
Some of our new ringers went to Lytchett Matravers for a welcome trying hand bells and using the ringing simulator.
Tesco come to the tower to present the money from the grant we won. They had a go and photos taken.
I helped the Guild with training new learners at Canford Magna Church.
DCA used St Hubert for training day.

May 2024
¼ peal was rang.
Guild used St Hubert for training session.

June 2024
A whole peal was completed.

We rang for a wedding.
A new learner joined us.
Guild used St Hubert for training session.

July 2024
Visitors rang a ¼ peal

Aug 2024
St Hubert's had cream teas again where on the day we got a new learner joined.
Visitors rang a ¼ peal
I was interviewed by a local author who is writing a book about the local area.
We rang for a wedding.

Sept 2024
I was interviewed by Wimborne radio about ringing at St Hubert.
We have borrowed ropes from Lytchett Matravers and Winterborne Kingston as our ropes have been sent away for replacement.
DCA used St Hubert for training
Minor practice is taking place every second Wednesday of the Mouth to help out the tower captain from Canford Magna
Ringers from St Hubert went to local church for teaching session on ringing up and down.
I visited Ellis Ropes in Loughborough where our ropes are being replaced. Interesting to see how the new ropes are made.
Some of St Hubert band went to Christchurch Priory to ring the 12 bells with the branch meeting. The Tenor weights 1.5 tons

Oct 2024
My interview with Wimborne radio was aired for 30 minutes.
Minor practice is taking place every second Wednesday of the Mouth to help out the tower captain from Canford Magna
Rangers visited us and had a go on the bells.
Some of St Hubert ringers went to the Guild quarterly meeting at Milton Abbey and Winterborne Whitchurch ringing the bells.
DCA used St Hubert for training
Visitors rang a ¼ peal

Nov 2024
Visitors rang a ¼ peal
Some of St Hubert band went to Poole to ring the 10 bells with the branch meeting.
Minor practice is taking place every second Wednesday of the Mouth to help out the tower captain from Canford Magna
Guild used St Hubert for training session.

Dec 2024
Group of Beavers joined in and having a go on the bells.
Some of St Hubert band went to Kingston to ring the 10 bells with the branch practice.
Visitors rang a ¼ peal
We rang for midnight mass
Minor practice is taking place every second Wednesday of the Mouth to help out the tower captain from Canford Magna

Jan 2025
Some of the St Hubert band went to the Guild AGM at Child Okeford, ring the bells there before the meeting.
Visitors rang ¼ peals twice during January.
New learner joined our band
Minor practice is taking place every second Wednesday of the Mouth to help out the tower captain from Canford Magna
Tower outing has been organised for August. Where we visit 5 different churches and ring their bells during the day.

Feb 2025
There was a branch meeting where we rang the bells at Corfe Castle
Visitors rang ¼ peals twice during February
New learner joined our band
We fitted our six new ropes to the bells
Visitors from the Guild with their young ringers
Our young ringer completed the ART course for level 1
Minor practice is taking place every second Wednesday of the Mouth to help out the tower captain from Canford Magna
Tower outing has been organised for Aug. Where we visit 5 different churches and ring their bells.

Our band is increasing yearly, we have 12 ringers at St Hubert.
Members from St Hubert visit other towers during the week going to Sturminster Marshall, Lytchett Matravers and Canford Magna.
We have visitors on a weekly gathering to St Hubert practice nights and Sunday evenings from Sturminster Marshall, Canford Magna, Spetisbury, Lytchett Minster and Lytchett Matravers.
Which I would personally like to thank them for all the support given.

Kind Regards
Andy Fall (Tower Captain)

Compass

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

We meet on the 3rd Tuesday of each month in the chapel 10.30 to12 midday

Jen

Sing @ St Nics

Sing is a group that was set up about 3 years ago at St Nicholas church for anyone who enjoys singing songs from the past - musicals "war time " songs, and early pop songs. It is appreciated particularly by local residents with dementia and their carers

I have recently taken over the running of the group having dropped off my parents-in-law on several occasions. It was such a joy observing the happy faces and listening to the reminiscent chatter that I knew we needed to keep this group going and that we wanted to open it up to more people, knowing the benefits that singing provides particularly for those who struggle with everyday living due to memory loss.

The group meets on the last Tuesday of each month from 10 30am - 11.45am at a cost of £3.00. Tea/Coffee and biscuits are provided at an interval in the middle of the session which encourages friendly conversation and new friendships to be made. Lynne, who leads the singing and plays the songs on keyboard, is a very experienced musician and runs several choirs. She also demonstrates her experience of entertaining the elderly. Her happy fun loving nature ensures that the sessions are enjoyed by all. The lyrics are all provided in folders with help in following them provided for those that need it

We are delighted to also have attending the last couple of sessions a few residents from a couple of local Care Homes along with their carers

So with numbers attending now reaching 30 plus and more welcome to join us, I am sure the likes of Vera Lyn would be proud of our singing.

Jan Grover

Corfe Mullen Foodbank

Intro (Tracie)
Each year I write how great the foodbank volunteers are. Each of the volunteers takes on some of the responsibility of the foodbanks smooth running, so this year I have asked them to contribute. I think it is the perfect way to celebrate what a great bunch they are, so, with a big thank you, it is over to them in volunteer alphabetical order!

Thank you Letters (Ann)
We write special thank you letters to individuals and organisations who donate money or food to us on specially designed 'thank you 'cards. Sometimes it involves some research to make sure that the letter reaches the appropriate recipient i.e. the correct title of a school head. Each letter has to sound genuinely thankful and sincere; not all the same trite old phrases.

Figures (Jan)
Many thanks to all colleagues for their assistance in the collection of the data from our clients in order to assist our planning and preparation for future occasions.
The data that we collect is used primarily in the following ways:

- To inform planning for our provision of relevant food packages.
- To provide data to support grant applications.
- To provide the opportunity to track which agencies are distributing vouchers.

2024

- 86 households were registered as clients.
- 349 food parcels were distributed during the course of the year.
- This equated to 731 Adults and 656 Children – we must remember that some clients attend the foodbank on many occasions during the year, so there is some duplicity which is reflected in these figures.

Craft Events, Petty Cash (Jennette)
I am responsible for dealing with the petty cash box, which involves recording payments for fresh foodstuffs/recipe bag ingredients and also cash donations.
As I love anything to do with handicrafts/creativity, I also help make up craft packs for children and keep the noticeboard updated with seasonal information/activities.
For the last 2 years, I have run a stall at the church Christmas Craft Fair in aid of the foodbank and last year raised £100 from selling my handcrafted decorations and other items.

Publicity (Hannah W.)
The foodbank Facebook page now has 534 followers. My guess is that a majority of these are our supporters rather than clients. We do get responses to our posts, particularly if I share them further afield in the community Facebook groups. It is a

good way of sharing information and in particular to ask for specific support of donations when needed.

We do also use the Bank the Food app which I update to show our current needs. This app shows that we currently have 133 people following our foodbank and there have been 282 donations logged by our followers. The idea of the app is to alert people as they enter a supermarket of our current needs, and is something we promote on a regular basis.

Stock Taking and Coop (Neil T.)
Co-op:
The two Co-ops in Corfe Mullen both have collection tubs for the foodbank although in reality it is the one next door to the church that provides nearly all the donations. These fluctuate during the year but were very generous both in the run up to Christmas and during January this year.

Stock take:
Two stocktakes are carried out each year in order to help Tracie understand where the gaps are in our supplies and how best to use cash reserves to fill these. This process also helps to inform volunteers about what requests to make of those donating regularly, specifically St John's in Broadstone.

Referral Email (Sally)
The foodbank has a dedicated email for referrals. It can be found on our webpage and is used, predominantly, by agencies that refer clients to use the foodbank. When Citizens Advice were based in the churches carpark, we built a relationship with the advisors, and they continue to refer clients to us via this email referencing system.

Recipe Bags (Sue G)
Recipe bags are offered at each half term and school holidays. They consist of a bag containing an illustrated recipe with all the ingredients provided, weighed out and ready to cook, as well as some fun information about the origin or ingredient.
We try to devise family recipes that are tasty, fairly straightforward and reasonably quick to cook. A variety of dishes are covered both savoury and sweet. Recipes that go out in the holidays are sometimes geared to children being involved in preparation or decoration eg with Christmas or Easter themed ideas.

The ingredients often include those that are regularly provided by the Foodbank as well those specific to the recipe and fresh produce as well. They are all vegetarian as we do not have the correct facility to store meat. We welcome any suggestions on possible new recipes as well as feedback on current ones.

Refurbishment (Sue A)
Refurbishment of the Foodbank space started with consultation between the Wednesday and Friday volunteers to look at what worked and what didn't and ideas of how we could improve the practicality of the working and storage space.
Having researched other successful food banks and looked at what they implemented and then subsequently changed through experience we planned for two rows of shelving and clear storage boxes around the space available. This increased not only the amount of storage available, but enabled the quick location and availability of supplies, thus enabling volunteers to restock the shelves used for assembling client donation crates.

Following the successful implementation and build by John Burridge, we looked at the central table. The requirements were to enable a further storage area and the best width and height to enable ease of access in the Foodbank for the volunteers and at a height that minimised lifting and bending.
John built the table as requested and it has proved to be a very successful addition in effectively supporting our clients in the Foodbank

Fresh Produce (Stacie)
Fresh produce is bought every Tuesday in readiness for Wednesday's opening. The Wednesday volunteers make the Friday volunteers aware of usage, so the right items can be replenished. Once the Foodbank closes on Friday then I am informed of what is needed for the next week. This helps keep wastage to a minimum.

New Volunteer Perspective (Tim J.)
Firstly I would like to thank everyone at the Food Bank for giving me such a warm welcome when I joined last October. I very much enjoy participating on a Friday morning and putting in additional shifts over the Christmas Period.
I have floated the idea of providing fresh fruit and vegetables with the Christmas parcels and hope that I can move this forward over the coming months so that we are able to offer this next December.

The Rest (Tracie)
Craft Bags - These are something I spend far too much time creating. The aim is to have a stock of 'craft' activities that can be re-used over a 3-year cycle.

Volunteers - More requests from Duke of Edinburgh students to do their voluntary work with us, which now encompasses the wider church as well as the Foodbank.

Outreach - Castle Court continued their relationship with us, by asking the foodbank to be involved with their PSHE lessons and going forward we hope to develop this further. Castle Court also surprised us with a presentation of a cheque for £1,000,

Jane and I were invited to a small reception to receive it along with Corfe Mullen's Mayor.

Last year I talked about the rainbows, this year was the turn of the beavers. We ran a couple of sessions with the beavers to help them achieve their community badge, it was a great mixture of chaos, noise and fun with a high level of productivity; they were very keen helpers.

Finance - Again, a blessed year of donations; so many people, groups and organisations continue to generously support us.

Again, we received grants from Dorset Council and Corfe Mullen Town Council plus the many regular monetary gifts we are blessed with. One which I would like to mention, every week a couple discreetly drop off a donation to me in the office. As mentioned in previous reports, whenever we receive donations which have a specific request we ensure that those requests are honoured.

Finally…
We are grateful to PCC for overseeing our accounts and for their continued support. I, personally, am so grateful to the great bunch of volunteers that juggle their lives with the foodbank. They all support me more than they realise.

Tracie

Deanery Synod Report

The word synod comes from the Ancient Greek *synodos* meaning assembly, meeting'; the term is analogous with the Latin word *concilium* 'council'.
Each deanery has its own synod which reflects on issues of concern to the local church and community. Matters can be sent to Deanery Synods from PCCs or Diocesan or General Synods. Resolutions passed by a Deanery Synod can be sent for discussion at higher levels. Elected members (made up of lay and clergy) serve for three years and are the voters in elections for Diocesan and General Synods.

Corfe Mullen PCC lay reps to Wimborne Deanery are Daphne and Alison. Synod meets three times a year, twice in person (March and June) and once remotely (November Meeting).

Speakers attending Synod in 2024/25 gave presentations on "Historic Churches Trust", "Becoming a Foundation Trustee" and our own Evie presented her work on "Walk and Talk mentoring ".

In June 2024, synod agreed to use £3,000 of Deanery Charitable funds to support medical training for Tito as part of the Sudan Support Appeal.
At each meeting, deanery synod holds breakout groups, where we have the opportunity to learn from other parishes and swap ideas. This year has focussed on "Greening the church" and the new Deanery Acton Plan.

Deanery Action Plan The new vision will align with the diocese's vision of "Making Jesus known." The areas the Deanery aims to focus on are;
Children and Young People; Creating and maintain skills of lay leaders; Creative partnerships with other organisations (e.g. schools, Christians against Poverty); Eco-church; Funding

Finance. This is a standing item on the Deanery Agenda. The parishes and benefices of Wimborne Deanery achieved a 95% Contribution Rate of £1,159,081 against the 2024 Share Request of £1,223,783, as at the 31st January 2025, the deadline for payments. This is better than many other Deanery's in the diocese where the average contribution rate is 87%. The deficit will have to be made up from new sources of income, selling investments or further savings. Six parishes paid nothing in 2024, a sum totalling £87,808. They either cannot or will not pay their Share. There is a new diocesan policy, that if you cannot afford to pay your Share, or are unwilling, then you cannot assume that a vacancy will be filled on a like-for-like basis. There may be consequences! Diocesan support will be provided to any such parish that needs help in drawing up a recovery plan.

Deanery Synod elects reps to sit on Diocesan Synod. This year Alison was elected to serve as rep for Wimborne Deanery. The Diocesan Synod considers matters sent to it from General Synod and from deaneries. It formulates diocesan policy advice, debates important local and national issues and advises the Bishop as appropriate. Members also debate proposals for the annual and receive the Annual Report and Accounts of the Diocesan building Fund. Elected members serve for three years.

Minutes of Deanery Synod meetings are available with PCC minutes.

Hartnell Court

David has been joining me every month to give residents of Hartnell Court communion - which has been great! David relates easily with the residents and it is a bonus having a gentleman to talk to the male residents who come to coffee and communion. On average, we have about seven or eight residents stay after coffee for communion.

Before Christmas last year we had a lovely Carol service given by Jane and with music supplied by Stuart Wilding and his guitar- thank you Stuart!

Heather Sims

Eco Church

Eco Church is a programme that equips churches to help care for creation. Each of the five aspects of the award (Worship, Land, Buildings, Lifestyle and Community Engagement) has a survey which scores points, those points then determine the level of the award: Bronze, Silver or Gold. St Huberts is currently Bronze and St Nicholas is Silver.

Last APCM we made the bold statement that we would try to achieve Silver for St Hubert by this APCM, which is what we have been working towards this year. However, in October 2024 the survey was changed. These changes have made it tougher to gain these awards, but we feel that it moves Eco Church away from a potential 'tick box' exercise to something more sustaining, something which is more encompassing and something that is looking forward too and not just for the now. It is great to achieve an award, but we think going forward it will be great to be recognised for the work of gaining the award; a subtle difference.

The aim in 2025 is still to get St Huberts to Silver and then consider the approach for the Gold award, which will need buy-in from us all.

Mark and Tracie

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 6th May to Jane Burgess (revjaneb@gmail.com).

Parish of Corfe Mullen Values

(As discerned by our PCC 2024-2025)

Knowing Jesus, seeking to grow like Him and to be obedient to Him is at the heart of our faith. This means we seek to:

- *Study and learn the Bible together in a way that engages with the realities of people's lives.*
- *Discern and enable God's purposes through prayer.*
- *Discern and embrace the guidance and active work of the Holy Spirit in all of our lives.*
- *Be a people of praise and thankfulness to God.*
- *Grow deeper in our faith and love for God through the transforming work of the Spirit while nurturing an attitude of humility.*
- *Cultivate 'spiritual' and practical gifts/skills, believing these are for all; this matters more to us more than achieving presentational excellence and 'polish'.*
- *Be real, honest and kind to one-another.*
- *Exercise leadership which is genuinely collaborative and empowering; and which seeks to develop other leaders.*

We believe that the Christian faith is genuinely good news for all which means we seek to:

- *Value and warmly welcome everyone and be a blessing to our local community.*
- *Encourage and equip the church family to be able to live out their faith through the week, not just on a Sunday.*
- *Be a church where all generations can find a place and grow in faith.*
- *Nurture a 'warm' and friendly culture where friendships can grow but, more than this, a culture in which there is a servant-hearted care and commitment for one another.*
- *Recognise that we are distinctly Anglican although we embrace and celebrate a breadth of traditions and worship styles; there are strengths in all.*
- *Be accessible for everyone; we value our online ministry.*
- *Be committed to the eco church initiative and see this as part of our stewardship.*
- *Work with other local churches and organisations.*
- *Be a place where church members feel safe; we're prepared to address difficult and/or decisive issues.*
- *Value fun/ humour .....and lots of opportunities to socialise and eat*

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