



St Dunstan's Church, Mayfield

ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING

Thursday, 26th May 2022

Committee Reports

Rotherfield Deanery Synod
Annual Report
1st April 2021 to 31st March 2022

The Rotherfield Deanery Synod met three times during the year: Wednesday 23 June 2021, Tuesday 16th November 2021, and Tuesday 8th March 2022.

Deanery News

Rural Dean, Revd Sharon Francis (Groombridge) retired in July 2021 and Revd Julie Sear (Hartfield) stepped into post in the autumn. During the year, the Deanery welcomed Revd Michael Asquith here in Mayfield and Five Ashes; and were sad to say goodbye to Revd Alan Weaver (Jarvis Brook) and Revd Ben Thorndike (St Richard's) and Revd Tim Hiorns (All Saints).

During the year Diocesan and General Synod elections were held and we congratulate Tim Reid on being appointed to the Diocesan Synod.

Deanery Accounts

At the November Meeting, Deanery Treasurer Mike Singleton, presented the 2022 Parish Contribution Proposals for approval. The figures show an overall increase in contributions of 2% against 2021.

Speakers

In June, Covid necessitated the Synod be held via Zoom with speaker Revd Jack Dunn, Parish Development Officer speaking about his new role in relation to Deanery Planning. The November Meeting, held at St Mary's Hartfield, and the first 'in person' meeting in quite a while, comprised a Diocesan Autumn Meeting with a video presentation. Gabrielle Higgins, Diocesan Secretary; Lesley Lynn, Finance Committee and Credit for Mission Group; and Archdeacon Edward Dowler were in attendance. The March Meeting, held at All Saints Crowborough with speaker Revd Rob Dillingham, shed light on the forthcoming Deanery Action Plan which will include input from individual Parish MAPs.

Deanery Reps

St Dunstan's is entitled to have four representatives on the Deanery Synod. During the year, Julia Lawrence stepped down for personal reasons and we sadly now miss the involvement of Pam Mather RIP. Emma Ryder Richardson was elected by the PCC to fill one of the vacancies and now serves alongside Karen Mack and Denise Packham.

Signed:

On behalf of the Deanery Synod Representatives

Date:

St Dunstan's Parish Church
Mayfield Fabric Committee Report the APCM May 2022

Information covers the period up to mid-March 2022

The members of the Fabric Committee are:

- Stephen Blurton (Churchwarden & Chairman)
- Tony Woodliffe (Secretary)
- Jenny Begeman
- Sem Kyegombe
- Sue Smith
- Denise Packham (holding the London House brief)

Our Architect is John Bailey of Thomas Ford and Partners.

London House

Following recommendations of the Health & Safety inspector, the programme of fire safety improvements detailed in the 2021 report have now been concluded (bar minor snagging works).

We consider the building to be in a good state of repair and hope usage amongst village organisations will grow back to pre COVID levels.

At the time of writing the facility remains an underutilised asset. We anticipate this may change once works start on the new Village Hall in the Autumn.

St Dunstan's Church

The last Quinquennial report was completed in June 2020. This reported the building to be in good order. We are pleased to report this remains the case.

During the year significant works were undertaken in the spire. These works involved:

1. The removal of birds nest debris / guano.
2. The installation of a stainless-steel mesh around the base of the spire to prevent further bird access.
3. Repairs to the substantial oak cross beams at the base of the Spire.

Parkers were engaged to undertake the work which concluded in August 2021. Funding for the work was covered by way of generous support from the Friends of St Dunstan's.

Heavy rain in October 2021 saw further water ingress around the Glubb window at the Western end of the South Aisle. A review by our Architect and Parkers revealed shortcomings to the work undertaken to renew the South Aisle roof in 2018 / 2019.

An incorrect lead grade had been used and this had not been properly fixed into the Church wall. Parkers were engaged to make good these shortcomings. The scope of work included repairs to the stone window ledges where movement was seen.

The work is completed, and measures are in hand on a best endeavours basis to secure compensation from Clague Architects who were the responsible monitoring the original project.

Parkers were also engaged during the year to re-decorate the West End doors. These were stripped and have been repainted in heritage Waxed Khaki colour chosen by the members of the PCC.

Both projects were funded with generous support from The Friends of St Dunstan's.

The North Aisle roof was inspected during the year. Whilst the lead cladding could be up to 100 years old, our architect advised against repairs at this stage as he believes the fabric has up to twenty years of life left in it.

Separately significant repairs were undertaken to the Parish clock during the year. The motors of the three autowinders have been replaced along with the epicyclic gearboxes, which had worn out with age. The opportunity was also taken to instal technology to allow the clock's chimes to be automatically muffled during the night. At other times, e.g. when concerts are taking place in the church, or the bells are being rung, the existing manual silencing mechanism may be deployed..

A fund-raising team led by Annette Nabavi raised the funds to undertake these works by public subscription which thanks to the generous support of many enabled an order to be placed with Smiths of Derby (the original manufacturer) before the end of 2021.

The Lutron Church lighting system suffered a major failure during the year. This was possibly due to lightning damage during an overnight storm. An assessment of the lightning protection system revealed that the metal bell frame had never been connected to this system and had likely acted as a conduit for lightning. This could account for the fact that the damage to the lights was at a high level near to the frame. The cost of the repairs was covered by insurance.

Stephen Blurton

March 2022

Annual Report for Messy Church 2022

Messy Church is aimed at families, and children must be accompanied. It helps families who may not come to church to learn about it through various activities such as craft, music, Bible stories with teaching, art, food crafts, floral decorations, outside activities such as sports, gardening, or using the labyrinth and always ends with a shared meal donated by the parents. Parents and children do the activities together.

Messy Church is held as often as it is viable. Sadly due to illness some of our team of helpers are unable to help as much as they did but hopefully some older youngsters who have joined the team to help run a base etc will still continue plus others who are now in the older age group. Messy Church is ecumenical with helpers from St Thomas' Church and Colkins Mill Church as well as St Dunstan's.

Until we start again there are no figures of numbers of members

Every theme has a Biblical link or Church Festival and Bible Story.

Sadly Pam Mather passed away at the end of January but she has left behind some of her sports ideas for everyone! We are very grateful for all Pam did for Messy Church including the Children's Garden.

Margaret Neve

Monday Tots Report for the APCM 2021/2022

Before Covid the group was fortnightly in term time from 9am - 11am in London House. The format is coffee, snacks, chat, play, a bible story, prayers, craft and singing. The main aim is to give a simple take home Bible message in a relaxed weekday setting.

Many families have gone on to have wider interaction with St Dunstan's, attending other services and clubs, whereas other families have no interaction with church activities beyond Tots.

Tots was suspended in March 2020 due to the Covid pandemic. It briefly restarted in September 2021 only to stop again due to further outbreaks.

If you are interested in helping with this baby and toddler group, please get in touch with Karen Mack.

Karen Mack

karen@mackcapital.co.uk

March 2022

St. Dunstan's Bellringers Annual Report 2021/22

The bellringers called the congregation to worship as allowed in 2021.

January: Sunday 3rd was the last time we chimed the treble in the vestry for 5 minutes before all ringing stopped due to lockdown. The bellringers continued to meet up and practice via Zoom each Tuesday.

February: On the 27th the tenor was tolled 100 times for the funeral of Sir Tom Moore.

March: The tower had maintenance work, so the ropes were removed for the contractors' safety.

April: On the 17th the tenor was rung for the funeral of the Duke of Edinburgh.

May: Saw restrictions eased. The bells were checked after the work was completed in the bell chamber and the ropes replaced. Because St. Dunstan's ringing chamber is so large, we were able to ring 6 bells with a space of 2 metres between each ringer. Bells 2 and 7 were not rung to give us the distance between ringers. Their ropes were pulled into the clock chamber to avoid accidents.

Some ringers felt unable to resume ringing as face masks had to be worn. A rope could only be handled by one person which meant that anyone choosing to ring had to be able to raise and lower their bell. This excluded our novice ringers. We were divided into teams of six, who would practice together on the Tuesday night and ring on the Sunday. Sunday ringing recommenced on the 23rd May. Zoom training stopped at the end of the month.

June: On the 5th we rang for a wedding, and on the 22nd covid restrictions had eased enough to allow our learners back to ringing under supervision on Tuesday night although six people only were allowed in the tower, and had to wear masks.

July: On the 19th most restrictions were lifted. It was possible to ring all 8 bells without wearing masks. A general maintenance check of stays, sliders and key nuts was undertaken. The large window between the church and tower was cleaned on the church side and the tower cleaned from top to bottom.

August: On the 9th new ropes were fitted – the kindest of gifts from Chris Waddell. A lot of adjustments were needed and at first they were hard to ring. Extra practices were arranged and on the 28th we rang for the wedding of the goddaughter of one of the ringers.

September: Rang for a wedding on the 14th.

October: The tower had its only group of ringing visitors on the 2nd. We rang for another wedding on 8th October. The bellringers also rang for the funeral of Sheila Humphreys, 20 minutes before and 10 minutes after. The tenor was lowered when the family were at the graveside.

During the month 3 people expressed an interest in learning to ring. By the end of the month they were all coming to Tuesday night practice.

On the 30th at 6.00 p.m. we rang for 20 minutes at the request of the Council of Bishops, on the eve of the COP meeting in Glasgow.

November: Bells were rung for the All Souls service on 2nd November. For the Institution and Induction of Father Michael, the bells were rung 25 minutes before the service and for 15 minutes after. The treble bell was lowered between rings to allow Father Michael to chime it during the service on an extension lowered into the vestry. Unfortunately the rope was not secured tightly enough and it fell into the vestry after striking for 7 times only.

All 8 bells were lowered and the tenor half muffled for ringing at 11.00 am on the 11th November. Remembrance Sunday on the 14th was rung with all 8 bells half muffled for 15 minutes. Later in the month we were joined by two new ringers, including Mrs. Jo Asquith, an experienced ringer.

Christmas ringing started on the 28th with the Advent carol service.

December: On the 3rd and 4th the tower was open to the public as a fund raiser for the restoration of the village clock. A temporary exhibition in the clock chamber was set up with photographs, articles and memorabilia about the village church and bells including previous bellringers. With the rise of covid rates we were back to wearing masks in an enclosed space.

On the 12th ringing was dedicated to the people of Mayfield, Kentucky USA who had experienced a devastating tornado.

Christmas ringing continued with the carol service on the 21st. Bells were rung at 22.15 for the Midnight Service on Christmas Eve and on Christmas Day. On Boxing Day we returned to the new normal with bells down by 10.10 and the treble chimed until 10.13. All 8 bells were rung for these services.

Vanessa Kolberg

Tower Captain, St. Dunstan's, Mayfield.

Holy Dusters Report 2021/22

A newly formed cleaning group started working together in the summer of 2020, following complete closure of St. Dunstan's and after work had been completed on the south aisle. There was much work to be done!

We had an excellent response to the call for a mass cleaning and a core of 12 volunteers has remained together since then. We meet every six weeks and have found that we can do a pretty thorough clean in about two hours. We try and get to corners that haven't been cleaned for a very long time when there is time and the brass and silver cleaners do a splendid job too. Coffee and cake gives us a chance for a chat at the end of our labours.

As we cannot reach very high there is still a great deal of dust and many cobwebs that are out of reach and an effort should be made to clean Maggi Hambling's "Resurrection Spirit" . A work by an artist of international renown, it should be kept pristine for the enjoyment of those who make a special trip to view it.

Thank you to all the Holy Dusters for your enthusiasm and energy and of course, we will happily welcome any new volunteers!

Emma Ryder Richardson

March 2022

St Dunstan's Church Flower Guild

AGM

5th February 2022

Acting Chairman's Report

First of all, I am writing this as Acting Chairman after the sad passing away of Sheila Humphrey, our former Chairman, in September 2021 at the age of ninety-seven years (almost ninety-eight). Sheila was Chairman of the Flower Guild for over twenty years and was happy to preside over the guild's flower arrangers and was always proud of 'her team'. She often went above and beyond to ensure that the church's flowers, on any given occasion, would look at their very best. She will be greatly missed.

There was not an AGM meeting in 2021 because of covid restrictions and, therefore, there is little to report, suffice it to say that when restrictions were lifted from time to time the church was decorated with flowers as appropriate with Sheila at the helm. She would have been delighted to see the church look at its colourful best at her funeral.

In November 2021 Father Michael Asquith was inducted as the new vicar of St Dunstan's. The Flower Guild members had the opportunity of welcoming him and his wife, Jo, at a special buffet lunch at the beginning of December which was in remembrance of Sheila. Di Blackden was also at the lunch and I want to record here our thanks to her for all she does for St Dunstan's.

We look ahead to 2022 with a number of weddings planned for the summer and look forward to creating a floral celebration in honour of Her Majesty the Queen's Platinum Jubilee which takes place over a four day Bank Holiday from Thursday 2nd June to Sunday 5th June. It will be a community event and we will be working with the PCC on this. We shall be looking at ways of spending the minimum on flowers as we are mindful of keeping to a budget for this occasion (and all our other events). As you know we previously received £200 per annum from the PCC for flowers for the Sanctuary Vase but in the last year this amount has been reduced to £100 as we have not been able to do flowers regularly for the Sanctuary Vase because of covid restrictions. We appreciate this donation and are thinking how we can create flower arrangements for the Sanctuary Vase in the future keeping costs down, perhaps using a minimalist approach.

I look forward to us all working together in 2022.

Nina Sanderson
Acting Chairman

2nd February 2022

Growth Committee

APCM Report 2021/22

The PCC subcommittee was newly established in 2021 with the express aim of growing the church family at St Dunstan's both by increasing the number of people involved and also widening the age range of active worshippers. The aim includes increasing engagement, not only the number of worshippers. The key areas for development in 2021/22 have been:

Services and Online Services

Family services work well in improving growth and are better kept to the same day of the month for consistency. Sunday Club restarted from Sept 3rd 2021 and it has proved beneficial to have at least one more family-friendly hymn when the children are in church (the later part of the service).

Online services were vital during the pandemic and a great thanks goes to Mike Hand Bowman for his technical expertise.

Activities/Social Events

Working closely with the social committee we aim to have a calendar of events through the year that appeal to a wide range of church members and allow opportunity for both fellowship and spiritual growth. For example, Songs of Praise, Harvest and Lent Lunches have been a great success in terms of new people and in engagement.

Family/Children's groups

Sunday Club continues to engage families. The choir Tango Harvest was a success with small numbers, but keen parents. The Remembrance Service, Ribbon Tree, Christmas Tree Festival and Crib Service were very well attended and increased outreach. We are keen to begin Messy Church events again and would welcome volunteers.

School Outreach

Our local schools are using our church for services, which is good as we can continue to have ties with them. We maintain regular contact with both Mayfield and Fives Ashes Primary schools and are represented on the Aspire Federation Ethos committee which gives us links with the local schools, in addition to our foundation governors.

Graveyard

Looking further into 2022 we are keen to increase community involvement with the churchyard. Ideas include a churchyard map, improved signs, labyrinth explanations and Eco churchyard projects. For example, Messy Churchyard session.

Website/Advertising

The Church's online presence is of increasing importance to all age ranges. The newsletter is a great source of contact, and we need to continue to ensure that this reaches as many as possible, either in electronic or printed format.

Building and welcome

The Stewards do a great job of welcoming and our aim over the last six months has been to ensure that the building is as welcoming as possible, including the notice boards, entrance, and library area.

If you have suggestions to increase growth then please contact Fr Michael or a member of the growth committee: Karen Mack, Stephen Lawrence, Jo Eates, Deacon Di Blackden or Sheila Rait.

Karen Mack

March 2022

karen@mackcapital.co.uk

St. Dunstan's Parish Church, Mayfield

Music Report April 2022

My last reported concluded that in April 2021 after a phased return to near-normal routine, the choir had happily returned to a rota-based system which was likely to stay in place until the end of social distancing. Unfortunately, an enormous, curved ball was thrown at us by Oliver Dowden, the then culture secretary, at 'Stage 4' of the Government 'Road Map', when, just as every other indoor activity was starting up, indoor choral singing by amateur singers was singled out and guidance issued to the effect that indoor choral singing was to be kept to a maximum of 6 singers.

So it was time for new plans to be drawn up all over again. This represented a significant step backwards as having managed to maintain a fair rota of 13 singers each other Sunday in the previous months of the pandemic, reducing to six was hugely frustrating and undid so much carefully thought planning around sustaining the whole choir during the pandemic.

In the end, it was simply a case of having to go with the 'rule of 6', embracing it (albeit with great initial reluctance) and to try and find ways of being creative around it. Rehearsals did not take place but 6 singers were instructed to turn up on Sundays absolutely fully prepared and having thoroughly done their homework. We had a variety of different styles of anthems (including a jazz number), introduced some new unison repertoire, Faure's Messe Basse, a lovely 'ladies only' Mass setting and a Gregorian Chant setting one Sunday for men only. I was very grateful for everyone's skill and musicianship in very exposed circumstances, for the understanding of the wider choir and for the support of Steve and Stephen as wardens during this challenging time. Whilst far from ideal, there were nevertheless some very useful learning points to be taken away from this period.

September finally saw a welcome return to a normal routine. In October we hosted a Harvest Singing Workshop for children which involved a morning workshop, lunch and an informal 'concert' for parents afterwards. A regular choir for children has not, as yet, been re-started as much depends on after-school availability of the children (particularly when coming from different schools) but I would like to get this off the ground perhaps on Saturday mornings in the Summer.

We welcomed Fr Michael to the Parish in November which was very swiftly followed by Advent. Thanks to the generosity of an immensely kind donor, we were extraordinarily fortunate to be able to spend Michaelmas term focusing on a wonderful project in December of Bach's Advent Cantatas with Mayfield Baroque Orchestra, together with readings selected and read by Bishop Nicholas Holtam, former Bishop of Salisbury.

Bach's music is notoriously difficult, not just in terms of learning notes but also in terms of stylistic performance so it did take a significant amount of rehearsal time. Capacity issues around rehearsal time and getting through Advent and Christmas repertoire, in addition to our normal Sunday services were absolutely stretched to the limit and beyond to the extent that at times in November, I will admit to having wondered whether we had bitten off more

than we could chew and whether it had really been a wise decision committing to such an event.

I hope however that after the actual performance of the Advent Cantatas, everyone felt it had been worth the enormous effort and how absolutely privileged we all were to be singing with such a fabulous band. These baroque players are without doubt, amongst the finest in the world. The feedback from the band members themselves was very humbling and they were raving about the choir's ability to carry off such a polished performance with soloists coming from the home team. An occasion like this really does emphasise how Mayfield is truly a unique Parish!

I would like to be able to consider a similar project again with Mayfield Baroque and the Advent/Christmas period does lend itself to some of Bach's finest music. It will however need some careful planning, perhaps starting some rehearsals in the Summer, hard work, goodwill and a degree of flexibility and understanding from everyone if we are to pull off another event like last year. Perhaps a little less German might help also...

Having been on a wonderful high after the Advent Cantatas, Covid-19 was waiting to swiftly bring myself and a few others in the choir crashing back to earth in a matter of days. The timing could not have been worse, but I am enormously grateful to one of our basses, Dr. David Force who stepped in to play and direct for all of the Christmas services including the Carol service at such short notice. At this stage, Covid was beginning to claim an additional choir member as each day went by and it is testament to David's skill, musicianship, and good humour that everything went as well as it did over Christmas.

Since January we have been singing Choral Evensong more regularly and, in February we were able to travel to Chichester Cathedral and sing Smart's magnificent Canticles in G and Malcolm Archer's 'Beatitudes' which he wrote for, and, premiered with us. It was lovely to be back in Chichester and to have Ian Wicks accompany us once again.

We look forward to our first Holy Week with Fr Michael, swiftly followed by the Mayfield Festival and our Festival Eucharist on Sunday 24th April.

The organ does not get much of a mention in my musical reports, but on this occasion, something that has been on my mind to put to right, has finally been improved. Our lovely Trombone stop on the pedals, is supposed to provide a wonderful sonorous enhancement to the sound, but has failed to do so in its lower notes since it was installed. Richard Shepherd, who looks after the organ for us, enlisted the help of Michael Blighton, an expert in reed voicing, to try and bring more power to those notes, and I can now report that the Trombone can be heard beautifully, underpinning the whole sound of the organ. I am very grateful to the Organ Trust for supporting this project, as this was the last thing to be completed in the tonal balance of our wonderful organ.

Lastly, I would like to say a huge thank you to all the members of the choir, who, tirelessly turn out to rehearse, and sing at the services in St Dunstan's, providing a wonderful accompaniment to the liturgy.

Andrew Benians 27th March 2022

Report of the Safeguarding Officer APCM 2022

Safeguarding remains at the heart of all we do as a parish. We aim to protect people from harm in all our activities, especially children, young people and vulnerable adults. We have had no incidents or reports which have had to be investigated or referred on within the last year.

Due to Covid and the various restrictions that have come and gone, this last year has continued to see many of our youth activities/services temporarily closed, however, all relative training and DBS checks are being kept up to date.

Compliance

We are in compliance with all relevant guidance outlined by the Diocese. We have now adopted the Safeguarding policy for the Diocese as opposed to the Church of England.

Safer Recruitment

We continue to use the independent safeguarding charity **thirtyone:eight** (formally known as CCPAS) for Disclosure Barring Service checks (DBS). Any person requiring a DBS check or update should contact the Safeguarding Officer.

All DBS checks can now be made portable through their update service, meaning you no longer require different DBS checks for different institutions.

DBS checks now have a new shortened renewal period from 5 to 3 years. This change only applies to new applications.

Training

We ensure that all leaders and helpers are trained to the appropriate level. The Diocese has recently moved all their training courses online only and renamed their Safeguarding courses to the following:

Basic Awareness (formerly C0)

This is required training for anyone involved in working or volunteering with children and/or vulnerable adults in a church context, and is recommended for anyone else who wants a basic level of safeguarding awareness. It is an essential pre-requisite for the other core training modules.

Foundation (formerly C1)

This is required for anyone who has safeguarding responsibilities or has contact in their church role with children and/or vulnerable adults. It is a pre-requisite for Leadership training.

Leadership (formerly C2)

This is required for anyone who has safeguarding leadership responsibilities or responsibility for leading activities with children and/or vulnerable adults. The National Safeguarding Team have completed a review of the C2 leadership safeguarding course and the existing course has now been discontinued and recently replaced by the Virtual Safeguarding Leadership Learning Pathway. The Virtual Safeguarding Leadership Learning Pathway requires some pre-course work to be completed. The reason for this is that the Pathway encourages participants to engage in a process of reflective learning.

Everyone is required to refresh their training every three years in order to keep up to date with all the latest safeguarding practices. People are reminded and advised on how to book onto their relative training courses in good time.

Activities and Practices - Simple Quality Protects (SQP)

We currently hold Level One of the SQP Assessment.

Simple Quality Protects is a relatively new Safeguarding programme launched across the Diocese. It is designed to improve Safeguarding at Parish level and make the achieving of high standards as straight forward as possible. We have assurance from this audit that we are following good practice and we continue to update and introduce new practices and procedures where necessary.

If you have any concerns concerning Safeguarding please contact the Safeguarding Office directly.

Or alternatively contact the Diocesan Safeguarding Team at safeguarding@chichester.anglican.org

Or directly to our Diocesan Adviser, Colin Perkins on **01273 425030 / 07500 771210**

Further policies and advice are available to download from:

<https://safeguarding.chichester.anglican.org/policies/>

Karen Dines
Safeguarding Officer
April 2022

07799 417972 / safeguardingofficer.stdunstans@gmail.com

Social Committee Report 2021/22

Sadly Covid meant that for the early part of 2021, no social gatherings were allowed or deemed advisable.

Our first post Covid social occasion was after Fr. Michael's induction service when we were able to gather and served wine and 'nibbles'.

Harvest Festival was celebrated with an excellent 'bring and share lunch'. It was very well supported and the donations of food were terrific, we had far too much!

In December mulled wine and mince pies were served at the Mayfield Open Shopping evening. This was very well attended, in fact we ran out of mulled wine and had to go the wine shop next door for more supplies!. The church tower was also open that evening which probably boosted the numbers.

We attempted a small Christmas Stall in church the following morning, but that was very quiet.

The soup Lenten lunches have been a great success to date with lunches being organised to raise funds for Mayfacs, The Hospice in the Weald, Ukrainian refugees, Family Support Work and Friends of The Holy Land.

Planned future events are :

Sunday May 22nd. St. Dunstan's Day. Drinks and canapés after the service

Saturday July 2nd. Fete

Sunday October 2nd Harvest Festival. We will have a celebration meal, the format is yet to be decided.

We will join in with the open shopping evening again in December and possibly also do a Christmas Fair, yet to be decided.

We are also hoping to organise a trip to Keble College, Oxford, but are awaiting a response from them.

Maggie Holliday & Renee Bryant

Sunday Club Report 2022

Since September we have been meeting face to face again but still sending out activities to families each week to keep us all in touch if anyone can't manage to come on a Sunday and Nicky also puts the activities on the Parish website.

Several of our youngsters are coming regularly again plus a couple of new members coming when they are able.

A variety of books and websites including Roots, Sermons4kids etc and various books gathered over time are used to make the most of lessons to make them understood, interesting and informative and also using Godly Play figures, craft, games, singing, colouring, puzzles and discussions. We always follow the readings that are read in church.

One of our members – Henry - was confirmed at the end of January at a service arranged by his school. He did the course as an extra- curricular activity. Some others will be having their 1st Communion in a few weeks. It is very rewarding when our youngsters move on on their journey of faith.

I was very honoured to be awarded the Order of St Richard last year which is awarded annually to 40 lay people in the Anglican Diocese of Chichester. I have always enjoyed the work I have done both in church and in the community but for me the award is also for all the people who have helped along the way.

Training such as Safeguarding is done as and when required. There are always 2 adults on duty each week.

Thanks to Karen, Alison and Geoff for your help and support

Margaret Neve