



Parish of Fleet

All Saints

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St Philip & St James

# Fleet Parish Annual Report 2021

# The PCC

Our Parochial Church Council 2021-2022 comprising of:

## Incumbent

Revd Mark Hayton (Chairman)

## Curate

Revd Cally Burch (from July 2021)

## Churchwardens

Antony Jones (Vice Chairman)

Jenny Thorne

## Deanery Synod

Mike Ford

Sally Hastings

Jane Jones

## Elected Members

- Paul Allen (1)
- Mike Benham (3)
- Richard Buller (2)
- Amy Canham (2)
- Jean Carr (2)
- Linda Dart (3)
- Nick Doran (1)
- Jean Hawkins (2)
- Lynda Hix (1)
- Darren Wood (3)
- *NB Elected members for (n) years from April 2021*

**Electoral Roll:** 160 names on roll, representing 122 households

Forms for membership are available all year round from the Parish Office. New details will be accepted at any time to be included in the 2022 revision of the roll. Please inform Mary Goodson of any change of details.

# PCC Highlights

- The PCC has met eight times during the year, with six of these meetings taking place in person at Ss Philip & James Church. The meeting immediately following last year's APCM and the Budget Review held in December 2021 were both conducted via Zoom.
- Following the very challenging times of 2020-21, this year saw a gradual return to more normal functioning of the PCC, with most meetings held face-to-face rather than online. The PCC has discussed and agreed a number of important matters including:
- At its first meeting (immediately following the APCM) the PCC approved a Letter of Intent to Buxton Building Contractors Ltd for the rebuilding of All Saints Church. In May the PCC approved signature of the contract with Buxton and in September the Insurance Budget from EIG was also agreed. As part of the rebuilding project separate Faculty applications for the removal of redundant bells and the design and installation of the new Rose Window were approved.
- The PCC approved its Safeguarding Policy in May and subsequent Safeguarding changes and updates early in 2022.
- On the financial side the PCC approved a budget for 2022-2024, and the 2021 Accounts.
- Mark engaged the PCC in regular discussion on changes to church services and other aspects of parish life, as the Covid restrictions were gradually lifted.

*Nick Doran*

# Ministry Team



- The ministry team consists of clergy and readers from the parish – The Vicar, Curate, and 2 LLMs, Mary Goodson and Jane Jones.
- The team meet to pray and to plan every Monday morning in FPCC.
- The team have led a broad range of worship across the parish this year. They have shared in the preaching and leading of Sunday services and at festivals.
- The team were all involved this year in the leading the course 'Living in Love and Faith' which was a great success and blessing.
- The team have all been involved in ministry to the bereaved and the taking of funerals.
- The team have held several special services and events including services for Baptism families, Bereaved families, Home Group members, and with local schools.
- The team are heavily involved in pastoral care of the whole parish.
- Members of the team were involved in preparing 1 adult and 2 juniors for confirmation in November.
- It has been our great joy this year to welcome our Curate, the Revd. Cally Burch, to our team. *Revd Mark Hayton*

# Parish Office

- There was quite a lot of change in the Parish Office in 2021
  - The year began with the office operating remotely due to covid risks
  - Elly Wilson retired at the end of February
  - Sam Lord was employed as Halls Manager
  - The office re-opened in September with covid screens in place and reduced visiting hours of 10am-12pm weekdays.
  - Online ticket booking was used for the first time for the Christmas Tree Festival to help with covid safety measures
- Thank you to everyone who supports the office throughout the year – your time, energy and prayers are all appreciated.

*Chantelle Gardner & Sam Lord*

- The Parish Magazine has continued to be produced regularly through 2021. Nic Evans and Carolyn Ford have edited alternate editions throughout the year, which have been full of interesting articles and publicity for fundraising events, especially for 'All Saints: a place for everyone', in aid of which we have seen many varied and successful enterprises.
- We'd like to thank our many regular contributors for all the varied stories, reports and inspirational accounts which you have sent in to us. Thank you also to all of you who have submitted your lovely photographs which bring the articles alive to our readers. Particular thanks must go to the Parish Office for continuing to provide the Parish Diary, Registers, Readings and Eco-Tips every month, as well as organising all the advertising that continues to make a contribution to parish funds. We must also thank our loyal readers who continue to support our magazine.

*Carolyn Ford and Nic Evans*

# Parish Website & Social Media

- Our Parish Website is updated regularly by the Parish Office.
- We are currently in need of a new (volunteer) webmaster – if you have the skills please speak to Revd Mark Hayton.
- We have a Facebook page for the Parish,  
[www.facebook.com/parishoffleet](http://www.facebook.com/parishoffleet) which is updated by a team of people.
- We also have a Facebook page for **All Saints** a place for everyone fundraising  
<https://www.facebook.com/All-Saints-Church-Fleet-fundraising-105498214236234> which is updated by Amy Canham.
- Our Twitter feed is mainly fed automatically from the Parish Website.



## Safeguarding in our Parish



- There have been a number of changes in safeguarding requirements in the past year.
- From January 2022, Enhanced DBS clearances need to be renewed every 3 years, rather than every 5 years. This is not only for new checks; all existing checks over 3 years old will need to be renewed over the next 12-18 months.
- Currently, a total of 54 people in the parish hold Enhanced or Enhanced-plus clearances.
- The process for delivering DBS outcomes has also changed. APCS (the Diocesan Service Provider) now sends the outcomes directly to the parish validator with the aim of speeding up the delivery process.
- All our PCC members have now obtained DBS clearances and the majority have completed their Foundation training. They are now also required to complete Awareness of Domestic Abuse training and this is currently in progress.
- Jean Carr was appointed as PCC Safeguarding Representative in May 2021.
- Since December 2021 we have had access to the Parish Dashboard which is an electronic management tool (GDPR compliant) designed to make safeguarding simpler and more transparent, and providing the PCC with evidence of the parish safeguarding arrangements. It also generates action plans which can be used to inform decision making. We have made good progress with Level 1 and so our Dashboard has moved to Level 2 (of 3), and work on this is ongoing.
- The Safeguarding Training Pathway has been further revised in the last few months. The courses are currently delivered by e-learning or by Zoom and have to be repeated every 3 years. Since the last APCM, 6 people have completed Foundation training, 6 have completed Safeguarding Leadership training and 10 have completed Domestic Abuse Awareness training.
- The diocese now has 2 specially-trained Authorised Listeners with expertise in listening to those with a lived experience of abuse in a church context; these can be contacted via the Vicar, PSO or DSA.
- Please contact me if you have queries relating to any of these matters and, as always, if you have any safeguarding concerns please report these to the Vicar or to me without delay.

*Sheila Buller - Parish Safeguarding Officer*



# All Saints Churchwarden Report

- After a year locked away it was a great joy to be able to celebrate Easter at the FPCC.
- In 2021, at last, rebuilding began. In May we took down the flagpole and cleared all the objects which were being stored in the Lady Chapel and the vestry. Sadly some items in the Lady Chapel had been ruined by water leaking from the roof. I would like to thank those who moved in to sort out the contents over several days in May, and those who are storing the objects which were salvageable.
- We were able to lend 4 tables to the Crookham Memorial Hall vaccination centre while we were not hiring out the hall.
- The builders moved in and the FPCC came back to life. Thanks to our new halls manager, Sam Lord, hirers gradually returned. Our coffee bar opened again for three mornings a week. We are very grateful to Ruth and her baristas for restoring this precious social resource.
- In July services at the FPCC resumed, thanks to the small groups who set up the hall for worship each time.
- Once re-opened, the FPCC building began to show signs of age. My gratitude to Graham Hix, Mike Benham and Darren Wood, for their advice, practical expertise and willingness to go up ladders. The 5-year electricity building safety test took place, and work to bring everything up to date goes on.

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## *All Saints Churchwarden Report continued*

- Our unpaid gardeners returned and, making a virtue from necessity, mowed paths through the churchyard, keeping the memorial garden neat, but leaving areas uncut. This meant wild flowers and insects flourished freely. We are particularly grateful to our trimmers and mowers, Jeremy Keep and Mike Ford.
- In September our new curate, Cally, organised a very popular prayer morning in the churchyard and converted the small meeting room in the FPCC into a permanent space for private prayer.
- I would like to thank Chantelle Gardner for helping me negotiate my year as church warden; for keeping the parish office functioning on line and then on site, and for coping calmly with whatever came up.
- Finally, my thanks to all our brilliant volunteers who have flowed back into the FPCC over the year and taken up their tasks once again.

Jenny Thorne, Church Warden All Saints

# St Philip & St James Churchwarden Report

- Another year dominated by COVID.
- Online broadcast of services continued throughout lockdown thanks to the commitment of Graham Hix and the technical team.
- Although the F&M committee did not meet face-to-face until the end of the year, we communicated effectively through a WhatsApp group. F&M action points derive mainly from the most recent quinquennial review and good progress is being made. For example, in the hall, new lighting has been installed along with an alarm for the disabled toilet.
- Due to deterioration of the original paint job all the external window frames on the church were re-painted at zero cost by the decorators. An F&M painting work group in the summer spent three days repairing and re-painting soffit boards at the hall's gable end. We are also very grateful for the voluntary plumbing and electrical services of Peter Riches.
- To date the Brian Meeres' legacy has been put to the following use:
  - Repainting of all major church windows.
  - Purchase of specialist cameras for online broadcasts.
  - Three sets of new doors for the hall.
  - New ceiling lighting in the hall.

Thank you, Brian.

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## *St Philip & St James Churchwarden Report continued*

- An organ breakdown late in the year was repaired thanks to the donation of a parishioner who wishes to remain anonymous and to whom we are very grateful.
- Our redoubtable gardening committee have spent many Monday mornings weeding, planting and tidying the grounds. The grass has been cut by a rota of volunteers and the quiet unsung work of our sacristan, florists, volunteer church cleaners has continued unabated: thank you all.
- Income from hiring out church and hall took a battering during the pandemic but has now gratifyingly recovered to pre-pandemic levels. Thanks to halls hiring manager Sam Lord and to church hiring manager Chantelle Gardner for their ongoing efforts and important contribution to our parish finances.

*Antony Jones, Churchwarden.*

# Standing Committee

- The Standing Committee of the PCC exists to make decisions on behalf of the PCC on urgent matters that occur in between PCC meetings
- Your standing committee consists of the Vicar, Associate Vicar, Wardens, Treasurer, Secretary, and chair of Finance.
- All decisions are reported back to a full meeting of the PCC for their information and approval.
- This year the standing committee agreed the following on behalf of the PCC
- 24 June – Standing Committee approved a youth group session in Oakley Park from 5pm to 6.30pm, organised by Jane Jones.
- 30 June – Standing Committee approved that the PCC enter into a new insurance policy with EIG to cover the All Saints building works, and also approved associated modifications to the existing policy.
- 22 July – approved an increase in the Hall cleaner's hourly rate from £10/hr to £11/hr.
- 27 July –approved payment of £65,436 to Haven Memorials for grave marker removal.
- 28 August –approved expenditure of about £500 (exc VAT) to restore (the least damaged half) of a choir bench damaged in the fire (for display) and to clean a number of wall plaques (cost about £200, exc VAT).
- 7th October –approved a change of processing service for charitable on-line giving to the Parish. The current provider, Virgin Money Giving, is ceasing with effect from 30 November. The new service will be provided by CAF Bank, with whom the Parish already has a relationship.
- 25th October –approved expenditure of £1,912.50 with SSE for design work to move the street lamp that currently obstructs the layout of the new layby on Church Road. *Mark Hayton*

# All Saints Rebuilding Group



- Rebuilding of All Saints Church was begun in July by Buxton Constructions Limited under the supervision of our Architects - Acanthus Clews of Banbury.
- The project continues to be overseen by members of the ASBG.
- The ASBG members are also involved with planning the future furnishing and contents of the church, with provision of an organ, and with the design of stained glass for the 'wheel window' at the west end of the church.
- The project is currently phased with work to rebuild the church, build a new west porch, install new heating lighting, drainage, and Audio Visual system, together with some landscaping, currently projected to be completed by the end of this year (possibly October/November). Work on phase two, to provide a new annex with community facilities, kitchenette, toilets, lady chapel and vestries, will begin as soon as sufficient funds are available.
- The ASBG continues to work incredibly hard on this most complex project and all members – Nick Doran, Richard Buller, Mike Ford, Jenny Thorne, Jeremy Keep, Claire Holt, Elizabeth Waller, Darren Wood and Mike Benham are to be congratulated and thanked for their tireless efforts to provide the parish with a building that meets its needs for now and the future.
- We are extremely grateful to a large team of experts and volunteers who have been involved in bringing the project to this point, and to those many generous people who have given or raised money for the project.

# All Saints Fundraising Committee

- Fundraising for the rebuild of All Saints Church and Annexe sadly ceased when the Pandemic took off in 2020. For many months our Fund stayed at the same level, creeping up with small donations and on line events that were all well received.
- The Building Group were then forced to reappraise the rebuilding programme and it was decided that we would need to complete our project in 2 phases – rebuilding the church and then continuing on with the Annexe in some form after that.
- During the latter part to 2021 there have been several excellent events, a very generous donation and many smaller ones as well as a small grant resulting in an increase in the fund of £90k. Currently the fund stands at about £576k (the previous total of £600k included 125,000k which came from insurance for the contents of the church). However since starting the rebuild in June, costs of phase 1 have escalated hugely with significant part of the Fund having to be spent on these cost increases which are all to do with the uninsured work we are doing to improve many aspects of the church.
- We are now working on putting in several applications for grants which we are hopeful will bear fruit a huge thank you to Jan Cole for this. However in order to complete our vision we will need to begin fundraising in earnest so that work can begin on the Annexe in the not too distant future.

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*All Saints Fundraising  
Committee continued...*

- We are hugely thankful for all the wonderful effort people have put in. A special mention to Anne Smith for all the wonderful concerts she has so far managed to arrange.
- We hope that people will sign up for adding their name to the new Rose Window so that in years to come our decendents can see the contribution we all made to rebuild this historic church that has literally risen out of the ashes and will serve as a living testament to Christianity in the town of Fleet.



# Finance & Administration Committee

- The PCC accounts have become particularly difficult to prepare, interpret and examine given the large increase in the number of transactions, the number of different sources of income and expenditure and their allocation.
- The 2021 accounts show a surplus in the net income (unrestricted funds) of £18K compared with a net income deficit of about £29K the previous year. The surplus was mainly due to one-off events such as a reduction in staff and the letting of 38OHD. The surplus should be contrasted with a cash deficit of £22K forecast for 2022 and even higher deficits for 2023/4. These deficits are clearly not sustainable.
- COVID continued to have a significantly adverse impact on income from Church and Hall Lettings (partly offset by income from letting 38OHD), social events and fees. However there was a welcome increase in planned giving (£2.5K). Cash collections fell significantly but were partly compensated for by card giving at services (£8K).
- Our disposable cash for general purposes now stands at £160K. We also have an Investment Account (£126K).
- Although a difficult year for fundraising, the All Saints Building Fund grew by £89K in 2021, due to the increase in fund raising and generous donations.
- We now have over £882K in cash, much of it committed to the rebuilding of the church. To ensure the monies are protected, we now have 9 deposit accounts in addition to current accounts.

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## *Finance & Administration Committee continued*

- Most of our planned giving is now done through the Parish Giving direct debit scheme which offers many benefits, from almost instant tax reclaims (with no admin work for us) to the opportunity to 'index link' our giving with optional automatic annual increases following the national RPI inflation index. It is also the scheme which incurs the least costs to us. If you are still on the standing order system you might like to consider switching over. If you donate by any other method you also might like to switch over.
- We are fortunate to have a first class Treasurer (Mike) and Administrator (Chantelle). Sam Lord is doing an excellent job as Halls Manager.
- I should also like to thank Tim Kite for being the Independent Examiner of our accounts which are becoming increasingly complicated. Also thanks to Juliet Worthington for managing the PCC's payroll obligations and to Jean Carr and David Worthington for managing the planned giving arrangements and to other members of the committee Jenny Thorne, Antony Jones, Nick Doran and Mark.

*R.F. Buller, March 2022*



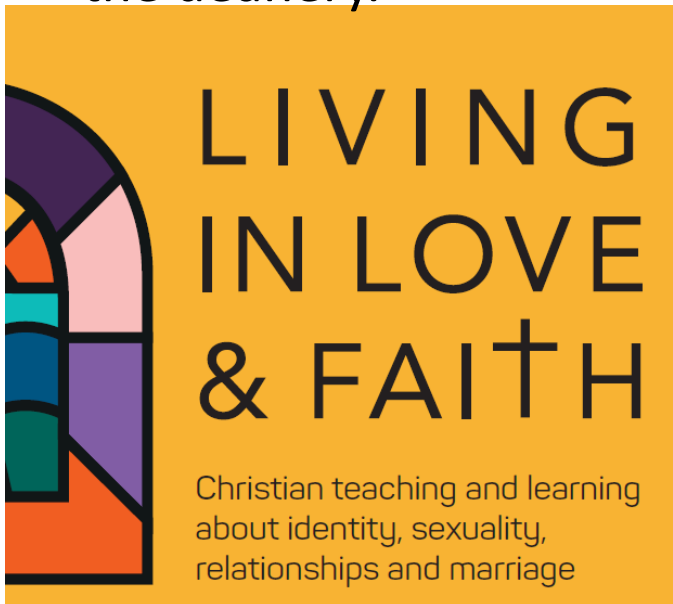
# Social Committee

- At long last, we are slowly getting back into the swing of things. First a big thank you to Liz Whiting who has recently stood down from the social committee after 4 years. Liz was a great support, bringing energy & enthusiasm.
- Social events have not entirely picked up yet from where they were in 2020 but we did open 2022 in great style. With the help of Juliet Worthington, we held a 1920's Jazz Dinner which was a 'roaring' success. Almost 60 guests joined us in St Philip & St James for an evening of Barber Shop, Jazz and dancing.
- Calming down, we held the annual Lent Lunch in aid of the Bishop's Lent Appeal. Looking ahead, we have both a Bingo night planned and the long awaited, belated welcome to Cally.
- Please do come and join us at one of our events if you can, we have a lot of fun. If you have any ideas, please let us know.

*Karen Kite*

# Discipleship Committee

- House groups have played a special role during the pandemic and many groups met online for a while but are now mostly back meeting in person. Many have appreciated the weekly bible study led by Mark. An evening prayer for house group members was held in January.
- Jane has led a monthly Iona morning prayer on Zoom and we continue to meet to pray together virtually.
- We ran Living in Love and Faith for 5 weeks in Feb/March '22 exploring together issues of identity, sexuality, relationships and marriage. Around 30 people attended each week, including those from other churches in the deanery.



- A few of us have explored Forest church with Wellspring in Wellesley woods in Aldershot.
- We hope to organise a visit to Coventry Cathedral in the autumn.

*Jane Jones*



# All Saints School & Church Link Group



- Due to Covid restrictions we were not able to have regular meetings.
- Mark was able to lead an assembly for Remembrance in school and a Christmas assembly online.
- We have met with Gill Martin, Head of RE to discuss Christian distinctiveness and planning future assemblies.
- We also hope to invite groups of children to the AS church site in the summer term.
- The school is keen to invite parish members with a heart for children to come into school on a regular basis to engage with individual children in the classroom.

*Jane Jones*

# Children and Young People at P&J and All Saints

We have gradually been rebuilding our children's work as Covid-19 restrictions have lifted. The pandemic saw the closing of a chapter on many years of Praise and Play for the 0-4s up at Fleet Parish Community Centre (FPCC) on a Tuesday. Our thanks to that team who worked so faithfully on that much-loved service for many years. We hope you enjoy your well-deserved retirement!

However, new plans are afoot... Children and Young People are one of our three target areas for vision over the next year. We have identified funds to put towards the appointment of a part-time Children and Families worker to be shared with a neighbouring parish. We are also starting a new service:

BABY SAINTS meets from 10.30 to 11.15 am on the first and third Wednesdays of the month in term-time, up at FPCC. This is a baby and toddler service with refreshments, toys, craft, a story, some simple prayers and singing.

Meanwhile...



## *Children and Young People at P&J and All Saints continued...*

JUNIOR CHURCH continues to meet as part of the 10am service at P&J on the first Sunday of the month. Children (aged approximately 3 to 12 years old) gather at the start of the service in the crèche area and are then led through into the church hall to interact with the Bible through Godly Play stories. Our thanks to Kim, Rosemary, Ruth and Stephanie for leading these sessions.

FAMILY WORSHIP happens at 11.30 at P&J on the third Sunday of the month for school-aged children under 13 and their parents and carers. We have found creative ways to engage with Bible stories through a variety of media – e.g. drama, Lego, toy figures. There is usually a craft, some interactive prayer and singing.



YOUTH GROUP came back together in September with weekly meetings on Thursday evenings, centred around games, food and fun. We have reflected on Remembrance and prayed around the prayer space for Ukraine as well as sharing a meal together in church before Easter. We have a core group of seven 12-15 year olds. Many thanks to our dedicated team of helpers.

*Jane Jones and Cally Burch*

# Dribbles and Giggles

- Dribbles and Giggles is a group for toddlers and their parents/grandparents/carers/minders etc.
- This group runs on Friday mornings 10.00 am-12.00 midday at the FPCC and welcomes all, usually pre-school children, mums and/or dads, bumps and carers to a free session of play and chat. There is usually a specific 'activity of the day' in the form of craft and healthy fruit provided at 11.00 am, together with access to the coffee bar for hot refreshments and cakes. The coffee cake is particularly well received!
- There is no charge for admission (or leaving) but we do have a donation box to receive contributions towards the costs of running the group.
- Numbers vary each week (normally 10-20 children plus their responsible adults) but there are a number of regulars. New attendees have stated they saw us on social media (we do Facebook) and by word of mouth.





# Coffee Bar

- The Coffee bar reopened in August having been closed since March 2020. Sadly several of our coffee bar volunteers quite understandably decided not to return and we therefore decided to open just 3 days per week – Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday.
- Since opening there has been a steady trickle of our loyal customers both from the Parish and the community who enjoy the coffee/tea and homemade cakes and biscuits. We are hugely grateful to them as this venture plays an important part in our outreach.
- We would hope that sometime in the future we can reopen 6 mornings a week as before but that will only happen if we can attract more volunteers. If you would like to help even if its just one morning a week – 9.30 to 12.30 (coffee bar open 10 – 12).
- We look forward to seeing and hearing from you.

*Ruth, Elizabeth, Lynda*

# Christian Aid

## Christian Aid 2021 Plant and Cake Sale



- Christian Aid Week 2021 came as vaccinations were in full swing, and restrictions loosening. It gave great satisfaction to the Fleet and Church Crookham Christian Aid Group to hold a proper Plant and Cake Sale again, even though out of doors, and even though we did have to postpone it for a week due to bad weather. We were hosted by P&J car park, which proved a perfect venue where everyone could meet safely, and volunteers provided tea and coffee from the hall kitchen. The total realised by the sale was £1,548.50
- At the end of the week we were able to send Christian Aid a total of £4,146.33 raised from all the Churches in Fleet and Church Crookham and by wonderful solo contributions from individuals like Alan Wilson with his tomato (and bread) sale. Thanks to all our growers, bakers and jam makers, stall holders, refreshment providers and facilitators and to all those who supported Christian Aid in a difficult year.
- Our plans for the Carol Concert were shelved, due to rising covid numbers and uncertainty, re: another possible lockdown.

*Jenny Thorne and Peter West*

## Tuesday Prayer Group

- We are a small group who meet at St Philip and St James Church most Tuesday mornings at 11:00hrs.
- Our Prayer Group takes the form of 3 readings/meditations, followed by a 5 minute silence during which we reflect on the reading and pray for people in need. These people can be those close to us and also situations and people in the world around us. A short sentence to reflect on is chosen each week.
- We take it in turns to prepare and lead each week but there is no pressure to do this and we welcome people to simply come and join us.
- Our meeting lasts about 30 minutes, a time of peace and reflection. Afterwards we often sit for a while and talk about the readings and life in general.
- Everyone is welcome to join us as and when they are able and we would love to welcome some new faces. *Aline Anscombe*

## Afternoon Tea & Chat

- The Tea and Chat group welcomed all back in September.
- It had been a long delay due to Covid but we were pleased to meet up again face to face with the proviso we obeyed the rules.
- The group is smaller and we have been meeting in the coffee bar area with the usual refreshments on offer.
- We welcome new and old friends to join us for a couple hours.
- Thanks to the team for their contribution and hopefully we can carry on with these meetings.

*Nancy Dawson*



- Our team rehearse in P and J and then act out bible stories using material from Bob Hartman's 'Lion Storyteller Bible' to children during assembly at Fleet Infants School.
- After a long break we resumed our story telling in the autumn term, with stories from the New Testament, including the Christmas and Easter story.
- The children seem to appreciate our amateur efforts. We have a good relationship with staff from Fleet Infants and Reception classes came to P and J before Christmas to perform songs for their parents.



*Jane Jones*

# Worship & Music

- The coronavirus pandemic, and subsequent lockdown led to big changes in our worship programme this year.
- Every Sunday service since March 2020 has been livestreamed via Facebook Live. I am extremely grateful to Graham Hix and Brian Biffin for their technical expertise in making this possible, and to the team of presenters who have operated the Livestream (often the source of much stress for them!)
- I am also very grateful to those who during lockdown read lessons and prepared intercessions – often by making video recordings of themselves doing so!
- We are also indebted to the choir and musicians of St. Martin in the Fields who provided recorded music for the whole Church of England during these times!
- It was a great joy when in the Autumn we were able to get back to more normal and regular live services, and eventually to congregational singing!
- We are truly grateful to Tony Cooper, Mike Ford, Graham Hix, Anne Smith, Robert Smith, Samuel, John and Alison, Liril, Jean and Carole, both our Choirs and all our musicians for enriching our worship with their music since its return.
- Currently we hold a service at 10 am at P&J every Sunday, and an 11.30 service at FPCC on the first and third Sundays of the month. We hold an 8 am communion on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of the month and a family service at 11.30 on the third Sunday of the month. This programme will be reviewed as times goes by, and especially when All Saints Church is rebuilt.
- We have plans to consolidate our music provision in the year ahead such that we will have a formal choir, a singing group, and a team of musicians who will serve worship across the parish and for all sung services under the leadership of one musical director.
- Tony Cooper will be retiring as parish organist in July this year. We are incredible grateful for his loyalty and service over many years in the parish.

*Mark Hayton*

# Aldershot Deanery Synod Report

- DS has met three times over the year, on Zoom and in person.
- We heard how parishes coped with lockdown and shared good practice on emerging to a new normal.
- In October at Church on the Heath we had a presentation on the new Parish Needs process from Mission Enabler Richard Lloyd and how parishes take this process further, focusing on three areas for mission and outreach. A successful vision day, the first step in this process was held at Church of the Good Shepherd in January.
- We also heard from Emma Coy on re-connecting with children and families and finding ways to engage with young people again post-pandemic
- DS members were kept informed of the Living in Love and Faith course and were invited to attend our course or the one at Coth.
- We had a green shoots agenda at the Feb meeting at P and J. We heard about Forest church in Wellesley woods, restoring and renewing green spaces around church, especially at Holy Trinity Aldershot and prayer walking, focusing on our Lent prayer walks in Fleet.

*Jane Jones*