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# ANNUAL REPORT 2021

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## ALL SAINTS CHURCH, WICK.

Giving thanks for all the Lord has done



Every year the PCC is required to write a report of our activities in accordance with the Charity Commission guidance. This is a formal document, but it is also a chance for us to look back with thanks for all that the Lord has done and commit the current and future years to his service. In addition to this report, there are financial and other reports available through Church and on our website. The format required by the Commission determines the formality of the report, but I hope that you will be encouraged as you read it. Thank you for all that you do as part of our Church family, and may the glory go to God!

Revd Tom Robson, Incumbent

March 2022

[www.allsaintswick.org.uk](http://www.allsaintswick.org.uk)

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**As part of our  
report, we're  
including quotes  
from a church  
survey undertaken  
in March 2021**

*- TOM ROBSON, VICAR*

## Compliance

Our incumbent and the PCC have considered the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit and, in particular, on 'charities for the advancement of religion.' The PCC has complied with section 5 of the Safeguarding and Clergy Discipline Measure 2016, recognising its duty to have due regard to House of Bishops' guidance on safeguarding children and vulnerable adults.

## Our aims and purposes as a Church and religious charity

The PCC has the responsibility of co-operating with the Incumbent in:

- The promotion of the gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ according to the doctrines and practices of the Church of England.
- Promoting in the parish the whole mission of the church, pastoral, social, evangelistic and ecumenical.
- Practical support and care for people in the parish, from the youngest to the eldest, irrespective of level of need or any other situation or circumstance.
- Providing financial support for those in need and to other organisations with similar objectives.
- These are summarised in our desire for people to 'Know, Love and Follow Jesus.'

## How we sought to achieve those aims and purposes

### **For people to come to know Jesus as Lord, Saviour and friend:**

- By inviting as many people as possible to become part of our worshipping community.
- By sharing the good news of Jesus and nurturing new believers.
- Through the offer of prayer ministry to those inside and outside our congregation.

### **For people to grow in love for Jesus, through getting to know him better:**

- By seeking to lead worship services that allow everyone to hear from God's word, exalt Christ and share together in worship.
- By meeting together in small groups – reading the Bible together, praying for one another and encouraging each other.
- Growing our faith in our everyday lives as we deepen our knowledge and faith.

### **For people to follow Jesus out to be a blessing and benefit to our community:**

- Through the provision of pastoral care for those in need.
- Making donations to missions and charitable organisations.
- Maintaining the fabric of the church building and Wick Hall for the benefit of the wider parish.
- Overseeing the work of the Wick Information Centre as a community-hub and signposting area for the parish.
- Encouraging all church members to live out their beliefs in word and deed.

# What we achieved and how we positively impacted beneficiaries' lives

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## People coming to know Jesus (coming to faith)

The 1st part of our aim is to help people come to know Jesus. At All Saints we are passionate about people coming to know Jesus because this is why Jesus came. And when we have that relationship with God through Jesus we begin to be transformed by Him and are given the resources we need to make a difference in Wick and beyond. Of course, this happens throughout the week as we get involved in our community in a whole range of ways but here are some of the ways in which as a church family we have made a difference both in lockdown and as various covid restrictions were lifted.

### Sundays

Our Sunday morning services and family services continued online both during lockdown and when in person services resumed.

Many people have told us that they have been able to enjoy a taster of Sundays and our church family through the online services and have joined All Saints as a result. Many of them had been reluctant to come into our church building either because they felt nervous about coming due to covid or because they were new to church. It's also given us the opportunity to share the good news of Jesus online to people we have a connection with. Throughout the pandemic we've been able to share the hope Jesus gives us on Sundays including special services like Remembrance Sunday, and beyond Sundays too. For instance, Tom spoke on hope from a Christian perspective at the District Council's Covid reflection meeting.

### Events

Part of our strategy to help people come to know Jesus is to put on easy invite events. For instance, Tricks and Laughs was a great family friendly night of comedy tricks with Steve Legg who shared a little bit of his story and encouraged people to come to Alpha. With socially distanced seating we had 52 people, many of whom don't usually come to church. The Men's Breakfast at Creative Heart was a fun morning to get to know each other and hear from Andy Kerr, the prison chaplain at Ford, who inspired us with stories of God at work in the lives of some men in Ford Prison.



## Alpha

We have run two Alpha courses this year. The first was online with five guests and the second, in person with eight guests. Through the Alpha courses many of the guests began reading the Bible and praying for the first time, one person became a Christian and is now part of our church family, whilst others who had not been at church for a while came back to church. Meanwhile last year's online Alpha group continued using the CAP Kickstart resource with some others joining it to become a weekly homegroup where they continue to grow in their faith.

## Groups

Our groups provide an opportunity for friendship and fun around a hobby like knitting, football or coffee! Three groups restarted in May as restrictions lifted.

**Knit and Natter:** We restarted as soon as allowed after lockdown, although several members still feel too anxious to attend in person. We regularly have 8 – 12 in attendance and for many it is the first group they have come to after bereavements, illness and isolation. It has become a very supportive and safe space. Members often come together to knit for local charities and good causes including Creative Heart, Hampshire Police, Turning Tides and Clic Sergeant. Mondays 10:15-12pm, The Garden Room at All Saints Church. Fliss Jay (Group Coordinator)

**Football:** Every Tuesday evening during term-time we host a fun and friendly hour long football evening for men. 17 different men are part of the group and on any given Tuesday we usually have between 7-13 men present. These men are either members of All Saints Church, Christians from other churches or friends and contacts who are not part of any church. A real highlight are the curries that happen a couple of times each year! It's great to see friendships and trust emerging, and conversations about life and faith are slowly starting to happen. Tuesday evenings during term time, TLA. Nat Gillett (Group Coordinator)

**Friday Coffee Morning:** It was great to be able to reopen Friday Coffee Morning at All Saints Church in August 2021 after 18 months closed due to the pandemic and lockdown. This is a safe place for people to come and find friendship with plenty of

chatter and laughter with numbers going up and people enjoying eating cakes, pastries and scones, drinking coffee and tea, and tombola.

There is a mix of church and non-church people, some come every week and others occasionally. At our annual Macmillan Big Coffee Morning, 67 people came and we raised £515. In December we had a Christmas theme tombola for St Barnabas including "wear it festive" and we raised £443. We've also raised money for All Saints too. Fridays 9:30-12pm, All Saints Church. Viv, Ron, Alison and Jenny (Group Coordinators)

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**“A time of acceptance, trusting, hope, faithfulness. A time to help where & when I could. Sometimes frustrating as well.”**

## Tots on Tuesday

Several parents from All Saints set up a new parent and toddler group in Wick Hall during 2020. Toys and equipment were bought thanks to a successful grant application to Littlehampton Town Council, and the group quickly established itself as providing a friendly, free and fun space for little ones in Wick. It's grown quickly with families from church and the community, and many of the parents have spoken about what a blessing it is to be able to bring their children to such a warm and welcoming group.



## Schools

In February half term we held our second online holiday club with roughly 30 children signing up to participate online. They received a certificate and also a Scripture Union booklet to help them discover who Jesus is and what He has done for them.

Roger, Paul, Tom and Mark continue to do assemblies and

lessons at local schools helping local children understand the Christian faith. For instance, Roger does assemblies for nine schools. This year due to covid he's also recorded assemblies which the classes have watched and some have even been uploaded for parents to watch too. He's covered topics including people in the Bible whose faith was tested but God brought them through, The Trinity, communion, the importance of prayer and spirituality. Further, building on the good relationships we have with Lyminster and White Meadows Primary schools we had four year groups attending an Easter, Harvest and Christmas service at All Saints Church through the year.

## Summer Camp

Summer Camp is for children in Years 5 and 6 (9-11 year olds) in our local primary schools of which there are 9, covering Littlehampton, Arundel, Rustington, Climping. After covid we decided to run two camps with 100+ children across the two camps enabling more children to hear the good news about Jesus. This year we will return to one single camp of 60 children. The team consists of young people, many of whom came as campers when they were in primary school. Many of them are at TLA where Paul Sanderson (who is part of All Saints) is Chaplain which makes a big difference. The Littlehampton Churches which includes All Saints play a significant role in the Camp by

sponsoring children whose families can't afford the cost, praying using the prayer cards with the first name of children on the camp and helping in practical ways including being on the catering team.

Click for a [full Summer Camp and Schools report](#) or go to [allsaintswick.org.uk/AnnualMeeting](http://allsaintswick.org.uk/AnnualMeeting)

## Vision

In June a small group of people including some from the PCC met to discuss where has God placed us as a church, who we are and how has God worked through us now and in the past and finally how might we help more people know, love and follow Jesus in the future? The PCC were then presented with a Mission Action Plan with recommendations on how to move forward to faithfully fulfil our mission as Jesus' followers as a church family. This included how we best use our buildings, reach mostly unreached parts of our benefice, grow in our desire and confidence in sharing our Christian faith and a number of other mission ideas. A shorter version was then given to the congregation to pray and reflect on which included short (2021), medium (2022) and long term (2023+) goals. Most of the short term goals have already been realised including revamping The Garden Room, doing multiple online and in person Alpha courses, holding a hospitality training evening, a Sunday and homegroup series on sharing our faith and including more on mission in our Sunday services.

Additionally, as part of prayerfully considering how we can reach people in places such as a local housing estate, Tom and Mark attended a church mission and planting conference. In October we had two newcomers evenings with 16 people who were new to church coming to find out about the vision of All Saints and how to get involved.

## Easter

At Easter we built an Easter Garden with three crosses and a sealed tomb which was opened on Easter Sunday. By the garden there were three notice boards each with a simple explanation of the meaning of Easter with an accompanying activity and a QR code linking our Easter services on our website and a video we used called "Easter in 3 pictures". Many local people took part including Rainbows, Brownies and Guides, and our church family. These led into the services over the week of Easter which are often some of our highest-attended services with guests and visitors



alongside the regular congregation. We had a week of events from Palm Sunday through to Easter Sunday, including midweek opportunities to hear about why Jesus had died, and then great news of his resurrection!

## Christmas

Although in the build up to Christmas many were still cautious due to covid, the number of people at Christmas services was not at pre-pandemic levels. But, there were still many wonderful opportunities to share the good news of Jesus. In partnership with the Town Council and local shops, including Going Spare and the Flower Shop, we participated in Wick's Christmas attracting over 200 people. Families particularly enjoyed the bouncy castle and range of crafts in Wick Hall, Tom gave a short Christmas message about why Jesus came before the Mayor turned the Christmas lights on.



The Christingle service, All ages Carol Service and Crib service attracted many people who don't usually come to All Saints, each service aimed at slightly different groups of people. Meanwhile the family film in Wick Hall attracted about 60 people. A small number of people have come back to All Saints as a result.



## People growing in their love for Jesus (deepening faith)

The 2nd part of our aim is to grow in love for Jesus and all that he has made.

### Sunday Services in Church

At the beginning of 2021 we were meeting in Church on Sundays, but only for a small number of our congregation and many of the restrictions were in place around singing, sharing communion and other social distancing. We wanted to give the opportunity to all those who wanted to continue meeting and held a Sunday service in one form or another every Sunday of the year. Gradually as the restrictions eased again, we added a 2nd morning service and moved to a pattern of worship services at 9am in All Saints Church and 10am in Wick Hall from Palm Sunday onwards. Over the course of the year, both provided opportunities to welcome church members back and to welcome new people into our congregation. We covered Bible books and themes such as: 1 Thessalonians and the Good News, Acts and the Growing Church, Nehemiah and Re-gathering, and Joseph and God's vivid promises.



### Online Services

Alongside the services in the buildings, we continued to provide ways for people to worship online. The primary opportunity for this was the livestreaming of our 10am service in Wick Hall, utilising technology that we had been able to put in place during the refurbishments of the previous year. We continued a weekly online night prayer until the summer, as well as special one-off online family services at the start of the year and around key seasons of Easter and Christmas. Our online worship was accessed less than in 2020 but this was mostly due to the return of more services in our buildings. Online engagement was still high though, with Youtube recording 14,476 views of our videos throughout the year, or 3,700 hours watched.

This remains important for us in positively impacting the lives of those who want to continue to access Christian worship but weren't in a position to attend on site. Many people have spoken anecdotally about how our continued provision of worship online has been a huge benefit for them and how grateful they are for the work of a number of people that goes into making it possible.

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**“It has been wonderful being part of homegroup and watching services online”**

## Children and Youth

It's important to us that people of all ages are able to grow in their love for Jesus and the world. Our children's and youth groups restarted in-person in 2021, with a social for the youth leading into a return of the twice-monthly Bible study, prayer and sharing times. In addition to the holiday club and family service mentioned above, we also restarted our children's groups on Sunday mornings, seeing families gradually returning to worship on site. The team met in



September with feedback from a recent survey to try and begin developing the children's ministry to provide the optimum benefit for the young people. Feedback has been good, and there are more ideas brewing for 2022. A few of our children in Year 6 attended the Churches Together Summer Camp and had a fantastic time making friends, deepening their faith and having fun with great activities.

### Prayer meetings and quiet day

A real spiritual highlight has been the ongoing online prayer meetings every Sunday. These began with the first lockdown in 2020 and have now continued throughout 2021. These have been a real source of blessing and encouragement during the year, including a joint churches prayer meeting at the end of April 2021. We've seen answers to prayer, ongoing need for prayer and much to give thanks for.

Around 30 members of the Church enjoyed a quiet day near Bolney thanks to the generosity of a Church family. We spent time in worship, prayer and walking through the woods reminding ourselves of the goodness and glory of God.

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**“Initially I felt very isolated from the church but now with the on-line services, Wednesday morning service and zoom meetings, especially my housegroup, I feel more connected with my church family”**

### Existing and new homegroups

Over the course of 2021 we had 11 different groups that met to encourage each other, deepen faith and be a prayerful and spiritual support. Some of these groups went online, some met in homes and one came to a natural end. Overall, 87 people were in some form of small group, often following up the Sunday talks with a chance for discussion, or exploring and discussing other aspects of the faith.

## Wider Church Involvement

Our vicar, Tom, continued as chair of the Littlehampton Churches Together until June this year. He also served on the committee of the Chichester Diocese Evangelical Fellowship providing a voice for evangelical churches in the Diocese.

Tom and Mark both contributed to Diocese video campaigns and short talks throughout the year. Our partnership with Lyminster continued and was made easier as restrictions eased in 2021 compared to the previous year.

A number of members of All Saints also appreciate the opportunity to join in with services at Lyminster and derive a real benefit from the range of styles of services we can therefore include across our Benefice.

One big change was the departure of Rev'd Vanessa Baron from Lyminster. Vanessa and James had not only served the parish of Lyminster but had been a great encouragement to the parish of All Saints, taking services, joining in prayer and events and generally supporting Tom, Mark and others. The book written and given to them reflects the benefit they brought to our benefice over the last five years and they will be greatly missed. The vacancy at Lyminster vicarage has also meant an adaption to Tom and Mark's time, with help from others we have tried to minimise disruption across all the regular congregations as far as possible.



## People following Jesus out to love our community (living faith)

The third part of our aim is to live out our faith in Jesus by loving our neighbours; the community around us in Wick and making a positive impact in people's lives.

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## Thank God for the kindness and support shown by people to the vulnerable.

### Wick Information Centre

During 2021 the Wick Information Centre (WIC) Committee met to discuss plans for the centre as the Covid restrictions were eased. The outcome was a plan to continue the relocation of WIC in the Garden Room behind All Saints, but to put a focus on the community and welcome side of the centre (whilst retaining services such as signposting and office printing). Tom took the proposal to a meeting of the Town Council's Community Resources Committee who offered helpful feedback and agreed that the Service Funding could be used in this way. Carol Groves was appointed as lead-

volunteer and the latter part of 2021 saw volunteers recruited and the Garden Room beginning a transformation into a warm, welcoming space.

### Wick Action Group

Our vicar was asked to help setup a new group in Wick comprising local councillors, community support workers and others to promote and establish positive opportunities for the people of Wick. This included a uniform-swap based at Morrisons supermarket, the Wick's Christmas event and securing funding for a new film club due to start in 2021.

### Wick Hall

Wick Hall continues to be a beneficial space for the church and the community, in line with the objectives written into the deed when the then vicar of Lyminster gifted it to the parish in the early 20th century. The internal developments improved the aesthetics and function of the main hall, and many groups returned or began to meet there throughout 2021, including many with physical, mental and emotional health for many members of the community. The church also continued to raise money for the hall throughout the year, securing grants, donations and a loan from the Diocese to move into the 2nd phase of the redevelopment which will see the car park resurfaced, the roof replaced, new front doors and additional signage in line with the MAP described above.

### Pastoral Fund

Our Pastoral Fund continues to provide a material way for the church to be a blessing to the wider community. Any money given to the fund is ring-fenced for the purposes of helping people in difficult circumstances in the Wick area. It is allocated by the Incumbent, with the agreement of another member of clergy or church

warden. In 2021 we were able to make financial and practical gifts totalling around £3,900 for things such as: a fridge freezer for a young single mum moved into new accommodation in Wick, a week's emergency accommodation for someone made homeless, the repair of a boiler, shopping vouchers, gifts to help families in very difficult domestic circumstances, holiday packs to families in need, cash to help a mum who's lost her job through injury, vouchers for a local school to provide for most needy children over holidays and more.



We also made collections for our supported missions and charities throughout the year, including for our local Foodbank at our Harvest services.

### **Other areas of impact in the community and further afield**

During the 3rd lockdown at the start of the year, we continued to work with the LA Soupers to make space for the soup kitchen setup to provide hot meals to those struggling during lockdown. Although it was never busy, there was a steady number of people making use of it and clearly demonstrating the benefit of them providing this service to the community.

We always give out flowers on Mothering Sunday but this year with things still closed, we setup stations around Wick for people to help themselves to bunches with a card from the Church attached.



We asked people to fill out a survey in March 2021 which informed a number of things we put on over the summer, to try and bring people back together after lockdown 3. This included a range of smaller local get togethers with open invitations in many different people's homes and gardens.

Although not something we've setup as a Church, one of our church members is one of the directors of Creative Heart, a community hub and cafe in Littlehampton. After several years following a vision to create a space for anyone to feel welcome and involved the cafe opened in 2021 and many volunteers from All Saints helped in numerous ways to transform a derelict space into an incredible centre of life and joy in the Town Centre. We currently have 18 members of All Saints volunteering for us in the café, in the kitchen, in groups and on maintenance and several of them have invited members of the community along to church.

In all these ways we give thanks and glory to God for his goodness and grace, and for the gifts he's given us to use in our church and our community.

# Financial Review

- The total receipts on general unrestricted funds was £72,805. Full details can be found in the 2021 Financial Statement and Accounts.
- Giving through envelopes, standing orders and in the collection increased by 25% on 2020 to £55,449 in 2021.
- The total expenditure from general unrestricted funds was £59,408.
- The largest expenditure to the PCC was the sum of £37,200 paid to the Diocese towards the cost of our ministry. This goes towards the cost of the training, housing, stipend and pension costs of clergy, diocesan central costs, departments at Church House and a contribution to the national church.
- A special appeal was made for the works to improve the exterior of Wick Hall. This raised £31,166.
- Wick Hall generated an income of £25,033, which includes grants totalling £12,470, and expenditure of £16,270. The net result for the year was an excess of receipts over payments of £8,763.
- The Wick Information Centre generated an income of £2,604, which comes as part of the Service Agreement with Littlehampton Town Council.
- The expenditure for the Information Centre was £2,885. The net result for the year was an excess of payments over receipts of £251.

## Reserve Policy

- It is the PCC policy to try and maintain a balance on the general unrestricted funds which equates to an average of 3 months' unrestricted payments. This is equivalent to £12,000. It is held to smooth out fluctuation in cash flow and to meet emergencies.
- The cash balance of £11,674 held in the Deposit Account at the end of the year is therefore considered sufficient at the present time. These funds are held in CCLA Church of England Deposit Fund.
- (Full copies of the Financial Statement and Accounts will be available on All Saints Church website)

## Independent Examiner of Accounts

- Les Drew of Arun Book Keeping was appointed and has examined the 2021 Accounts. His report and the full accounts can be found in the Financial Statement and Accounts.

# Structure, Governance and Management

The PCC is a charity, but is exempted from registering with the Charity Commission within the meaning of the section 30 of the Charities Act 2011. Its governing document is the Parochial Church Councils (Powers) Measure 1956. All Saints Church, and the Parish of Wick, is part of the Benefice of Lyminster and Wick with St Mary Magdalene, Lyminster.

|                 |  |
|-----------------|--|
| Incumbent       | Revd Thomas Robson                     |
| Associate Vicar | Revd Vanessa Baron (Until August 2021) |
| Curate          | Revd Mark Rodger                       |

As of the end of 2021, the following were serving as members of the PCC:

|                      |                    |                    |
|----------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| Ex-Officio Members   | Revd Thomas Robson | Incumbent          |
|                      | Revd Mark Rodger   | Curate             |
|                      | Dave Green         | Churchwarden       |
|                      | Clare Purdom       | Churchwarden       |
| Co-opted Members     | Janis Myers        | Treasurer          |
| Deanery Synod Reps   | Janice Betson      |                    |
|                      | Alison Manester    |                    |
|                      | Felix Gillett      |                    |
| Elected Members      | Colin Beckhurst    | (Until April 2024) |
|                      | Julia Eastaugh     | (Until April 2023) |
|                      | Lea Stavrou        | (Until April 2023) |
|                      | Nathanael Gillett  | (Until April 2023) |
|                      | Jenny Tilman       | (Until April 2023) |
|                      | Alan Hodgson       | (Until April 2022) |
|                      | Ann Macaulay       | (Until April 2022) |
|                      | Carol Groves       | (Until April 2022) |
|                      | Trevor Mills       | (Until April 2022) |
| Secretary to the PCC | Jackie Hodgson     |                    |

Membership of the PCC is determined under the Church Representation Rules and consists of certain ex-officio members the Incumbent, the Churchwardens and members of the Deanery, Diocesan or General Synods and (up to) 12 members of the church who are elected at the Annual Parochial Church Meeting. Members are warmly encouraged to stand for election to the PCC and we try to ensure a balance of skills and experience where possible.



Our back garden, transformed during 2021 with Archdeacon's permission into a prayer garden with wild flowers and commemorative benches.