

ALL SAINTS WICK ANNUAL REPORT 2020

Sharing the love of Jesus in our community



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Introduction

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 God has done and commit the current and future years to his service. In many ways the challenges of 2020 have highlighted the work that our faith inspires in and for our church and community. In addition to this report, there are financial and other assorted reports available on our website www.allsaintswick.org.uk under Church Life / Annual Meeting.

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!

We have also created a video montage of the highlights of 2020, available at youtube.com/AllSaintsWick or through this direct link:

<https://youtu.be/eMmgOFvyitE>

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Thomas Robson', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Revd Tom Robson, Incumbent, March 2021
On behalf of the PCC of All Saints Church, Wick.

Trustees Annual Report for 2020

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, including through online provision and adapting to the needs created by Covid19.
- Through the offer of prayer 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, and finding new ways to do so.
- 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 both our buildings 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 one another to live out our beliefs in word and deed.

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.

To Know Jesus (coming to faith)

The first part of our vision as a Church is to see people come to know Jesus. We believe that this is part of the main calling of the Church and also provides the benefit of faith, hope and welcome to all people of all ages and backgrounds. In 2020 this needed a major adjustment from March as the first lockdown was brought in and so the following section proceeds roughly chronologically.



Tree of creations from February's Messy Church

Messy Church

Messy Church continued in January and February with 74 and 48 people attending respectively. The benefit of the Messy Church format is that children of a wide age range are free to interact and engage with the activities they find the most interesting, with some often having a go at the full range of 7 or 8 available. We've also noted the growing friendships and connections between the families who come,

some from church and some from the wider community. The free meal at the end always goes down well and gives a further opportunity for the volunteer team to meet and chat with the local families. It has been one of the hardest things to have to pause during the lockdown.

Football Outreach

In January 2020 we began a football outreach group, hiring a local pitch and inviting church members who played football to come and invite a friend. We had a great time facilitating people getting together for some fun, exercise and to try and meet people who had no other connection with the Church. We could tell the positive impact of this once it had to stop for lockdown as there's been regular messages from those who came along asking when we'll be allowed to restart.

Thinking Day and Christingle for local Guides, Brownies and Rainbows

In February our vicar Tom worked with the local Rainbows, Brownies and Guides groups to lead part of their Thinking Day in our Church building. They took the theme of light and after activities in the hall, came up to Church for a short service on Jesus the light of the world. The feedback from the girls, their leaders and their parents who came along was really positive and gave a good opportunity for over a hundred people to think about the theme. At the end of the year, when the Brownies were meeting again, Tom had the opportunity to go back and share a session using Christingles to talk about God's creation, provision and love for us in Jesus' death and resurrection.



Online Alpha—including the moment a fish was caught live by one of the guests!

Alpha online and in the vicarage garden

From March we had to take a lot of our activities online, but we still wanted to give people the opportunity to explore faith and the big questions of life. We launched an online Alpha course at the end of the summer with nine guests in addition to the leaders. Despite some questions over how well this would work online, the group gelled quickly and had some very profound and positive conversations about faith. The impact on several people has been that they have found or rediscovered faith in Jesus and most of the group have continued meeting every week into the new year, some have been along to the re-opened church meetings and all had a positive experience. We also had the opportunity to gather the previous year's Alpha group in the vicarage garden when restrictions permitted.

Virtual vicarage get together (July)

Our Sunday services were online only from the end of March until August, and we went through a steep learning curve of how to try and create a service that helped people to feel part of worship from their own home, and were accessible to the increasing number of visitors watching online. In July, we invited anyone who had connected with us during the lockdown to join in with a 'virtual vicarage get together' on zoom. We had 17 people in the call including the clergy and wardens and were delighted to hear how people said it made them feel welcome and included. Many of those in the call went on to join an online Alpha and have remained in contact with us ever since.

Zoom school assemblies and Life Exhibition

Our clergy, Tom and Mark (after he joined us in June), along with Roger Purdom were able to continue our close relationship with local schools through zoom

assemblies, harvest services and lessons. This meant that we were able to share with 10 primary schools. For the Spring Term, Roger and Tom both went into the schools and then either contributed from home or via the technology available in schools, for example filming live in the Deputy Head's office and sent to each class. Roger was also able to try out a newly-created online version of the Jesus Life Exhibition with a local Primary School. We would have done this in the autumn with around 800 children coming to hear about the life of Jesus, but the new technology enabled Roger to take the children on a virtual tour to hear about his life, death and resurrection.

Summer Camp

In the summer, several members of our church were involved in the major task of planning and running a Covid-safe Summer camp for local children in Years 5 and 6. The plans had to adapt to a non-residential camp this year, but the children who came had a fantastic time. The feedback has been amazing as the camp was able to provide a week of safe fun activities that also gave the children a chance to share, to listen, to hear Christian talks and just enjoy something together after an incredibly challenging year.



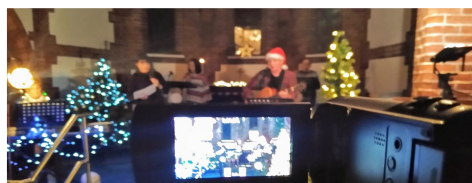
Re-opening church services

In August we were able to begin gathering again in the newly-redeveloped Wick Hall (more detail in the 'Following Jesus' section below). We worked hard to comply with the Government and church of England guidance on safely re-opening. Although it meant restrictions and distancing that are not how we would

want to meet, we were able to offer the chance for worship and fellowship in person. In particular, we were able to welcome more than ten people who had never been to a service prior to lockdown. Thanks to the creative eye of Laura Rodger, Nat Gillett and others, we were able to decorate the hall with welcome back banners and provide take away refreshments courtesy of Morrisons. Some feedback we had from the services this year included, ***"I always feel so uplifted and cheerful when I leave the Sunday service. All Saints is like a beacon of light in the gloom, filling us with hope for the future."***

Carols online and in the car park

Following the 2nd lockdown, we wanted to use the re-opening of December to provide as many opportunities to share the good news of Jesus at Christmas. We invested in a huge banner sharing the message of



Recording Carols in All Saints



Carol Singing outside Wick Hall

'comfort and joy' with thanks to Going Spare for the loan of their wall space next to the hall. We recorded two online carol services that we planned to be very accessible to people who don't go to church, including our own musicians' recordings of classic carols and contemporary songs that share the good news of Emmanuel, God with us. To date these have had a combined viewing of over 750 views across Youtube and Facebook. We also put on two outdoor Carol Singing events in Wick Hall. After months of not being able to sing together, it was wonderful to sing praises and to welcome so many people from our community to benefit from the Christmas spirit and to hear a short message about the hope we have in Jesus.

Online Christmas Holiday Club

We also recognised that it had been a difficult year for many families and so we wanted to provide something during the Christmas holidays that would be fun and families could do together. So we created a three day online Holiday Club for the morning after the schools broke up. We had over 40 children register for what proved to be a fun way of thinking about the meaning of Christmas. We invited the families to send in craft, quiz answers, pictures and videos which were then incorporated in the next day's video.



Filming for Online Holiday Club

Feedback from the families included the comments:

*"Thank you so much for the lovely morning my kids were so happy and busy."
 "Such a well put together time and was nice to do together - Thank you all again"
 "Thank you for putting this together. We would like to hear about other things going on at the church. Merry Christmas"*

To Love Jesus (deepening faith)

We began the year as we usually would with Sunday service in the morning and evening, a midweek communion service, homegroups meeting to go deeper in faith and fellowship and supporting other one off events such as the One Challenge UK seminars on global mission.



Livestreaming from All Saints

Online Services

From 15th March we began to stream our services and other content online. This was quite a sudden and steep learning curve but allowed most people within the church to connect in some ways, as well as those who hadn't been part of the church before. By the end of the year we'd had over 30,000 video views, and increased in Youtube subscribers for our videos from 8 to nearly 200 and worked

to refine the ways that we could include people in worship in different ways. Our aim was to try and faithfully reproduce our usual worship services using people from within our own church, using their gifts, to give a sense of continuity and familiarity as well as a hope that it would eventually mean newcomers would feel at home as we welcome them in-person. Although the online meeting will never replace the real gathering of the church, it has meant that more people have been able to join. The services have been well received by both church members and others who've begun joining us and stuck with them.

Other Online and Delivered Content to help people Grow in Faith

In addition to our regular Sunday services, we created a range of one-off and other ongoing opportunities to help people grow in faith. During Holy Week (Palm Sunday to Easter Sunday) we had nightly services of prayers and talks, which had such good feedback that we continued through the rest of the year in the form of twice-weekly Evening prayer online. We also had services or events online including home-grown drama, a special focus on surviving sexual violence based on Genesis 34, harvest service, throughout Advent and other key dates in the church's calendar, some in partnership with Lyminster Church.

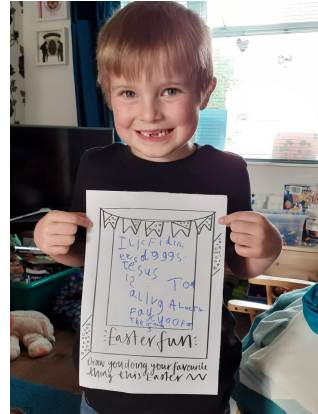
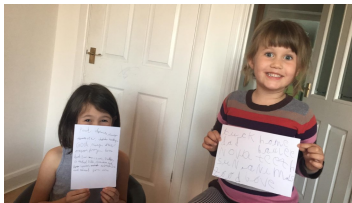
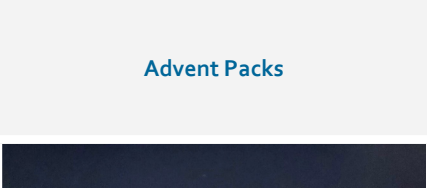
We realised early on that not everyone had access to online church services though so we also established a weekly delivery of our newsletter, which was increased to weekly and with extra devotional content each week. This went to those we knew of who wouldn't be able to access online, and included the reading for the week, a letter from Tom each week and a devotion on one of the Psalms written by Roger Purdom. In advent we also delivered extra daily notes in hard copy, written by a retired minister and edited by Jane Hicks.

For Advent we created and delivered a pack to each of the 168 adults on our Church membership list, as well as additional items for those with school-age children at home. This was the book 'Fixated' by Tim Chester which we encouraged everyone to read, and had some great feedback as people shared their reflections and how helpful they had found it for their own faith and hope at the end of 2020. It was wonderful to hear how many people engaged with the pack, the advent calendar or activities to do each day and more.



Children and Youth

Once we were able to hold services outdoors again in the summer, Mark and Laura Rodger worked with the Family Service team to devise a new format of family groups meeting on picnic rugs and chairs for a fun and interactive service in the vicarage garden, accessed via the hall. We were able to share bible stories, games, memory verses, crafts and have fun together in a socially-distanced way and again welcomed church families and some who joined us for the first time. Floss Jay and the youth team did the same with the youth group when possible, as well as utilising pre-recorded all-age services and youth meetings on zoom.



Week of guided prayer

In May we held an online week of guided prayer. We had previously held one of these in person in 2018, with people from a number of local churches benefitting from the peace and spiritual opportunities. As we were in lockdown, we invited people to watch a video exploring ways of praying and then to set aside good time each day to pray and respond to a passage of scripture. Feedback included comments such as:

"This has been a very special week of 'realisation' in our lives."

"I really enjoyed the prayer experience this week. It enabled us to go deeper into God's love for us."

"I have appreciated the time to sit and contemplate scripture in different creative ways."

Weekly online prayer meetings

A real spiritual highlight for a number of people have been the weekly online prayer meetings each Sunday. As soon as we went into lockdown we began to meet each Sunday evening for around 45 minutes of prayer with around 15 to 20 people. This continued throughout the year and has been a real source of blessing and encouragement during the lockdown. We've seen answers to prayer, ongoing need for prayer and much to give thanks for. As this continues into the new year we would encourage anyone who'd like to pray to join us.

Welcoming the Rodgers

In June, Mark, Laura, Grace and Boaz Rodger moved to Wick for Mark to become our curate and for them all to be welcomed into our Church family. Despite the challenge of moving home, church and school during lockdown they have been a huge blessing and encouragement to our life as a church family throughout 2020. We were also delighted to welcome three new babies within the church family in the latter part of the year.



Mark and Laura Rodger

New and ongoing homegroups

By the end of 2020 we had 10 small groups that were a place of mutual support and encouragement for around 90 people, with the possibility of more when the lockdowns ease. Some of these groups moved to zoom meetings, some met in a mixture of gardens, church and online and others have taken a break but still keep in contact over the phone. A lot of people have mentioned how valuable it has been to have this small group support throughout the pandemic and we hope to build on that going forward.

Confirmation service

In December three members of our church were confirmed at a special service with

the Bishop of Chichester. All had been Christians for some time, but for two of them it was another step on a journey of discerning a call into full-time ministry, and for the other a chance to remake a pledge of commitment.

Wider Church Involvement

Our vicar, Tom, took up the chair of the Littlehampton Churches Together in June this year, as the local church and other group representatives met online for prayer and mutual support. 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.

To Follow Jesus (living out our faith)

The third part of our vision as a church is to live out the faith we have in Jesus by loving our neighbours, the community around us in Wick and making a positive impact in people's lives. As everyone has found this year, we had to adapt to try and fulfil this part of our calling as a church in the following ways.

Wick Information Centre

In February, we re-opened the Wick Information Centre in the Garden Room behind the Church. The Information Centre was established by the Church in 1997 to serve the community of Wick with information, sign-posting, cheap office facilities, helpful courses and a place to meet. Having run at a loss for many years, the move enabled us to re-establish the Centre on a manageable budget for the long-term. Jonathan who had volunteered at the centre for many years continued to help, and we were just about to interview for a new part-time role of coordinator when we were forced to close due to Covid-19. The centre's social media page continued to share helpful information to its nearly 600 local followers.



Wick Information Centre in the Garden Room

Community lunch

At the start of the year, our Church and Community planning group organised a community lunch in Wick Hall. We invited anyone from the local area to join us for a free, home-cooked soup lunch, and a chance to write and share experiences of each person's time in Wick on our giant local timeline, now up on display in the

Garden Room. This was intended to be the first of many community events intended not simply as a way of the church doing something for the community, but for us to serve as facilitators of a wider community conversation and eventually action to improve the lives of all those who live and work in Wick.

Wick Hall

One of the biggest projects we undertook during lockdown was the completion of our plans to significantly refurbish and renovate Wick Hall. The church has owned the hall since 1905 with a brief to use it for church activities and for it to be made available to local groups. The large hall in particular was in need of some major improvement, and we needed to create a way that would allow us to hold larger Sunday services in the hall, without affecting the groups that hired the hall during the week. Work actually began at the very end of 2019, with major decoration of the main hall space continuing into the first week of 2020 with over 20 volunteers giving their time to scrape, paint, clean and create. A big thanks is due to all those who helped in all those ways and more. One of our church members created bespoke cupboards along the East wall to provide storage for equipment previously stored at height on an unsafe stage.



Then during the lockdown, individuals with experience in different areas began to go in to transform the old stage area into a new worship platform with a solid base, a lower height, a 4.2m square projection screen, flexible lighting, a new sound system, a beautiful wood-effect floor, increased storage, a security shutter, more stable steps up to the toilets and a proper fire exit. In particular, thanks go to Colin Beckhurst, Chris Nairne, George Hicks and Dave Green for hundreds and hundreds of volunteer hours spent in the hall throughout lockdown and beyond to turn it into the incredible space that you can see in the pictures.



The hall is now a far better space for the church to use, and has better and safer storage for community groups and is overall a much higher quality space for the people of Wick and the more than 20 groups that regularly make use of it.

Pastoral Fund

For the 2nd year, we invited people to make a contribution to our Pastoral Fund. This is money ringfenced and quickly available to help and bless people in our community and make a small but meaningful difference in times of need. Our vicar Tom is able to make gifts to people very quickly as we become aware of the need, and accountability is provided by checking payments (anonymously) with one of the church wardens. As in 2019, we were able to offer support of over £1,200 in total to local individuals and families in difficult circumstances, including emergency money for food and utility bills, new clothes for a man with only one set of things to wear, support for several families where the main earner suddenly lost income due to Covid, and more.

Covid Support

We offered practical support in other ways throughout 2020, particularly as the effects of Covid-19 and the lockdown took hold. We organised volunteers to pick up shopping for those who were isolating, arranged regular pastoral phone calls, within the church and the community, and partnered with other local churches to deliver food packages from the local shop 'Cook'.

Soup Kitchen

During the 2nd national lockdown, we worked with a new local organisation called LA Soupers to make our hall available as a soup kitchen to provide free hot meals in our community. A number of people made use of this and hugely benefited from a good quality hot meal at a time when they had been struggling financially and mentally. It has been a good way to help provide a benefit from our buildings whilst they were mostly empty during the lockdowns.



Soup Kitchen at Wick Hall

Online Coffee and Prayer Mornings

Throughout the year we held a number of regular get togethers online, particularly during the first lockdown. The benefit of this was to provide a form of face to face contact and interaction, even if over a screen, particularly for those who were shielding and simply missing the regular interaction. Although these reduced over the course of the year, the meetings on Sunday after the service and Wednesday morning continued to provide a regular benefit to those who joined. It was also a place where people could benefit from being able to share and pray together for themselves and for people they knew.

Other areas of impact in the community and further afield

The number of funerals that our clergy officiated at was around 50% higher than previous years, including many from the community. Tom continued to serve as a governor at Lyminster school, a state school in our parish and a school we have increasingly strong connections. We provided marriage preparation evenings to 8 couples getting married in 2020, with the aim of helping provide a positive start to married life and sharing something of the significance of marriage from our Christian beliefs.

As part of our Harvest Celebration we donated £500 to the local foodbank, where several members of our church have also volunteered, and gathered bags of donated food items to be given out to local people in emergency situations. At the end of the year, Tom also became a registered referral agent, enabling us as a church to provide quick access to the foodbank to people we meet who would benefit from it.

For Christmas we asked members of the church to provide items or whole boxes of supplies to be distributed to homeless people through Turning Tides. Along with the church at Lyminster and some from across our town, we were able to give 200 shoeboxes of much needed items.



Shoeboxes for Turning Tides

We continued to provide updates from our other Christian mission and charitable partners, but look forward to being able to give more focus to them again once the in-person services resume. We continue to link to them from our website, and have encouraged people to pray for them.

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 £56,695
Full details can be found in the 2020 Financial Statement and Accounts.
- Giving through envelopes, standing orders and in the collection increased to £44,338 in 2020.
- The total expenditure from general unrestricted funds was £50262.
- The largest expenditure to the PCC was the sum of £35557 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.
- The largest variance compared to 2019 was in the Special Appeals, which was a much higher amount in 2019 due to fundraising for the Wick Hall renovation project.
- Wick Hall generated an income of £9759 and expenditure of £14667 in 2020. The net result for the year was an excess of payments over receipts of £4908.
- The Wick Information Centre was run as a separate account in 2020 and is included in the Financial Statements and Accounts. The total income and costs for the centre were negligible other than a single redundancy payment.

Reserve Policy

It is the PCC policy to try and maintain a balance on the general unrestricted funds which equates to at least 3 months' unrestricted payments. This is equivalent to £11500. It is held to smooth out fluctuation in cash flow and to meet emergencies. The cash balance of £11,670 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 2020 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. The Benefice is made up of the following parishes and stipendiary clergy:

All Saints, Wick	Incumbent	Revd Thomas Robson
St Mary Magdalene, Lyminster	Associate Vicar	Revd Vanessa Baron

As of the end of 2020, 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
	Julia Eastaugh	Safeguarding
Deanery Synod Reps	Janice Betson	
	Alison Manester	
	Felix Gillett	(Began October 2020)
Elected Members	Colin Beckhurst	(until October 2020)
	Alan Hodgson	(April 2022)
	Ann Macaulay	(April 2022)
	Carol Groves	(April 2022)
	Trevor Mills	(April 2022)
	Lea Stavrou	(April 2023)
	Derek Nelson-Wills	(April 2023)
	Nathanael Gillett	(April 2023)
	Jenny Tillman	(April 2023)
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) 9 members of the church who are elected at the Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM).

Members are warmly encouraged to stand for election to the PCC and we try to ensure a balance of skills and experience where possible.