

St John the Baptist Church, Shedfield
Drawing people closer to God and to each other



**REPORTS FROM
CHURCH GROUPS
FOR THE YEAR 2019**

Presented to the
Annual Parochial Church Meeting
25th October 2020



MOTHERS' UNION

Our Mothers' union theme for 2019 was "Listen, Observe, Act- in step with God". Branch members worked together in groups of three to plan and organise meetings though the year. And what a brilliant programme we had. The year began with a talk, music and slideshow by the Rev. Samantha Martell about her travels in the Holy land; Rev. Jane and Julia Jordan explained what the clergy wear in church and why; Harvey Griffiths talked to us about "Tattoos"; Elizabeth Treveil told us about her life as a nanny and Imogen Glover, about her trip to Malawi; Malcolm Little spoke and answered questions about Portsmouth becoming a "City of Sanctuary" and Brian McHugh shared with us his thoughts about "Prayer". Many thanks to Trina for heading up the trip to Alresford - our first for some years. It was enjoyed by all, one highlight being the enrolment of Rev. Ruth as an MU member.

We worked hard to fundraise for MU charities with our Valentine's tea party event, and a Bake sale. The MU team again came 2nd in the skittles match with the raffle raising more funds for MU. Members bunched daffodils and helped out at the Mothering Sunday service, with the clergy and church looking particularly beautiful in the new "Rose" garments and hangings. MU members supported the community projects - Easter flowers display, the Harvest display, and the "Angels" church window displays, which the committee organised during Advent.

Some members attended the General Meeting in September in Portsmouth and returned enthused about MU and the way it is moving forward under Sheran Harper, the new Worldwide president. Rev. Dr. Ruth Howlett-Shipley led and preached at the Deanery service, held at St John the Baptist church on Thursday 5th December. The service incorporated the display of shoes which Deborah had produced to mark the 16 days of Activism against Gender Violence campaign.

Thanks to members for their on-going work - Josie - wash bags, Susan J. - baptism cards, Sue R. -baptism flowers, & cards for members who are unwell or need to be remembered, Jacky - wedding cards, Mary W - children's area, Deborah - baptism contact/organiser, MUE cards and gifts, distribution of CONTACT and FWW magazines, Joss - parish magazine items, Ann S - posters for branch events. Thanks to Rosemary for collating and printing off our MU Programme, and also for producing the MUsings newsletter each month.



MESSY CHURCH

Our messy church is now in its eighth year and its continued success is down to the amazing team of messy helpers who provide a warm welcome (plus biscuits) a variety of crafts - singing and worship time and a hot meal which ends with delicious cakes for pudding - no wonder our families come back month after month! We currently have around fifteen families registered and a regular attendance of about sixteen children. We also offer a craft session on Good Friday with hot cross buns and an Easter egg hunt.

Messy Church is for all people at all stages of their faith journey and of any age and its aim is to introduce Jesus, and grow in faith. It is primarily for people who don't already belong to another form of church.

This is a joint benefice project and I am indebted to Chris Denny from Shedfield who helps lead the sessions. We meet on the second Thursday of the month in term time so do please visit us as a visitor, a helper or a participant.

Sue Pittam and the Messy Church Team

CHURCH CLEANING ELVES

We continue to meet on the second Monday of each month though we are now quite a small group- Christina Southon, Sue Rogers, Mary Wake and Julia Dye.

The brass is cleaned regularly by Sue Stevens and Josie Dyson. Now that the kneelers are hanging, church looks tidier and the job is so much easier as the floor can be vacuumed with ease. We will continue to have Saturday 'spring cleaning' at various times in the year.

Feel free to become a cleaning elf on any of the Monday mornings - all necessary equipment provided!

Eco-Church report continued

For next year we hope to

- investigate progressing from Rocha Bronze to Silver award
- continue involvement in Fair Trade Fortnight
- arrange an evening Eco Event possibly at W.C. Village hall in conjunction with local Eco non-church groups – in view of Covid perhaps in 2021?
- have an Eco Church stall at the Summer fete in 2021 and encourage all stall holders to indicate their use of Eco principles of Reduce, Re-use, Recycle on their offerings.
- continue making practical suggestions as to the management of the churchyard

Danny Dubois, Mary Wake, Joss Helsen, Sam Wood and Sarah Weston; members of the Eco Church team.

LINEN GUILD

The church linen group continues to maintain & repair all the coloured seasonal hangings, and to design and make new items. During 2019 a complete set of pink seasonal vestments and hangings were produced for Mothering Sunday and Advent, funded by a generous donation.

Two new hangings were made for Remembrance Sunday using some of the poppies produced for the Centenary celebrations the previous year by individuals and groups in the community. A "red" altar, pulpit and lectern set has been made. Unfortunately, because of the lockdown it wasn't used in a service on Palm Sunday, but was used to dress the church for the occasion.

Because of use and wear, the "white linen" - lavabos, purificators, palls, corporals, baptism cloths and credence linen - need to be checked regularly and replaced if necessary. If you would like to help with any of these tasks please get in touch with the vergier, Julia Jordan.

Joss Helsen

MOTHERS' UNION continued:

2019 was a brilliant year, full of fellowship and fun and prayer and interest - very different to 2020, where everything has been put on hold for a while. But we have some lovely memories, and with our prayers and with our theme for 2020 - Building hope and confidence, we will continue to play our small part in Mothers Union Worldwide.

Mary Sumner's prayer

All this day, O Lord, let me touch as many lives as possible for thee; and every life I touch, do thou by thy spirit quicken, whether through the word I speak, the prayer I breathe, or the life I live. Amen

Joss Helsen

TUESDAYS AT 10

This past year has seen the Tuesdays at Ten club continue to thrive. The need for company and friendship are basic human requirements and the provision of a safe and comfortable environment, coupled with the offer of transport seem to hit the button.

Popular activities include Scrabble, puzzles, reading the papers, trying out the craft idea on offer and best of all, chatting together over a cup of tea or coffee with a toasted teacake.

Thank you to the many helpers who contribute to the success of the group. Their listening skills and practical help are much appreciated by all. After our enforced break we hope to resume and we will let you know when.

Trina Hillier

PARISH MAGAZINE

The Magazine Team have enjoyed a successful year and we wish to thank Roger Gough at DEK in Chandlers Ford for their continued support in typesetting and printing our Magazine including the advert artwork.

Our special thanks go to:-

- Danny Dubois, in his first year as our Editor, for his dedication in hitting each deadline.
- Julia Jordan, our Distribution Manager, who, after five years, has left the team to become Verger at our Church. We wish her well in this new venture and thank her for organising her army of distributors who deliver the Magazine 10 times a year free of charge to 1900 households in the Parish. We take this opportunity to welcome and thank Deborah Casper for taking over this role.
- Andrew Golding for auditing our accounts
Regretfully no one has volunteered for the Advertising Manager vacancy and so the Treasurer continues to take on this role. With the help of Jenny Barker, the number of adverts and therefore income were increased by 15%.

Our trading profit was £1614 for 2019 compared with a deficit of £70 for 2018 hence we do not intend to increase charges for 2020. Whilst accountable to the PCC, the magazine is managed independently, with its own bank account. We thank all the local organisations, parishioners and the Shedfield Parish Council for their grateful and welcome donations.

Brian Southon - Chair /Treasurer

ECO-CHURCH GROUP

.Our first effort was an Environmental Open Day in the churchyard on the 27th April 2019 for which we produced an illustrated booklet for visitors to read whilst they enjoyed the calming peace of our beautiful wild space particularly behind the church. Unfortunately owing to perhaps poor publicity, clash with other events and a weather forecast which was unhelpful; the turnout was disappointing and we will need to think again about how to encourage the parish to become more aware of the local environment using the churchyard as an example of how outdoor space can be managed to promote local wildlife ameliorating the effect of climate change.

We ran a small stall at the summer fete on 22nd June, selling a small quantity of ecologically-produced goods and asking people to guess the year of publication of a National Geographic Poster of the environment highlighting how long pollution and other emissions have been perceived as being a problem – 1970!

Churchyard Interpretation boards were designed by Sarah Keen and created and installed with the help of David Hillier in the autumn – one in the front part of the churchyard describing the wildlife to look out for and the other on the way to the Old Tower describing the bats that find refuge within it.

Fairtrade Fortnight was marked on the last day by an Environmental Café Church Service on the 8th March 2020 led by Reverend Juliet with contributions on energy use, textiles, laundry, food waste, plastic waste and the role of churchyard from members of the group culminating in a congregational activity writing pledges on paper leaves to affix to a tree branch of things they are going to change to reduce their impact on the environment.

In January we responded to the bishop's Eco initiative for Lent by contributing to the daily actions for each day of Lent and confirmed our status as an eco-church as holders of a Rocha Bronze Award.

As I write this all is overshadowed by the Covid-19 pandemic which is having and will have a very beneficial effect on our focus on reducing our carbon emissions so as to reduce the scale of on-going climate change. However, there will be less predictable effects on the entry of plastic materials into the environment which is another focus of our educative efforts during the year.

SHEDFIELD MEN'S GROUP

The Men's Group has had a successful year with many of the usual events that we have come to expect and enjoy! We started the year with the ever-popular Maurice's Big quiz and as ever you had to get there early to get a good table!

March saw the first of several culinary events within the Men's Group calendar which is the Big Breakfast for Mothering Sunday and although numbers were a bit down this year the atmosphere was as good as usual with excellent food and good company and that was just at the end when the Men's Group Sit down to mop up the leftovers!

Several more food related events followed with the early summer BBQ which had a new venue being hosted by Rob and Lyn Banks, the Safari Supper organised by Pete and Rosemary Yeoman and ending at the "Treveils" plus the ever popular wine tasting organised by Danny Dubois as a reward for winning last years event, and congratulations go to Mal and Serena Rowland for being triumphant and having the honour of organising next years.

May saw the annual skittles tournament for the Steve Webber Trophy and again the Men's Group were triumphant with the MU failing to break our winning streak.

July and August saw two outdoor events in the form of the Treasure Hunt organised by Linda and I, as a reward for winning last years event, and the Golding's beat off stiff opposition to win the honour of organising next year's event. Machen again organised a lovely evening meander through the Hampshire countryside finishing at a local hostelry.

Finally, I would like to thank the Men's Group for their good humour and support when turning out to help with activities such as Advent Markets, Summer Fete's, stage moving, church yard maintenance etc. etc. etc.

Ian Treveil

CHURCH FLOWERS

As usual the church was decorated for Easter, with lilies and spring flowers so kindly donated by parishioners in memory of loved ones. The Easter Garden was placed under the altar and Ann Thompson and Sue Rogers once again decorated our Easter Cross. We also enjoyed being given an Easter Garden made by the children at Messy Church in Wickham, all so beautifully arranged and much appreciated.

During the summer there were four Weddings and one Marriage Blessing including Baptism earlier this year. Most couples were happy to have our usual church flowers arranged to their chosen colours, and occasionally some provided their own pew ends. Our highlight of the year was the wedding between Tristan Bell and Gillian Glover. The church was filled with beautiful flowers, courtesy of the family, and we delighted in arranging the pedestals for them.

Extra flowers were bought for our Patronal Festival in June, and at Harvest our parishioners and the local organisations created delightful displays with flowers, crafts and produce, the latter being taken to the Food Bank in Bishops Waltham. An added bonus were the 'Bee Boards' produced by local schools and much admired by us all.

On Remembrance Sunday, the pedestals were arranged with poppies and red carnations whilst wreaths were placed on the altar and under the Memorial Boards at the back of church.

The Advent Ring was duly added for services throughout December and the Mothers Union organised window displays featuring arrangements with Angels. Our team provided a scene showing 'Jacob's Ladder' and helped with the overall success of the event.

Our beautiful altar Nativity scene was again created by Joss, and the Men's Group erected and decorated the tree.

During the year I received donations from parishioners for flowers and received the PCC's annual monetary support, both much appreciated. Once again, Redhill Nurseries and McCarthy's were very helpful and gave discounts on flowers.

We are pleased to welcome Sarah Weston and Tanya Tye-Reeve to our team, and also I would like to add my thanks to Mary Hogg for all the years she has helped us and provided flowers and greenery from her garden. Our flower ladies worked hard during the year, I am so grateful for their generosity and skills, and to all those who support us in many different ways.

Anthea Benham

PASTORAL CARE IN HOMES

Revd Juliet, Revd Ruth, Stephen and I are greatly blessed and supported in our pastoral care ministry to have so many members of the congregation who are caring for each other and those in our community in so many practical and prayerful ways. Anthea Benham takes Communion to the small group who meet at Olive Crompton's home every month and we are immensely grateful to her for this ministry.

Refreshed and revived, the monthly service at Shedfield Lodge is holding its own. The dementia-friendly 'Songs of Praise' format focuses on very familiar songs and hymns, and ends with the Lord's Prayer, and a blessing. Thank you to Mark Faulkes, Shedfield Lodge's activities' coordinator, for his warm welcome, and to the regular team for their commitment: Susan Jones, Matthew and Jennifer Wilks and Julia Jordan.

We meet at Shedfield Lodge at 10.45am on the 3rd Monday of the month. Might you be able to commit around 45 minutes once a month to enable us to grow this ministry of music?

The Revd Jane Isaac

BIBLE STUDY GROUP

Our group has continued to meet over the last year on a monthly basis to chat, have some refreshments, pray and study. After Easter whilst I walked my pilgrimage from France to Santiago de Compostela in Spain,

Jackie Wood led a topic about Christian attitudes towards people, after being inspired by watching an audience with the Pope and a group of celebrity pilgrims.

On my return we moved to having meetings during the daytime rather than evenings and we talked about my recent pilgrimage and then continued with our study of the book of Ruth.

We had an evening meeting in December kindly hosted by Brenda Hadfield in Gosport which focussed on an informative Christmas quiz.

We have now started meeting over lunchtime which has given me the opportunity to try cake and soup making to various degrees of success and I look forward to having the opportunity to expand my repertoire.

When we are able to start meeting again in homes, if anyone would like to join us please let Brian Southon or I know your email address and we will add you to the distribution list.

Matthew Wilks

The Music Group continues to make a great contribution to Café Church and it has been great to be joined by Drummer Jim Eltham and Canon David Isaac on the guitar. We took part in the Christ the King Sing organised by Canon David and Rev Jane Isaac which was a wonderful event. Hopefully, more of these will take place in the future. A number of the Music Group are also due to play in the Gallery Band at the 900 years of music concert.

I would like to finish by reiterating my thanks to the members of the Choir and Music Group for their continued support. It is very strange not to be meeting at the moment on a Friday night or playing and singing together on a Sunday, but we look forward to resuming as soon as possible. We would be delighted to welcome new members when we do, particularly to join the Soprano line in the Choir; do please speak to any of the current members of Choir or Music Group if you are interested in finding out more.

Julia Burgess

STUDY CENTRE

MUSIC IN CHURCH

Music is an important aspect of worship in Church and I am indebted to the Choir and Music Group for ensuring this is possible. The Choir continues to sing at Communion services, Quiet Time and Sung Evensong each month as well as weddings and funerals if requested. Last year we said goodbye to Ros and Mike Voga-do as they made the decision to return to their own village church and we thank them for their hard work and support over a number of years. It is also the end of an era as Malcolm and Mary Hogg move away from Shedfield after many years of village life and I would like to thank them very much for everything they have given to the choir over such a long time. Due to the church closures, it is such a shame that we have not been able to say a proper farewell but look forward to doing so in the future. In the meantime, on behalf of the Choir, I would like to send them our love and best wishes for this new stage of their lives.

It was wonderful to welcome Joss Helsen and Sarah Weston to support the singing over Christmas and we are delighted that Joss has continued to join us since then. Rosy Morris, a regular helper in the Choir at special events, also joined us at Christmas; thanks to her for her continued support.

We have had a particularly strong link with Wickham Choir this year as we have prepared for the Wickham 900 celebrations, beginning with the Patronal Festival launch in December. Joint rehearsals have been taking place each month but sadly, due to the current state of affairs, the 900 years of English music concert has had to be postponed. Watch this space for a new date!

Again, no Deanery Ascension Day service with joint choir will be able to take place this year, but hopefully this is something which will be resumed in 2021. However, a Deanery Advent service has been suggested which would be an excellent opportunity for a massed choir event.

The new communion setting by Joanna Forbes-L'estrang which we planned to look at with a view to introducing this on a Sunday had been put on hold while Wickham 2020 music was being rehearsed. However, once choir practices resume, this is something which will be taken further.

This has been an exciting year with a final account surplus to Church Funds of £1500 compared with a loss of £123 in 2018. We are so fortunate to have such a wonderful facility but it must be financially viable. Hence we welcome Lynn Hayward to our management team and thank her for volunteering to be Booking & Marketing Manager. Her advertising expertise has attracted regular Pilates, Yoga, Lace-making and Seated Exercise classes apart from numerous requests for birthday parties. We also had our first wedding reception which was a success even with a three hour power cut.

Our special thanks go to:-

- Chris Cannadine, our SC Booking Secretary
- Rosemary Yeoman and her band of culinary experts for preparing the monthly Parish lunch and buffets for numerous functions during the year
- Sam Wood and the Men's Group for helping with general maintenance
- Numerous local PCC's for their away days
- Simon Cowper for controlling the art groups.
- Jill Emery, our cleaner, for keeping the hall clean and tidy.

The Committee comprises Rev Jane, David Hillier, Rosemary Yeoman, Lynn Hayward, Sam Wood and Steve Campion.

Brian Southon

LUNCH CLUB

The Lunch Club continues to run very successfully. We cook and serve a hot lunch and pudding to about fifty people in the Study Centre on the first Tuesday of each month for which we charge £5.

We have a very loyal band of cooks, servers, washer-uppers and drivers and we are very grateful to them all.

THE BOUCHER TRUST

To date the Trust has derived its income solely from leasing out Fairlands Nursery School situated opposite the church. Its objects are the education, social and spiritual welfare of the people of Shedfield Parish including support of the Study Centre.

This year, as expected, planned heavy expenditure has exceeded income received by £33,358 mainly to meet the Trust's prime objective in undertaking improvements to upgrade the vacant former school detached western annex to form offices in compliance with planning and building regulation consents obtained.

The office building has been registered to be known as Fairlands Court and is now ready for occupation. Commercial letting agents have been appointed to find a tenant.

Upon legal advice, works were initially delayed by four months. Completed improvements included provision of suspended ceilings, insulated linings to sloping roof skillings, updating of electrical lighting and power points, a new front entrance door, installation of a unisex disabled toilet and provision of new floor coverings. A number of structural inadequacies have also been dealt with, particularly the demolition of a leaking chimney stack, damp-proofing, removing blockages in cavity external walls and decayed wall panelling.

Externally, the former school northern toilet block was demolished in February. Its retained untied eastern end wall needed stabilising in order to form a division wall for the car park. The central car park has been enlarged and car parking spaces white lined for both the school and offices. Further external works to the office courtyard are being held in abeyance until Fairlands Court is let.

To the School main building emergency re-roofing works needed to be undertaken in May to overcome the danger of defective tiles slipping down from two roof slopes above the front classroom into the adjacent playground. This work plus repairs to the southern store cost £8,213.

Business Rates challenges made to the Valuation Office Agency resulted in a separate lower assessment for the school and a temporary one for the office building. Only limited rate relief for the offices could be obtained and rates paid of £3,035 applied to 31.03.2020.

After the Trust was set up in 2000, Brian Thompson served as a Trustee for over 11 years but continued to be its Secretary. Sadly, he has now decided it is time to give up this post. The Trust has very much appreciated Brian's valued guidance and sterling service over so many years.

The Boucher Trust continued:

In conclusion, we must also record our grateful thanks to David Ellis-Jones for carrying out the annual examination of the Trust's accounts over many years, after giving up this essential task.

Peter Benham, Chairman

BELLRINGERS

Within the Winchester and Portsmouth Guild there are 1,500 ringing members. Within the Portsmouth District there are 200 and within Shedfield there are eight and yet within the year we managed to ring for all the main services and so: "Well done, Shedfield!"

We managed to keep the practices going also throughout the year, even during August. As I write this it is quite cold but sometimes it was so hot. However we have a fan in the summer and a heater in the winter. We didn't have as many visitors but still have out faithful two from Soberton. Together with them we managed one again to ring for the Droxford weddings. Their bells are not rung very often. We've also helped at Wickham, Southwick and Curdridge.

We didn't have a District practice last year due to a clash of dates but there will be one this year in June. Our District Officers are very good and helpful and have already organised practices at Havant, St Agatha's and Alverstoke.

Our District A.G.M. was held at Curdridge this year. The bells there are very good and almost twice as heavy as ours. It was a very good meeting and two of us attended. The business and tea were held in the Reading Room. An excellent tea was a joint effort by Botley and Curdridge ringers. On that occasion our new Guild Master attended. He rings at Basingstoke. He hasn't visited us yet.

We had just three visiting Saturday visitors. Early in the year we had Fordingbridge. They brought their vicar with them who is also a ringer. The other two were both from Kent.

We are willing to teach another ringer. I'm quite sure between us we could give some very good instruction. Although we practice on Tuesdays, first lessons on a silent bell would probably be on a Saturday morning.

Betty Daysh