

PARISH OF HORSHAM

The Annual Parochial Church Meeting of the Parish of Horsham will be held on Thursday 6 May 2021 at 7.30 by Zoom

A G E N D A

1. Welcome and opening worship
2. Apologies for absence
3. To receive and approve the Minutes of the Vestry Meeting and Annual Parochial Church Meeting held on 23 September 2020 - *attached*.
4. Matters arising
5. Joint meeting with the Vestry for the election of **three** Parish Wardens
6. Reports on Fabric, Goods and Ornaments of the churches in the Parish
 - a) St Mary's Church - *attached*
 - b) Holy Trinity Church – *attached*
 - c) St Leonard's Church - *attached*
7. Consideration of the Annual Report and Audited Accounts for the year ended 31 December 2020, as adopted by the PCC on 22 April 2021 – *attached*
8. Election of **eight** lay representatives to the Parochial Church Council –
9. Election of **six** lay representatives to Horsham Deanery Synod -
10. Election of Independent Examiner
11. To receive reports
 - a) on the proceedings of the PCC - *attached*
 - b) on the proceedings of the Deanery Synod – *attached*
 - c) from the Electoral Roll Officer - *attached*
12. To receive reports from
 - a) Youth Work - *attached*
 - b) St Mary's pre-school - *attached*.
13. To receive reports from related organisations
 - a) Mothers' Union - *attached*
 - b) Horsham Churches Together – *attached*
14. St Mary's Primary School - *to follow*
15. Chairman's Comments
16. Any other business, of which notice must be given before the commencement the Meeting to the Chairman or Secretary.
17. Closing prayers

Brenda Large, Hon. Secretary PCC, April 2021

**MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING
HELD IN ST MARY'S CHURCH, CAUSEWAY, HORSHAM
ON WEDNESDAY 23 SEPTEMBER 2020 2019 at 7.30 p.m.**

PRESENT: Revd Lisa Barnett (in the Chair); Revds David Bouskill, Rebecca Tuck; Brenda Large (Hon. Secretary); Nigel Stalley, Reg Haydon, Margaret Symonds (Parish Warden); 26 parishioners;

1 OPENING WORSHIP

The Revd Lisa Barnett opened the meeting with worship in music.

2 APOLOGIES

were received from 8 parishioners.

3 MINUTES

The minutes of the APCM held on 23 April 2019, having been circulated, were approved *nem con.*

4 MATTERS ARISING

None

**5 JOINT MEETING WITH THE VESTRY TO ELECT THREE CHURCHWARDENS
(PARISH WARDENS)**

Valid nomination forms had been received for

Nigel Stalley (St Mary's), Reg Haydon (Holy Trinity), Margaret Symonds (St Leonard's).

They were declared elected. The Chairman said how grateful we were for their service and for being willing to stand again. It was extremely helpful that all three churches were represented.

6 REPORTS ON THE FABRIC OF THE CHURCHES IN THE PARISH

(Copies attached in the Minute Book.)

The following reports, having been circulated, were received and comments and questions invited.

a) St Mary's.

b) Holy Trinity

Revd David Bouskill added that Holy Trinity had had its Quinquennial in the previous week and was awaiting the report.

c) St Leonard's

7 ANNUAL REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS 2019

(Copy attached in the Minute Book)

Nigel Stalley introduced the report with the comment that we were looking back a long way now. The financial aspects of the report were the responsibility of Paul Kirkbride, who has now retired as Parish Treasurer. Nigel thanked him for service and presented him with a gift from the parish. He also thanked everyone for their support during the interregnum, especially the clergy team - David, Rebecca, Alan, Bernard, Pat and Natalie – and the Readers who took a more active role.

8 ELECTION OF LAY REPRESENTATIVES TO THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL.

Greg Andrews and Nick O'Riordan, whose nominations had been agreed by St Mary's DCC AGMs, and who had completed the necessary declarations, were declared elected.

There were still vacancies, so **Hazel Cork** (Holy Trinity Church), who was proposed by Keith Rayner and seconded by Reg Haydon, was declared elected, subject to her completing the necessary declarations.

9 ELECTION OF LAY REPRESENTATIVES TO THE DEANERY SYNOD.

Emmanuel Holden, whose nomination had been agreed by St Mary's DCC AGM, was declared elected to the Deanery Synod.

There were still vacancies, so **Tim Hewlett** (St Leonard's), who is currently a member of the Deanery Synod, was proposed for re-election by Margaret Symonds, seconded by Val Burgess. He was declared re-elected to the Deanery Synod.

It was noted that the Term of Office of the new Deanery Synod members begins on 1 December 2020, but the meeting was content for Manny Holden to be invited to the October PCC.

The Chairman said that there are still vacancies on the PCC and on the Deanery Synod; she invited members of the Electoral Roll to consider whether they would like to be added later.

10 ELECTION OF INDEPENDENT EXAMINER

On the proposal of Greg Andrews, seconded by Nigel Stalley, D A Clarke were elected *nem con* to act as Independent Examiner for the Parish

11 STATUTORY REPORTS

(Copies attached in the Minute Book)

The following reports were received and questions and comments invited.

d) Proceedings of the PCC

The Chairman confirmed that these reports all concerned activities in 2019.

e) Deanery Synod report

f) Electoral Roll report

Keith Rayner said that the numbers had changed slightly since the report prepared for April which had previously been circulated; we have to note the current numbers at the APCM.

Church	September 2020	April 2019
St Mary's	408	398
Holy Trinity	109	111
<i>St John's</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>143</i>
St Leonard's	49	51
Horsham Parish	566	703

The Chairman thanked Keith for his work, noting that much of it had previously been done by the St Mary's Office, but was now in his hands.

12 PARISH ACTIVITY REPORTS

(Copies attached in the Minute Book)

The following reports were received and questions and comments were invited.

g) Youth work

David Bouskill thanked Lee and his team for their work not just in 2019 but particularly in holding the young people together during the 2020 lockdown.

h) Safeguarding report

Richard Pearson added that he had included only the outline of the SQP checklist in his report, as the completed document ran to 13 pages. He was particularly grateful to Lisa for assistance with this.

The Chairman said that refresher training is rolling out for the clergy now. We must never become complacent but must always take it seriously and be learning. She thanked the church officers for their careful work in administering the processes.

- i) **St Mary's**
- j) **Holy Trinity**
- k) **St Leonard's**
- l) **St Mary's Pre-school**

13 RELATED ORGANISATIONS

(Copies attached in the Minute Book)

The following reports were received and questions and comments invited.

- m) **Mothers' Union**
- n) **Horsham Churches Together**
- o) **St. Mary's Primary School**

No report had been received from Holy Trinity School, Crawley. Our involvement with them is decreasing as few parish children now attend, so this had not been pursued. We do have members on the Governing Body (representing Horsham Deanery).

14 CHAIRMAN'S COMMENTS

Lisa said that it was symbolic of the churches working more closely together that she had peached at the St Leonard's communion that morning and is preparing a sermon for Holy Trinity for next Sunday and we are now meeting in St Mary's. They had run the online services together, had planned the sermon series on vocation together and had shared their expertise on risk assessment for reopening, which has saved so much time and effort. A working party from Holy Trinity had helped St Leonard's sort out their vicarage garden, while the weekday communion at St Leonard's had proved a blessing for those who cannot come to Sunday services. Representatives from the churches are meeting on Saturday to consider how they can continue to work together and build loving relationships.

She thanked those present for turning out to sign off the parish legally for 2019 and closed the meeting with prayer at 8.00 pm.

Signed Chairman of the Meeting

Date

St Mary's Fabric Report

The Team wishes to express grateful thanks to the many members of the Church family who have given so generously of their time and talents, carrying out so many tasks, during the past year, in spite of the restrictions placed on us by the COVID-19 pandemic.

There were a number of personnel changes during 2020 with both Jane Gorrie (our Verger) and Paul Kirkbride (our Church Centre manager) leaving us. Sadly, due to financial pressures created by COVID, we found ourselves in a position of no longer being able to employ a full-time Verger. Jane decided, in the end, to take voluntary redundancy. Jane and Paul had served the Church for many years providing day to day care and maintenance of our buildings. We are so very thankful for all their hard work, over the years, and they are both sorely missed. We also wish to thank Anita Griffin who, after over twenty years cleaning for us, decided the time had come to move to pastures new. The Team would also like to thank all our cleaners: John Gander (Atlantic Cleaning) and Elizabeth Windwood and her team who work hard every week to keep our Church and Church Centre clean and tidy. During 2020 the cleaning requirements have been more challenging in order to prevent the spread of COVID-19 and we thank everyone for their efforts. Thanks also go to the flower arrangers led by Sheila Glaysher who produce beautiful floral displays every week to enhance the Church.

The Team would also like to thank the many members of our Church family who helped to put up and take down the Christmas trees and crib. There is a tremendous feeling of fellowship and camaraderie at events such as these during the year.

The Church were very grateful for the gift of two altar crosses and four candle holders that were given to the Church by the Tranter family in memory of Alan and Esther Tranter.

Projects completed during 2020.

During the early months of 2020 we were pleased to have the remaining work completed on the South Aisle Roof Rafter repair project. This work was carried out by John Tilley Ltd.

A new CCTV system was installed to replace the worn-out organist's monitor in the Church. A donated projector was installed in the Leslie Room.

The floor of the Church Centre Barn was sanded and re-varnished in February.

Following our Church boiler being condemned, when it was serviced in the autumn, we were left without heating in Church from October to most of December. Simultaneously, the Church came under strong demand as a concert venue from external hirers and infrared heaters were used as a temporary measure while heating options were explored, following the guidance of the Church Building Council. After careful evaluation of multiple options including air and ground source heat pumps, a new gas boiler was installed just in time for our Christmas services. A new flue was also installed. Early signs are that gas is being consumed at a reduced rate due to the higher efficiency of the new boiler over its venerable, but unrepairable, predecessor.

The conservation of the Hoo Memorial was assessed by Structural Engineers, the Morton Partnership, and some concerns over its short-term stability allayed. A plan to address its long-term conservation was produced during the last weeks of 2020.

Thank you to the Church yard gardening team (led by Manny Holden) which continues to carry out work keeping our churchyard tidy, providing compost bins and a church shed water collection system. We are also grateful to HDC for their continued assistance in keeping the churchyard tidy.

We continue to monitor the Church Maintenance plan and carry out tasks as they arise. Tasks overseen by the team in 2020 included ensuring the gutters and gullies are cleaned out, the necessary electrical inspections are carried out, changing light bulbs as required. Health and Safety continues to be regularly reviewed at the Building and Fabric Team meetings. We are very grateful to Nick Hatton who has taken on the weekly Health and Safety checks on our buildings. We commissioned a quinquennial inspection report on the Church Centre.

Projects for 2021 and beyond

To have our Church boiler room roof reconstructed. The start of this work has been delayed due to COVID, but we hope that it will be completed early in 2021.

Repair another cinquefoil window in the south aisle of the Church.

To review the plan to re-order the South Aisle.

To install a screen and projector system in Church.

To carry out minor improvements to the Church Centre in order to improve community outreach.

To continue and plan for the points raised in the 2018 Quinquennial Inspection.

Holy Trinity Fabric Report

David Swarbrick undertook a Quinquennial Inspection on 15th September 2020 and initially it was thought that there would be thousands of pounds worth of work required in respect to redecorating the high-level dormer windows and the bell tower. Following a detailed inspection using a drone, thankfully these elements of fabric appeared to be in much better condition than was thought and it has now been agreed that redecoration works can be reviewed in two years' time. There is still an urgent requirement to replace the missing bird netting on the bell tower and this work will have to be carried out as soon as the weather permits. Together with a few other items.

There are a considerable number of other areas of the church, which will require substantial maintenance in the next ten years, notably the water ingress through the floor and repairs to the windows together with many other more minor items. However for a church that is now 120 years old the fabric is not in bad condition and no doubt will remain serviceable for many years to come, with some careful maintenance.

This year we have not carried out any real maintenance works other than a few minor repairs and the servicing of the two boilers.

We are currently installing new audiovisual equipment, following the total failure of the existing audio equipment. The new facilities will greatly enhance our online services and will also provide greater flexibility for worship when we all finally all get back to church after the latest lockdown.

This week the security system in the church unhelpfully decided to stop working. We are currently looking at quotations to provide a new system, which will need to be installed as a matter of urgency.

Turning to the Church Hall, other than servicing the boiler, no works have been carried out. During lockdown there has been minimal use of the church hall, however the playschool has now returned and the one area of maintenance that needs to be urgently reviewed is the condition of the floor, which requires covering with vinyl as t engineered wood floor surface cannot be sanded any further. We received quotations prior to the covid pandemic, and we need to look at trying to get this work completed during the forthcoming school summer holiday.

The church hall fabric is now generally tired, as it has been well used for nearly fifty years with minimum maintenance, and there will be some substantial works required in the next ten years.

During "Lockdown" this year we started a gardening club, which met from April – October and generally kept the church grounds tidy and maintained. We intend starting up the club again in mid Aril subject to government guidelines. One of our more urgent tasks is to rebuild our gardeners shed, which is falling to bits and carry out the usual annual and weekly garden maintenance items.

Bob Whittaker – March 2021

St Leonard's Fabric Report

Following the flood damage in 2019, the kitchen, toilets and corridor were redecorated during the first lockdown, largely paid for by the insurance company, St Leonard's adding a small amount from our fabric fund to cover the redecoration of the ceilings, which had not been damaged during the flood, but which would have looked out of place with redecorated walls.

Since then, very little has happened in the building. In July, prior to the re-opening, some members of the congregation donned masks and gloves, dusted the church and tidied away all the things we could no longer have on display owing to the risk of Covid infection. Just after this our paid cleaner left us; she had been furloughed during the lockdown but decided she did not want to return afterwards. We were lucky in that Ray Hambling, our Hall Manager, was able to get a local cleaning contract company to do Covid-safe cleans for us around our bookings and services. Sussex Minty Cleaners have served us so well we will keep them on.

Now we are hoping to reach the end of the third lockdown and looking to be able to have at least some of our hirers back fairly soon, so we have turned our attention to completing building works prioritised in the 2018 Quinquennial Report. We are blessed in having a very large legacy from one of our former parishioners and we are now looking to do some repointing and similar work, and replace our doors, which are in a very sorry state. This will not only make the building look better and more welcoming but will make it more secure and hopefully more convenient for users.

Following that, we are hoping to be able to correct the very bad acoustics in the hall, using more of our legacy to do so. Generally, however, the church and hall are in good condition; we look forward to welcoming our hirers back and enabling more whole parish events to take place in our building.

*Margaret Symonds
Parish warden
March 2021*

Trustees Annual Report and Accounts

See separate PDF document.

Election of lay representatives 2021.

Office and Years left to serve	ST MARY PCC 7/15	HOLY TRINITY PCC 4/15 -	ST LEONARD PCC 4/15
PCC to 2022	1 Alistair Inglis-Taylor 2 Nick O'Riordan 3 <i>Vacancy</i>	1 Bob Whittaker	1 Joan Denne
PCC to 2023	4 Richard Pearson 5 PAUL GOODWIN	2 Hazel Corke	2 MARGARET SYMONDS
PCC TO 2024	6 GREG ANDREWS 7 LINDA GOODWIN	3 KEITH RAYNER 4 <i>Vacancy</i>	3 RAY HAMBLING 4 <i>Vacancy</i>
Deanery Synod to 2023 Ex officio on PCC.	4/8 1 Emmanuel Holden 2 <i>vacancy</i> 3 <i>vacancy</i> 4 <i>vacancy</i>	2/8 <i>vacancy</i> 2 <i>vacancy</i>	2/8 1 Tim Hewlett 2 SUE LISMER
Diocesan Synod to 2021 Ex officio on PCC	Val Burgess Brenda Large Nigel Stalley		
Background:	3 Churchwardens to be elected earlier at the Vestry Meeting from the whole parish and members of the PCC ex officio Paul Fruin; Morag Davis; Cath Hatton		

PROCEEDINGS OF THE PCC 2020/21

MEETINGS. The PCC has met six times since the last APCM in September 2020, including one immediately after the APCM to elect and appoint officers and to deal with other urgent matters. Nigel Stalley was elected Vice-Chairman, Brenda Large was appointed Secretary and Greg Andrews Treasurer. All meetings were held remotely on Zoom. Unfortunately one member was not able to access these. There were also two meetings of the Standing Committee but it is the preference of the Team Rector that the PCC meets as a whole, with Standing Committee meetings only for urgent business.

WORK OF THE PCC. The individual District Church Committees handle much of the detailed church management work that would normally come to a PCC.

Since September PCC work was dominated by the parish measures for operating during the pandemic, by plans for the parish with a smaller team and fewer clergy and by policy review. The membership of the Standing Committee was revised to bring it in line with the CRR 2020. Discussions were begun on the status and role of the DCCs and the future organisation of the parish; a Governance Working Party was set up to do detailed work. A new policy on Financial Controls was adopted, and a major review of risk management was begun, with members taking responsibility for particular areas. Responsibility was delegated to St Mary's DCC to enable minor improvements to the Church Centre.

We owe much gratitude to PCC and DCC members and to the DCC secretaries for their work.

Brenda Large, Hon. Sec. PCC, May 2021

PROCEEDINGS OF HORSHAM DEANERY SYNOD 2020/21

The main functions of a Deanery Synod are to discuss and reflect on matters of the Church of England as they affect the deanery, and generally ‘to promote in the deanery the whole mission of the church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical’. Deanery Synod acts as a forum for the airing of parish views on any common problems, the communication of diocesan synod decisions, the consideration of relevant business and the referral to Diocesan Synod of matters of concern.

Horsham Deanery Synod now includes the 16 parishes of (* in vacancy) Billingshurst, Broadbridge Heath, Colgate and Roffey, Holbrook, Horsham, Itchingfield, Slinfold, Lower Beeding, Cowfold, Nuthurst and Mannings Heath*, Rudgwick, Rusper, Shipley, Southwater, Warnham and West Grinstead. The Parish of Cowfold joined the Deanery when it and Lower Beeding became a joint benefice like Itchingfield and Slinfold.

All 20 licensed clergy in the deanery are members of the House of Clergy. It is good to see most of the vacancies filled.

Every three years the parishes elect a number of lay members (according to the size of their electoral roll). This happened in 2020 and there are now 31 members including the 5 lay members of the Diocesan Synod. There remain a worrying 31 vacancies. Horsham may elect 8 but has only elected 2.

Revd David Beal, Vicar of Billingshurst, is Rural Dean. Clergy also meet separately with the Rural Dean as a Deanery Chapter. This is a mutually supportive forum for licensed clergy in the deanery.

Having met in May 2020, the pandemic meant that the Synod could not meet again in person, and its only meeting has been recently via Zoom on 27 April 2021. This was well “attended” and each parish gave a quick picture of how it has been coping in the lockdown; this was mostly quite positive. We welcomed the Bishop of Horsham, who told us a little about herself and her priorities. We then elected a new Lay Chairman, Martin Hennock of Itchingfield, and reappointed Brenda Large as Secretary and Val Burgess as Treasurer.

Brenda Large

Horsham Deanery Secretary.

April 2021

Electoral Roll Report 2021

The numbers on the Electoral Roll compared with those reported at the APCM last year are as follows:

Church	April 2021	April 2020
St Mary's	409	407
Holy Trinity	108	114
St Leonard's	50	49
Horsham Parish	567	570

A revision to the Roll has taken place this year in accordance with Church Representation Rules. This is not a complete renewal of the Roll which takes place every 6 years (the next renewal is due in 2025) but an exercise to bring the current roll up to date with any changes that have taken place since the renewal in 2019. It is also an opportunity for new members to join the Roll.

I would like to thank Nigel Stalley for his help in making the application process accessible online through ChurchSuite and the clergy for highlighting with congregations the Roll revision.

Keith Rayner

Youth Report

Introduction

2020! What a different year than we had all expected. Although I have been with the Church now for 2 year in May, at the point of our first lockdown I had only done 6 months of face-to-face youth work. To begin with the year started well. We had a good number for May Camp, I was also getting to know the young people. Although Covid did shock us all, we were able to help support our young people. In this year we have grown new teams in some of our groups. Started new groups to help reach out to as many young people as possible. We have also taken on a youth intern (Ruby) and continued to support and build rapport with our young people. As we go into 2021 the realisation that Zoom and online youth work may be the future for quite a while has lead us to put more groups in place and new sessions to engage with different young people.

TGI's

During both of our lockdowns we have been running TGI's and had a regular group join us. We have tried to keep the online sessions creative and engaging. We have had come and dine with me evenings, cooking sessions, escape rooms, quiz nights and many more. We have tried to keep these sessions different from week to week. We had a lovely chance to meet up again in person for a few months. In these months we separated TGI's into 2 groups. The first being year 7-8 and the next year 9+. The younger group at a max of 15 and had a waiting list of 1 or 2 people. After the first lockdown we lost all our leadership team expect 1. We have managed to build a team while in lockdown. This team is growing really well with each other including the young people.

Café Connect

Café Connect has also continued to meet. Unlike TGI's this has had less attendance and different young people each time. When we were able to meet in person, these sessions were busy with about 15 young people and leaders. We had a great time reflecting on the current situation. Looking into the stars listening to worship music and appreciating God. We also had a great session where Lisa joined us and allowed the young people to ask her questions.

Cell Groups

Cell groups have also continued. These sessions have joined the 2 groups together and have been low in attendance. This has allowed for a more open conversation regarding our faith and struggles during lockdown. Chris and the teams that run the Cell groups have done a great job keeping these sessions upbeat and engaging.

The Core

We have been very thankful for those who helped us through the first Lockdown Becky and Neil who supported our young people to continue to explore more about our faith. Neil stepped down after the lockdown and Becky stopped just into the second lockdown. Thanks to Neil & Becky for all that they've given to our young people over so many years. We are very thankful for Ruby and Cathy who have step in and doing a fabulous job. We have looked at different topics and Bible scripture. How this impacts our life and how we can start to make a change in our own. We of course tackled Covid and how we can use this time to grow with Christ.

Lee Buck, Parish Youth Work Enabler

St. Mary's Pre-School

We are very proud that our pre-school has managed to remain open throughout the last year, initially only providing care for 2 vulnerable and 4 critical worker children but then welcoming all children back from 1st June last year. We are grateful to God that we had just the right number of staff at each stage and that the two instances of positive cases remained isolated cases. Staff have maintained contact with families while they were away and have adapted creatively to all the restrictions and cleaning and rotating of equipment but it is still very hard work! There were noticeable speech and social communication delays from the lack of social interaction and we are supporting the children and their families to ensure there are no long term effects from this.

A positive outcome of the lockdown has been the increased forest school provision. In June and July we ran 4 full days of forest school for the different 'bubbles'. We knew that outdoors was the healthiest place to be but it was lovely to see the children thriving in this environment. It also gave us the confidence to run a full day of forest school for some of the children for the whole year. Some of the parents were initially nervous about this but they have been delighted with how their children have responded and many say it is the favourite part of their week.

We are really missing our intergenerational activities and look forward to those resuming as soon as it is safe to do so. We managed to film an outdoor Nativity at Christmas so that family far and wide could enjoy it but we were delighted to be able to return to the Church for two Easter services.

Financially, it has been rather challenging, especially as we did not know for a while whether we could furlough staff and whether we could retain funding. Our social team has been amazing, organising a 5k fun run and raising £2153.50. Some parents, who felt able to, also donated the fees they would have paid had their children been allowed to attend for the full time and WSCC have just allocated a grant to cover extra cleaning costs.

Our staff team has remained stable and we are grateful to also have two new bank staff members and an apprentice. This has been particularly useful this year when staff have had to isolate and as we have not been able to use volunteers.

We have a few new things coming up. The first is a sleep workshop for parents to be run in two sessions, using zoom. This is to support parents whose children don't sleep well. A few parents have volunteered to be 'guinea pigs' for these sessions and, if it is successful, it will be offered more widely.

We are about to increase our forest school provision still further, starting a session for the younger children. The children will benefit from having an extra term of sessions in the better weather and many of the families will benefit from being able to use more of their free entitlement with us.

There is a revised framework for the early years which is being trialled by early adopter schools in the current year and comes into effect for everyone from September. We are thankful that the changes are not dramatic this time but it will be an extra challenge for us in the Autumn Term.

We are grateful for your ongoing support and prayer and particularly look forward to those of you who support us in a volunteer role being able to return.

Karen, Lai and the Pre-School Team

Mothers' Union report to APCM 2021 for the year 2020

Karen Hill, who inspired Horsham Parish collecting knickers for vulnerable South African girl orphans, is our Diocesan President and in 2020 started us collecting for Family Support Work (FSW) to replenish their supplies for their families. FSW book our caravans for their families.

Our monthly meetings, currently suspended since February due to COVID-19 restrictions, are on the 4th Tuesday of each month.

Corporate Communion is the 3rd Wednesday of the month (except August) 10.30am in St Leonard's Church, sadly no refreshments.

The Working Party continues from home and then will meet 1st Tuesday of the month (except August) in the Manor room, St Mary's Church Centre, 2-4pm contact Christine Bright.

We continue to support each other by prayers and contact.

Sue Lismer
The Mothers' Union
Horsham Branch Leader

HORSHAM CHURCHES TOGETHER

By Revd. Rebecca Tuck

New Moderator

Clive Urquhart from Kingdom Faith Church took over as HCT Moderator after Brian White left Horsham in May.

Virtual Prayer Room

24/7 online virtual prayer room ran for Thy Kingdom Come. It was advertised in the West Sussex County Times and had excellent engagement, with 148 posts, 350 comments and 2,502 reactions and 328 people taking part in the prayer activities overall. It ran again during Advent.

Horsham Shines

People were encouraged to display a star in their windows for advent as a reminder of the star the wise men followed to find the baby Jesus and make Horsham shine.

Horsham Matters

Have been delivering to those in need through the Foodbank, with demand being considerably higher than usual. Fuel voucher and household items have continued to be provided. The charity shop will now only collect large items or a minimum of three large boxes of donations. These can no longer be left at the warehouse. The night shelter has not been able to operate, but some additional funding has been made available to increase the number of bed and breakfast places that Horsham District Council can provide to the homeless. The charity is currently looking for a new trustee.

Week of Prayer for Christian Unity

This happened across a series of zoom meetings hosted by various churches and an online service was produced by HCT.

The Power of the Cross

As One Good Friday was unable to take place, HCT produced a Good Friday video which featured members of our parish as well as the new Bishop of Horsham Ruth Bushyager.

Unfailing Love

During the Lent and Easter season HCT encouraged us to display a cross in our window as a reminder of God's unfailing love shown to us by the death and resurrection of Jesus.

St. Mary's Church of England Primary School



**Normandy
Horsham
West Sussex
RH12 1JL**

Headteacher: Mr A Bird

Telephone: 01403 265999

Report to PCC May 2021

I said that last year's PCC report was perhaps the most bizarre you'd ever get, and yet clearly things have continued in much the same vein since. With the school again having periods of extended partial opening due to the pandemic!

Possibly because of our Church School status, we have found that we had so many more key workers than other local schools (showing what a caring community we are part of). This meant that we were more or less catering simultaneously for half of our children in school and half at home. Online platforms such as Tapestry and Zoom proved of great help in making this happen. However, most of all, I have simply been blown away by the dedication of our staff in providing so well for children in both scenarios. During this academic year, the Zoom lessons were also being delivered live from the classroom – another very interesting and strange dynamic to deal with!

Obviously, the time and energy taken in responding to the pandemic has meant that all school have slowed somewhat on SDP work as the focus has been so much on responding to the ever-changing governmental guidance. However, I am very pleased that we are still on course for a full launch of our reviewed curriculum for this September too. The development of the premises has also been most encouraging. Major points to note: the new EYFS outdoor area has been completed allowing full delivery of the outdoor learning curriculum now; the junior playground drains levelled so that this can be used more safely for sport; and, trees have been removed that were causing damage to the playground. More pleasing still has been the appointment of Mr Cushing as our new Premises Manager, he has had a huge impact in getting so many slightly more minor jobs done – making the school feel so much more presentable (after such a long time with no caretaker).

Once again, there are a few staff changes taking place ahead of September, and once again we had a huge amount of applicants for these positions (which feels like such a blessing). Mrs Whiting has taken the decision to retire after so many years of service to St. Mary's – she will be so sorely missed! She is being replaced by a Miss Francis, who joins us as an experienced teacher from Three Bridges Primary. Mrs Hickmott's temporary contract comes to an end and she is being replaced by a Mrs Smith who joins us as an Early Career Teacher from Sussex Uni. Mrs Mogridge will be taking maternity leave at this time too and is being covered for by our former County Advisor Mr Campbell.

Pupil numbers

We are pleased to remain one of only two West Horsham Schools to be over-subscribed for places in Year R. the falling birth rate means there are a lot of vacant places in Horsham again this year – it'll be interesting to see if there is a post-covid baby boom coming through!

Clubs

Clubs, which have been banned due to the coronavirus for so long, finally recommenced again in April. It should be noted that Horsham District Council has stopped supporting schools on this front. However, Ian Ford (the man who used to organise the sporting side of things for them) is setting up his own business instead called Horsham Sports Services to fill the void. He and his team have made a good start serving us in this way. Our offering has changed slightly in light of other providers also finding other lines of work during lockdown, so it will be interesting to see how things develop looking ahead. At present, we now have: cookery,

football, basketball, tennis, hockey, gymnastics, Rhythm Masters (percussion) and Explorers clubs running (Explorers being our children's' CU).

Sports

We are still hoping to get all of our KS2 teachers trained up by the range of Sport Governing bodies to gain coaching awards. But, this is also awaiting these courses being offered once again post-Covid, when I am sure demand will be great!

Worship

We hope to welcome different members of the St. Mary's community into school again soon. Lisa is hoping to change the long-standing approach of one clergy assembly per week (delivered by clergy from around Horsham) and enhanced by regular open the Book assemblies on an alternative day too. So that looking ahead, Open the Book and a member of St. Mary's will alternate in delivering one assembly each week instead.

Raspberry Pi

Mr Tyler-Moore and Mr Feitz have once again lead a team of children (and their parents) in entering the National Competition bringing success for an eighth year in a row for St. Mary's! What an achievement – through lockdown too!

Church Support

As a Church-Aided School, the School does rely on and receive a great deal of support from members of the Parish churches and the Parish clergy team. The financial support in the form of a Deanery Grant is much appreciated too and I would like to record our thanks for these things. We are also very blessed by the significant numbers of governors from the St. Mary's congregation who have supported me so well in navigating the challenges of leading the school through a pandemic. For these folks I am so very grateful.

Thank you also to:

Our teaching and support staff who continue to work so very hard to give the children high quality learning opportunities.

The HSA whose creativity in making events happen despite the restrictions has been so very admirable! We've enjoyed great success with the Drive-through Grotto; a virtual Christmas Market; Easter and Lenten events; a reading challenge as well as planning for the St.Mary'sFEST (take two) once restrictions are lifted.

The school very much values the role the Parish and its churches play in the life of the school and I have really appreciated the sense of community that supports the school so much (even in these most challenging of times)!

Best wishes

Alex Bird

Headteacher

St Mary's C E Primary School