



BRANKSOME, ST. ALDHELM'S CHURCH

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

www.st-aldhelm.com

Registered Charity Number: 1130874

PARISH REPORT & STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS

together with reports from church organisations
for the year ended 31st December 2021

Vicar

Rev. Philip Martin

Churchwarden

Peter Sharp & Ian Gray

Honorary Treasurer

Peter Sharp

Honorary Secretary

Samantha Waldron *(from June 2021)*

BRANKSOME ST ALDHELM'S CHURCH
THE ANNUAL MEETING OF PARISHIONERS
AND
THE ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING
SUNDAY 1ST MAY 2022 HELD AFTER THE 10AM SERVICE

AGENDA

MEETING OF PARISHIONERS

1. Welcome and Apologies
2. To elect 2 people to the office of Churchwarden

ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING

3. To receive the updated Electoral Roll and Report
4. To receive the Annual Report and accept the examined Accounts 2021
5. To receive the Treasurer's Report
6. To receive the Churchwarden's Report
7. Vicar's Report & Memorial to the Departed
8. To receive the Deanery Synod Report
9. To elect members of the laity to the PCC & Sides persons
10. To accept the minutes of the APCM for the 25th April 2021
11. Matters arising from the 2021 minutes.
12. Closing Prayer

MINUTES FOR THE ANNUAL MEETING OF PARISHIONERS
AND THE ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING
HELD ON 25TH APRIL 2021 FOLLOWING THE 10AM SERVICE

MEETING OF PARISHIONERS

Peter Sharp and Ian Gray were re-nominated as Churchwardens for another year. Thanks were given for their hard work.

ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING

Electoral Roll

Di Eaton is our Electoral Roll Officer.

She reported that we have 45 members living in the parish and 56 living outside the parish and there was 1 deletion.

Annual Report and Accounts

The reports included in the annual report were accepted.

Questions were invited.

Rona Orme: What progress is there for online giving, facebook?

Gary Waldron: Actively working to find out how we can raise funds/donations online. Card payment machine has been purchased. Looking at how to organise website and paypal giving. Ideas welcome. We do have a Just Giving page which is used primarily for raising funds for certain events.

Treasurers Report

The report was included in the annual report.

Questions were invited.

Nigel: What is Diocesan Share?

Fr Pip: Diocesan Share goes to pay for clergy fees, housing, teaching etc. There is a formula the Diocese uses based on the number of people attending the church and the ability of the church to pay. Last year the Diocesan Share was £58,500. Diocese is trying to reduce costs by reducing Clergy posts.

Nigel: Under exceptional circumstances can we suspend our Diocesan Share payments?

Peter Sharp (treasurer): We don't have a choice. Looking at the accounts the unrestricted reserves were £18,000 – this year this has reduced by over £10,000 leaving approx £8,000 left. With no income coming in, by the middle of the year funds will be zero. You cannot use restricted funds to pay for the share – it's against charity funding rules. By the end of June I will have to decide what bills to pay.

Fr Pip: I am reluctant for us not to pay. Our parish administrator has been furloughed and we have received money from the Government scheme. There have been no funds from hall hire or use of the church during the pandemic. This explains the large hit to the funds, it is hoped once the hall and concerts etc can resume the income will begin to return. Some money has come in, this is largely thanks to weekly giving via the Parish Giving Scheme. We will ask for one-off donations to help with our COVID pandemic financial deficit. We will ask people to review or revise their regular giving, all-be-it to reduce or increase and for new people to think about joining.

It might be counter intuitive but we also need to show a vision for the future and a fund for a once in a generation fundraise. To invest in this building for the future, we should be inviting people to consider donating. A lot of people have come to realise what their faith and our church building means to them. A committee will be set-up to start a campaign.

Churchwardens Report

(Report included within the last Annual Report)

Vicars Report

(Report included within the last Annual Report) Fr Pip hoped it stimulates some thought. He thanked the Ministry Team – Rona and Fr Stephen and everyone who have helped. There is a lot of potential and hope; younger people are getting more involved. The grounds continue to be improved. There is a social meeting planned for 27th June where both our congregation and the Hispanic congregation can get together. Ideas and aims for the future include: a clearer focus on basic Christian formation, shorter sermons, bible reflections, Stepping Stones for both adults and youngsters.

Jackie Ree – asked if Sunday School/Club will be restarting?

Rona Orme – not before the autumn.

Parish Safeguarding

Heidi Moxam has stood down as safeguarding lead, Fr Pip thanked her for all the work she had done. Rona Orme will be taking on the role with the view of nurturing a successor for the role. Rona was nominated and unanimously voted as Safe Guarding Lead.

On-Line Presence

Fr Pip asked Gary Waldron to report: we have lived streamed services during the pandemic. Over £4,000 was raised in just a few days to improve the sound system, computer, camera etc all ready to go, just needs Diocesan permission to move forward.

Open Building

Increased number of visitors coming into church during the day.

Church Hall

This is a huge benefit to the community, side garden improvements taking place.

Curate & World-Links

We have applied for a Curate for 2022 – and we are awaiting to hear. We have good links with Ecuador, Sweden and Columbia.

Memorial to the Departed

Fr Pip: We remembered all those who have lost their lives through the COVID crisis, some 100,000 people. We remember all church members who have died this past year. May they rest in peace and rise in glory.

Deanery Synod Report

Andrew Dray: I am a rep together with Gary Waldron and Fr Pip. We have had two online meetings. Church finances have been discussed and it is a national church problem. Looking to raise funds across the board, all churches have lost income due to the pandemic. Looking out to the wider church community to Ministry Teams, Churchwardens etc to share specialisms and information between the Deanery for things such as faculties.

Fr Pip: We have a good working relationship with other clergy in the Deanery. I meet with clergy from All Saints, Lilliput, Sandbanks, St. Luke's, St. Peter's; we meet monthly online or in person and are supportive of each other.

To Elect Members of the Laity to the PCC & Sides Persons

Fr Pip: as we had a vote only in October at the last APCM it is hoped everyone vote then will continue for another year.

Crisis Committee

The Crisis Committee was set up at the start of the pandemic crisis, meeting between PCC meetings. The committee are: Fr Pip, Churchwardens Peter & Ian, Clair Eaton, Ray Beverley, Diane Eaton, Rona Orme and Sam Waldron – all report back to PCC.

Acceptance of the Minutes from 18th October 2020

The minutes were unanimously accepted.

Matters arising from the 2020 minutes

Nothing raised.

Closing Prayer

Fr Pip read a reading from John. We are all God's children and we should love one another.
Think big about the future of our church and trust in God.
The meeting closed with a final blessing.

Signed the Chairman

BRANKSOME ST. ALDHELM'S CHURCH

Annual Report and Accounts of the Parochial Church Council
for the Year ended 31st December 2021.

Administrative Information

Brankosme St. Aldhelm's Church is situated in St. Aldhelm's Road, Branksome, Poole, Dorset. BH13 6BT. It is part of the Diocese of Salisbury within the Church of England. Correspondence should be addressed to The Parish Office, 401 Poole Road, Branksome, Poole, Dorset. BH12 1AD.

The Parochial Church Council (PCC) is a Charity registered with the Charity Commission. Charity Number: 1130874.

PCC Members who have served from April 2021 until the date of this report was approved are:

Licensed Ministry Team:

Incumbent:	Rev. Philip Martin, Chairman
Hon. Assistant Priest:	Rev. Stephen Flatt
Licensed Lay Reader:	Rona Orme

Pastoral Ministry Team:	Joy Warne, Jackie Ree, Tim Mitchell
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Churchwardens:	Peter Sharp, Ian Gray
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Deanery Synod Reps:	Andrew Dray, Gary Waldron
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Elected Members of PCC:	Jackie Ree	Peggy Elliott
	Samantha Waldron	Diane Eaton
	Clair Eaton	Tim Mitchell
	Philip Sandom	Ian Clothier
	Denzil Sheppard	

Officers of the PCC:

Hon. Treasurer:	Peter Sharp
Hon. Secretary:	<i>vacant position</i>
Electoral Roll Officer:	Diane Eaton
Health & Safety Officer:	Tim Mitchell
Safeguarding Officer:	Heidi Moxam/Rona Orme

Elected Sides Person:	Donna Noonan, Ted Hadley, Ian Gray, Diane Eaton, Dave Marsh, Barbara Marsh, Lisa Stroud, Christine Shaw, Linda Beverley, Ray Beverley, Isobel Woodbury, Rona Orme
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ANNUAL REPORT AND ACCOUNTS OF THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL FOR THE YEAR ENDED

31ST DECEMBER 2021

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

Branksome St. Aldhelm's PCC is a corporate body established by the Church of England. The PCC operates under the Parochial Church Council Powers Measure 1956.

The method of appointment of PCC members is governed by and set out in the Church Representation Rules. All church attendees are encouraged to register on the electoral roll and stand for election to the PCC.

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

St. Aldhelm's PCC has the responsibility of co-operating with the Incumbent, Rev. Philip Martin, in promoting in the ecclesiastical parish the whole mission of the church, pastoral, evangelical, social and ecumenical.

It has maintenance responsibilities for the Church, the Branksome St. Aldhelm's Centre and its surrounding grounds.

The major risks to which the PCC is exposed, as identified by the PCC members, have been reviewed and systems or procedures have been established to manage those risks.

ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE

CHURCH ATTENDANCE

There are 142 Parishioners on the Church Electoral Roll, 54 of who reside within the parish and 88 from outside. There was 1 deletion from the last report, as 1 member passed away.

REVIEW OF THE YEAR

At the Annual Parochial Church Meeting Mr Peter Sharp and Mr Ian Gray were elected as Churchwardens for a further term of office. Mr Peter Sharp was elected as Treasurer.

The P.C.C. meetings were held on-line via zoom and then in person held in church. The Standing Committee which is now known as the Crisis Committee (Crisis Committee formed during COVID pandemic) met in between these meetings and the minutes from these meetings were taken to the full Council for discussion where necessary.

There were no safeguarding issues during the year.

Ecumenical links continue within the Deanery (Poole East Churches Together) as do our links with Busy Bodies Pre-School and Bishop Aldhelm's C.E. Primary School and our international links with Lutheran Church in Stockholm, Sweden and Anglican Church in Ecuador.

The Parish actively supports the work of Poole Food Bank and regularly donates food which is then passed onto those in need within Poole.

FINANCIAL REVIEW FOR 2021

It goes without saying that the pandemic continued to adversely affect our finances, though not as greatly as in 2020. Our Unrestricted Funds income showed a recovery of £9,000, spread across all categories. The Generous Giving campaign in the autumn resulted in a small number of unstinted increases but did not realise an appreciable difference to the overall total of contributions. These are not widely spread; it should be pointed out that, including Gift Aid, just three donors are responsible for giving £13,000 per annum.

Income from hiring the Parish Centre is recovering slowly but is still over £10,000 less than in 2019. We may reasonably hope for a growth in 2022 as restrictions are raised.

Unrestricted expenditure was similar to 2020. This was helped by there not being an appreciable increase in our Diocesan Share though it has continued upwards by £3,000 in 2022. Personnel costs have started to rise again, due both to the Administrator's return to normal working after the pandemic and the end of the Government's furlough scheme which paid the church over £10,000 in two years. Most of the rest of expenditure is in line with previous years though £2,700 was spent on renewing lighting in the Centre.

In last year's review it was noted that there was a deficit of £8,000 on Unrestricted Funds in the first quarter of 2021. After that, the situation stabilised to the extent that the deficit for the full year is a little over £6,000. However, new challenges will be faced in 2022 – with both the increase in personnel costs and the Diocesan Share as well as a backlog in maintenance.

Apart from another good year in the Friends' concerts, there is little to report in Restricted Funds. Early in 2022 the Maroy Fund has become exhausted and has been wound up by the PCC.

Peter Sharp - Treasurer

Signed Rev Philip Martin

BRANKSOME ST. ALDHELM
CONSOLIDATED FUNDS YEAR TO 31/12/2021

Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds		Actual to 31/12/2021	Actual to 31/12/2020	Change 2020>>2021
18,069	43,824	Reserves at 1st January	61,893	66,807	
32,994	2,166	Planned Giving	35,160	32,939	2,221
8,178		Collections	8,178	5,355	2,823
11,867		Gift Aid Received	11,867	12,912	-1,045
9,373	1,189	Bequests & Donations	10,562	16,574	-6,012
2,531	9,315	Fundraising Income	11,846	5,567	6,279
2,889		Fees Received	2,889	1,007	1,882
480		Orchestra & Players	480	509	-29
17,297		Hire/Rent of Rooms	17,297	14,566	2,730
218	50	Sundries	268	387	-119
85,826	12,719	Total Income	98,546	89,816	8,730
58,878		Diocesan Share	58,878	58,583	-295
	55	Fundraising Costs	55	82	27
	1,705	Grants Given	1,705	379	-1,326
9,565		Personnel Costs	9,565	7,933	-1,632
	727	Travel & Expenses	727	1,306	579
1,007		Postage & Telephone	1,007	776	-231
1,877		Printing & Stationery	1,877	1,330	-547
		Computer Bureau			
6,566		Gas, Electricity & Water	6,566	8,332	1,766
4,452		Insurances	4,452	4,373	-79
1,674		Services & Refreshments	1,674	1,465	-210
1,124		Cleaning & Bins	1,124	912	-212
5,875		Repairs & Maintenance	5,875	4,027	-1,848
354	528	Equipment Purchases	882	4,575	3,694
302		Licences	302	339	37
320	42	Sundries	362	319	-43
91,994	3,057	Total Expenditure	95,051	94,730	-320
Transfers					
11,901	53,487	Reserves, 31st December	65,388	61,893	
		HSBC Current Account	30,236		
		CofE Deposit Account	35,051		
		Petty Cash	100		
			65,388		

BRANKSOME ST. ALDHELM
Unrestricted Funds, Year to 31/12/2021

	General Fund	Parish Centre	Vicar's Fund	TOTAL
Reserves at 1st January	-357	18,211	214	18,069
Planned Giving	32,994			32,994
Collections	8,178			8,178
Gift Aid Received	11,867			11,867
Bequests & Donations	9,273		100	9,373
Fundraising Income	2,531			2,531
Fees Received	2,889			2,889
Orchestra & Players	480			480
Hire/Rent of Rooms	1,485	15,812		17,297
Sundries	218			218
Total Income	69,915	15,812	100	85,826
Diocesan Share	58,878			58,878
Fundraising Costs				
Grants Given				
Personnel Costs	6,010	3,555		9,565
Travel & Expenses				
Postage & Telephone	1,007			1,007
Printing & Stationery	1,877			1,877
Computer Bureau				
Gas, Electricity & Water	4,185	2,381		6,566
Insurances	3,561	890		4,452
Services & Refreshments	1,674			1,674
Cleaning & Bins		1,124		1,124
Repairs & Maintenance	2,185	3,691		5,875
Equipment Purchases	354			354
Licences	282	20		302
Sundries	238		82	320
Total Expenditure	80,250	11,661	82	91,994
Reserves, 31st December	-10,692	22,361	232	11,901

BRANKSOME ST. ALDHELM
Restricted Funds, Year to 31/12/2021

	Church Energy	Maroy Fund	Organ Fund	Ecuador Fund	Friends	TOTAL
Reserves at 1st January	16,213	753	14,664	2,193	10,001	43,824
Planned Giving	1,395		481		290	2,166
Collections						
Gift Aid Received						
Bequests & Donations					1,189	1,189
Fundraising Income			2,415	1,139	5,760	9,315
Fees Received						
Orchestra & Players						
Hire/Rent of Rooms						
Sundries			50			50
Total Income	1,395		2,946	1,139	7,239	12,719
Diocesan Share						
Fundraising Costs					55	55
Grants Given				1,705		1,705
Personnel Costs						
Travel & Expenses		727				727
Postage & Telephone						
Printing & Stationery						
Computer Bureau						
Gas, Electricity & Water						
Insurances						
Services & Refreshments						
Cleaning & Bins						
Repairs & Maintenance						
Equipment Purchases					528	528
Licences						
Sundries			42			42
Total Expenditure		727	42	1,705	583	3,057
Reserves, 31st December	17,608	26	17,568	1,627	16,657	53,487

Pine Garth, 23 Lindsay Road, Poole BH13 6AN
Tel : 01202 751553

To: The Vicar, Church Wardens, Parochial Church Council and members of Branksome St. Aldhelms Church, Branksome.

I have examined the bank statements, receipts and payments for the year to 31 December 2021 and the records are well maintained by the Church Treasurer. .

I can confirm that, in my view, the accounts correctly present the status of the parish finances for the year ended 31 December 2021.



John Sprackling
13 February 2022

Vicar's Report for the Annual Church Meeting 1st May 2022

Here I seek to record just **some of the positive** as well as a few of the problematic **aspects of the past year**.

- Our regular Sunday and midweek worship has been uninterrupted by the pandemic. Morning Prayer is said each day and the Angelus rung; the church building has been open for prayer daily and a diverse and surprisingly large number of visitors avails itself of it.
- The Church Hall garden has been transformed thanks to the efforts of Carey, Heather, Colin, Andy and several others. The guiding plan is now apparent on the ground, which is to enhance the third of the area close to the hall with flower beds and paths while maintaining the other, larger part as an area for games and other activities, the two areas demarcated by a hedge with broad archway between.
- Our church community is diverse and multi-national. Pronouncing the names in requests for prayer is sometimes a challenge for some of us. The Spanish-speaking ministry has extended to a bi-monthly Mass and there were two services arranged – for New Year's Eve and Ash Wednesday – that incorporated both languages. A new partnership has been forged with St Thomas' Indian Orthodox Church which currently celebrates the Liturgy once (soon to be twice) each month. In addition, our church and building seems to offer safe haven for some with particular needs. Internationally, we have fostered the link with the Anglican church in Ecuador by supporting their rebuilding project in Salanguillo and there are currently plans to host two of their clergy later this summer when they accompany the Bishop who is attending the Lambeth Conference, postponed from 2020. We have also welcomed Padre Camilo from Colombia while he learns English and supports the Spanish-speaking ministry here. Our Swedish link has been dormant since the pandemic but will, I am hopeful, be reactivated in time.
- We seek to include those who cannot easily attend, by regularly conducting services at Melton Court and taking communion to some who are confined to their homes. We have recently re-established a presence at Lindsay Care following the difficulties of the pandemic. Our main services in church are usually live-streamed and any comments usually receive acknowledgment or a reply.
- Stepping Stones has become a regular part of our life, providing simple catechism (Christian teaching) for youngsters and adults. Bishop Nicholas arranged to come and celebrate Mass and confirm last summer very shortly before his retirement (and Bishop Karen is due to visit us on Sunday 19th June.) There was a flurry of baptisms during autumn of 2021.
- I meet regularly with a cluster of local clergy within the Poole Deanery. Two colleagues have retired early due to mental ill health and another has had to take time off due to stress-related illness. The priestly calling is not always an easy one and the fellowship we enjoy has been therefore all the more important and precious. We are privileged that one of our church members, Gary, is seeking to begin training for ordination later this year and we have provided support both for a recently ordained curate who has gained experience of ministry within a school setting and for another potential ordinand needing to experience a church within a different tradition to his own. Most important of all, we are to be entrusted with the training and nurture of a curate from July: this is a big responsibility but it can and I am sure will also entail a lot of fun and help us to learn a lot, while Robyn herself will I am equally confident benefit enormously from her experience here.
- The Church Wardens and I have benefitted hugely from the regular, monthly, meetings of the 'Crisis Committee' (so called as it was formed to help guide us through the pandemic but its

continuing usefulness is evident.) Thank you to them and to all the members of the Church Council.

- The choir has withstood some challenging times and some members were naturally anxious about its future following Philip Sandom's resignation. With Jeff Williams' appointment as organist and choir director we begin a new and very hopeful chapter for our church music. Meanwhile, the past year saw the return of our Tuesday lunchtime recitals. They quickly regained a loyal and enthusiastic following, and our thanks are here expressed to the Friends' team that arranges them.
- Our church finances will be reported separately but I wish to express our thanks to Peter for his ministry as treasurer. Likewise our heartfelt thanks to Ian whose wardenship has focussed more on 'back of house', project management and fabric. Regarding the latter, we will I hope during the coming year clarify our priorities for a significant refurbishment of our building which will in turn require a major campaign of fund raising.

That is a sprinkling of the positives. We should also acknowledge **some areas of the church's life where we face challenges**, such as:

- Finding volunteers for essential ministries within the church was a challenge before the pandemic and remains one now: for example, church cleaning, leading intercessions, flower arrangements, cleaning linen, school governors, preparations for and assistance during services, choir membership. Membership of the Church Council – and potential church wardens – are also hard to recruit! These are all ministries and as such are hugely valuable and can be very enjoyable, but I strongly believe they should not become a drudge. For that reason I do not try to pressurise anyone. Your thoughts and suggestions are welcome!
- Although home groups and other kinds of meeting for prayer, Bible reading and discussion are not for everyone, nonetheless our church membership seems less inclined than some others to support such things. For example this year's excellent series of Lent meetings, though greatly appreciated by those who came, was so poorly attended that, sad to say, any kind of repeat must be in some doubt. The previous Lent's in-person group struggled similarly, although the online course was good and well supported.

In conclusion, I think one of our greatest strengths is that we provide an open, inclusive, intelligent but still robust and challenging interpretation of the Christian faith. Sermons, though kept relatively brief, seek to be of a high calibre. The church has open doors both literally and metaphorically. Despite that intellectual rigour, our worship appeals to all the senses and combines a strong sense of the sacred while avoiding an overly fussy or too sombre atmosphere. Some people may choose to describe us – whether approvingly or critically – as 'High Church' but for most people such terms mean nothing. What I think is important is that anyone encountering our church, its community and its worship will instinctively sense that we respect and value them for who they are *because* God is real for us.

CHURCHWARDENS REPORT

The gradual easing of Covid restrictions has led to a welcome increase in the accessibility of all activities we are pleased to report.

The choir sang an anthem for most of the year with communal hymn singing resumed in September with an emotionally charged, "Guide me O thou great redeemer". The curved arrangement of rows, allowed to the moving of the altar further down the nave had been retained to enhance inclusivity.

The return of the Tuesday concerts under the leadership of Ray and Lin Beverley has been welcomed by all those participating and provided a welcome income stream which has greatly assisted the work undertaken to the fabric of the buildings and estate. The season ran throughout the summer until November making up in part for the time lost during the height of the restrictions.

An outing was undertaken in December to experience the Wintershall Nativity Play which takes place outside in a large barn/stable with basic seating. The announcement of the Omicron variant threatened to stop the trip taking place but the small number of participants had a rewarding and memorable day.

There have been a number of maintenance projects undertaken during the year. Quotations and permission was sought to assist in the maintenance of trees around the property, particularly in relation to the garden. Rubbish was removed and an additional tap provided to assist in giving a direct water supply. Much useful work has been undertaken by volunteers to provide a more welcoming environment.

A number of visits have been made by contractors to clear the drains around the church and hall. They have provided detailed surveys and films showing the state of the work required. Urgent blockages have been rectified.

The bulk of the public areas in the hall have been converted to LED lighting which hopefully will assist in offsetting energy price increases. Repairs also undertaken to the outside lights.

The heating in the hall and church has received maintenance.

The urinals in the hall have received attention.

A quote has been received to investigate the subsidence in the car park.

Details of those listed on the war memorial have been updated and enhanced.

Ian Gray

Peter Sharp

Memorial to the Departed

Those known to us who have departed since the last APCM held in April 2021

Zilla Mair Jones

Maria Zenaida Rodriguez Calderon

Helena Magdelene Wilkins

Alan Michael Marsh

Vincenta Violeta Diaz Otero

Jennifer Ann Crawford

Merrick John Wilkinson

Dave Marsh

Philip Watson Ainslow

Phyll Mitchell

May they rest in peace, and rise in glory.

**THE PARISH CHURCH OF
BRANKSOME, ST. ALDHELM**

**THE FOLLOWING REPORTS ARE
FROM CHURCH ORGANISATIONS FOR THE
YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2021**

CHARITY NUMBER: 1130874

THE FRIENDS OF ST.ALDHELM'S

The mission of the Friends of St Aldhelms Church is to pay for or assist in paying for many items in church. This is some of the items the Friends have been able to assist in paying for in the past couple of years: new PA system; new tables,, entrance notice board and other boards around the church; outside display boards, refreshment area upgrade; water boiler; and in the near future staging to be replaced.

The Friends of St Aldhelms Church have been active before, in between and post lockdown in presenting the Tuesday Lunchtime Recitals which for the second half of the year is running from July to November 2021.

The format for the recitals has widened to include other genres of music than just classical to enable a variety of musical tastes and with hopefully, a wider audience. The popularity of these events is increasing and with it a greater income in a time when the church's finances really need a boost.

To assist in facilitating this, we are now able to accept contactless and other cards to pay for refreshments and to accept donations. We should also remember that this lunchtime period is a wonderful time for fellowship amongst congregation, visitors, musicians and everyone else who come along to enjoy this time.

So thanks to all the volunteers who have helped during the recitals so far including those who have made cakes, paninis, rolls, etc. without whom we would have not been able to achieve so much.

We have organised other concerts and functions to enable us to raise further funds for the church.

To help us continue with this mission, if you are not already a Friend then please join us. For just £10 per year you can become a member. Every three months or so we hold a coffee morning. This is an opportunity to get together for a chat and maybe decide on what we can do to further improve the church fabric and contents.

Chair – Jackie Ree

Secretary – Ray Beverley

GUIDING REPORT

We continue to have busy units in all 4 sections; Rainbows, Brownies, Guides and Rangers, catering for girls aged 5-18.

We are very lucky that we came out of the lockdowns with good numbers and lots of enthusiasm to get back to 'normal'

When we could go back to face-to-face meetings, we were very lucky to have access to the church garden as we were only allowed outside, we were very impressed at how resilient the girls were and how they just adapted to whatever we threw at them. As always you can never rely on the British weather and we had several meetings in the rain but determined not to go back on Zoom out came the waterproofs and wellies and we carried on dancing in the rain or sheltering under tables to complete art activities. We also enjoyed muddy walks in the woods hunting dinosaurs as part of the county's dino plod challenge badge.

Despite all odds In July 2021 the Guides and Rangers headed off on Summer camp, it was all very last minute as the regulations changed on the 19th July and we went on the 23rd. The girls were just so happy to spend some quality time with their friends, they were happiest sat round a campfire toasting marshmallows, or sitting in a field in the sunshine playing uno. They enjoyed taking part in various adventurous activities including Go Karting, Archery and rifle shooting. The Rangers even made it up to see the sunrise which has become a camp tradition. Even with covid testing on mass every other day it was so nice to be back doing what we do best.

In September we were allowed back indoors which made a huge difference and meant we could plan our weekly meetings without worrying about the weather!

October saw the return of our annual sponsored bike ride, and what an amazing time we all had such a great atmosphere and what a fantastic memory that will be of our dear friend and biggest supporter Dave Marsh, his legacy Will live on and we WILL get the new floor he worked so hard to help us fundraise for.

The Brownies were lucky to spend 3 nights away at Dudsbury during half term, they had lots of fun with their friends doing lots of activities based around a Disney theme.

In December we had our first Brownie Gold award presented to Sophie who had worked so hard gained all her badges and completing her Gold challenges, she is the highest award a Brownie can achieve so well-done Sophie.

The spring term has involved lots of badge work with various skill builders and theme awards being given out as well as some bronze and silver awards, keep up the good work Girls.

In February we were lucky to have the Royal Navy attract team run a session with the Guides and Rangers, lots of team building games and ending with a competition to build a wheelbarrow out of giant Meccano.

I would like to say a huge thank you to my amazing team of leaders here at St Aldhelms that make all this possible. We would be lost without you!

Also a big shout out to Fr Pip for allowing us to use the side garden when the den was out of bounds, very much appreciated! - Clair Eaton

MOTHERS' UNION REPORT

During 2021 Covid Pandemic rules were still in place but in June we were able to start our Wednesday morning Service and in September we started out afternoon meetings again.

It was really lovely to meet again and chat about how we had coped since March 2020.

We enjoyed decorating our tree for the Christmas Tree Festival and were able to hold our Christmas party.

We also welcomed All Saints members last year.

We continue to be a small group and I thank everyone for their support especially Faye as Secretary and Jane as Treasurer.

Thank you to Father Pip for our Monthly Wednesday morning Mass.

I look forward to 2022 with a planned programme and hope more people will join us.

Diane

