



BROCKENHURST Parish Church

St. Nicholas' & St. Saviour's

REVIEW OF 2018



“Belonging to God
Growing as a Christ Centred Community
Living the Mission of Jesus”

ANNUAL CHURCH MEETING

Wednesday 24th April 2019

7.30 pm

in The Church Hall

THE PARISH OF BROCKENHURST

The Parish of Brockenhurst Minutes of the Annual Meeting of Parishioners and Annual Parochial Church Meeting held on Wednesday 18th April 2018 at 7.30pm

The Vicar, Revd. Neil Smart welcomed everyone to the meeting. The meeting began by singing Psalm 23 and then Neil said a prayer.

56 church members attended the meeting.

Apologies were received from: Mike & Anne Dow, Barry & Jenny Durrant, Wendy Wallace, Gail Rennie, Jeremy & Sue Moss, Philip & Hilary Turner, Sam Pead, Marion Burden, Mike & Delphine Matthews, Jane Forrest, Jan Campbell, Dinah Eaton, Linda Woods, Janet MacDonald, Sarah Foulger, Nigel & Carol Wilson, Lindy Waight & Sylvia Clark.

Annual Meeting of Parishioners

Election of Churchwardens

The candidates were:

Alan Wright Proposed by Sue Lynes Seconded by John Craen

Rosalind Dennison Proposed by Jean Wright Seconded by Esther Browne

Both candidates were elected unanimously.

Annual Parochial Church Meeting

1. Minutes of previous meeting

The Minutes of the meeting held on 26th April 2017 were accepted and signed by Neil.

2. Matters Arising

No Matters Arising.

3. The Vicar's Report

Neil thanked everyone for coming and summarised the highlights of the last year, full details of which are in the Annual Reports booklet and on the church website. He then showed a presentation of his vision for our church.

When Neil arrived in the parish ten years ago, our mission statement was 'Growing as a Christ Centred Community'. Since then he felt that we have grown individually, in number and in our influence in the community. Then three years ago the Diocese added 'Living the Mission of Jesus' for us to reach out to the community. Then in Summer 2017 'Belonging to God' was added.

Over the year progress has been made with Home Groups now taking place at different times of the week; Pastoral Care has been extended with more Visitors

going out; continuation of Wednesday lunches and the impact of Mary our Curate on this work. Facilities have improved e.g. with the choir vestry and toilet facility at St Nicholas'; extended kitchen, extended Office, new Youth Room and creche at St Saviour's. Over the last ten years some members have volunteered to become Street Pastors and work out in the community; Sticky Friends has been established to link people across the generations in our church community; our link with Rwanda under Mission has become stronger and is included in our Mission Action Plan.

We have seen an improved presence in the community and we will celebrate the Royal Wedding with a tea party in May at St Saviour's.

Neil introduced our new Mission Statement: 'Belonging, Growing, Living. Bringing Jesus' Light and Life and Love'. The 'Light' is the truth of God's word; the 'Life' is the Holy Spirit working with us in the community; and the 'Love' is what binds us together and sends out.

Neil summarised the report on the Aims and Objectives of Children and Youth Work, which was circulated. He also advised that Kay Pead has been put forward for ordination starting in September; she will know in May if successful.

Neil summarised a document, which was circulated, on the need for a new improved AV system at St Saviour's; the new system will be fixed and so more easily set up with greater visibility and better sound reproduction. Initial indications are that this will cost between £40,000 and £50,000.

Neil went on to thank the following people for their commitment in working together for the church: David Sewell for producing cards to remember the fallen from the world wars; Martin Fletcher for the Christmas Tree installation; Steve Curson for dealing with the septic tank; Bob Coombs for setting up the tables and chairs for Café Church; Janet Blizzard for Basics Bank; Jane Forrest for Street Pastors; Juliet Rogers for children and youth work; Sam Lansdowne for children and youth work; Jo Plummer for Prayer Team; Lindy Waight for Sanctuary Guild; Peter Lay as Church Treasurer; Sharon Dibden, Jenny Welton and Lesley Munt for the Church Office work; Kay Pead for the children and youth work; Mary Nicholson as Curate; Jean Wright as PCC Secretary; Alan Wright and Ros Dennison as Church Wardens; Debbie Smart for all she does to support Neil in his ministry.

4. Wardens' Report

Ros began by paying tribute to Alan who has helped her over the course of the year with many church procedures. Ros went on to compare our church community with the roots of a sunflower; to enable us to grow we need to develop deep abundant roots like the sunflower; and it is these roots, our church community, which supports all that we do. Ros thanked everyone for their time,

skill, money, love and kindness and care that the church members give to our community.

Neil thanked Alan and Ros for their work as Church Wardens.

5. Treasurer's Report – including the Year's accounts

Peter Lay gave the Treasurer's Report with an overview of the Annual Report using a Powerpoint presentation which included a selection of tables and pie-charts.

In brief his observations were as follows:

- Overall expenditure was £265,844 and income was £258,159 resulting in an overall deficit of £7685
- Some deficit is due to the Hall Development expenses from funds raised in previous years
- The St Saviour's roof appeal, insurance claim and grant from Marden Trust almost covered the cost of the roof repairs and amounted to 9% of expenditure.
- 40% of total expenditure was for Parish Share
- Financing of expenditure was raised by 49% Planned Giving, 11% Donations, 11% Gift Aid Tax, the remainder coming from several sources.
- Three legacies totalling £7,468 were received and there was a saving of £7,500 in the Youth Work fund from Helen's maternity leave. The overall average deficit over the last five years is £2,000.
- Hall Development project was completed in 2016 but some final payments were made in 2017. Depreciation for the kitchen and carpet is charged to the Kitchen and Carpet funds respectively.
- Total money donated for Mission was £17,971

Neil thanked Peter for his hard work in preparing the Church Accounts and keeping up-to-date with all the changes.

6. Electoral Roll Report

Alan reported: 256 on the Electoral Roll as at 18th April 2018 of which 41 are non-resident.

7. Other Reports

Mary Nicholson, Curate, spoke on her work over the past 12 months and thanked everyone for their patience, care and support which she has received. She thanked Neil for his support and confidence over the last 12 months in order to develop her ministry. Mary has led different types of Services: 8am Holy

Communion at St Nicholas'; Common Worship; Matins; Evensong; Weddings; Baptisms & Funerals.

Through her work with BrockCare she has felt it a privilege to get to know people and the parish, especially as it was well established before Mary arrived in the parish; see full report in the Review. A new initiative called 'All for One', recently started by Liz Dodwell co-ordinates social activities for the whole community. Pastoral Care is second nature to Mary, and as a Priest shows the importance of Holy Communion by giving it in groups or individuals to the village residential and care homes. Mary then thanked everyone again for their support and kindness.

8. Appointment of PCC members

There were five vacancies on PCC this year, and we have one application: Tina Cumberlege - Proposed by Rosalind Dennison Seconded by Alan Wright. Tina was approved by the meeting.

9. Appointment of Sidespersons.

Neil read out a list of 47 names willing to be Sidespersons for the coming year and this was unanimously agreed.

10. Appointment of Independent Examiner

David Heslop proposed that we continue to use Jackie Paulson as our Independent Examiner. All were in favour.

11. Open Forum

- Neil handed out permission forms for personal data to be stored and used by the parish for completion by all church members, in accordance with the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) which will be effective from May 2018.
- Sue Lynes asked for a letter to Luke, Church Cleaner, to be written thanking him for his cleaning of both churches. Action Jean Wright.
- Ros Dennison expressed gratitude to Neil for all his work in our parish and also to the wider group of churches. This was followed by 'three cheers' for Neil.

The meeting finished at 9.15pm

CHURCH WARDENS' REPORT

BROCKENHURST PCC – REVIEW OF THE YEAR 2018

Introduction

For some 2018 was an unsettling year. There were unanticipated events that have required much thought and commitment from a number of people. This has been a time for those in our Church to come together and work through these uncertain times.

After a walk with Lottie, his chocolate Labrador, Neil Smart wrote in January, 'I know that He is with me to guide and lead me along the paths that lead to life'.

The year began inspirationally for the seven from the parish who went to Rwanda to join 6000 Rwandese for the enthronement of the new Bishop of Kigeme. Projects supported by Brockenhurst people were visited. The many and varied gifts taken for the babies in the hospital, to the Mothers' Union and families were greatly appreciated; it caused all of us to assess our own values. There is a Christian Aid message 'Enough for Everyone'. Do we all hold onto our wealth too tightly?

February a lunch celebrated 30 years of Wednesday lunches; 37,484 have been served. Each year over 1,100 are served. Lesley with many cooks, helpers and one driver have faithfully served right from the beginning in January 1988.

In March lead was stolen from the gully of the St Nicholas' Church roof, caused damage when the snow melted and internal walls are still damp. Soon after, lead was taken from the Church Hall lobby roof. Notices on the church walls now inform the would-be thief that no lead remains. After 8½ years of wide-ranging service as the Youth Worker there was a sad farewell to Helen Cheeseman. We will miss this family and wish them a successful future. A fun quiz evening was organised by the 10 young people going to Rwanda to raise funds for their August working trip. Palm Sunday procession to the Methodist Church took place through the village. Then on Good Friday a bedraggled, wet and cold group of pilgrims arrived at St Mary the Virgin, South Baddesley having walked from St Saviour's via St John's, Boldre and after much-needed hot tea and cake were glad to be there for the prayerful Tenebrae service. It was a beautiful day at the end of **April** when all gathered in the St Nicholas Churchyard once again to honour the 94 ANZAC soldiers buried there. The service was attended by the High Commissioner from New Zealand House, London and many adults and children from the village carried flowers to lay on the graves. The British Legion make this day of remembrance very special for the New Zealanders there.

A Prayer Box was introduced beside the lower gate at St Saviour's for the use of anyone who would like to leave details for prayer.

The Wedding Tea party in **May** to celebrated the marriage of the Duke and Duchess of Sussex with games and numerous cakes supplied by the Mother's Union was a lovely day, many from the village supported it and relaxed in the sun. 'Thy Kingdom Come' is an initiative observed in many countries. At St Saviour's we had a continuous 24-hour vigil with prayer stations and on eleven early mornings prayer at 7am. At the May PCC meeting Neil Smart announced that he would be leaving at the end of August to continue his ministry at St Judes, Southsea, Portsmouth.

In **June** the Accordion Concert, held one Saturday evening in St Saviour's, was thoughtful and wonderfully entertaining, something really different! More seriously, Julian Lewis MP came one Saturday morning and gave us an erudite explanation of the way the world is at the moment. All felt it was a privilege to hear him, no matter what political views they hold.

In **July** we celebrated that Kay Pead had been accepted for Ordination Training, though this meant that she was to resign after 12 years as our Children and Youth Worker. We thanked her for all she has done and prayed for her exciting future. Songs of Praise with the Ringwood Salvation Army band was led by Rev Mary Nicholson, a glorious sing beneath the trees. Dr Mike Thompson helped to explain 'Why we can trust the New Testament' in a lecture, part of the Lyndhurst Deanery Summer School. We interviewed for the new Youth Worker and Reuben Humphreys was offered the post.

August is usually a quiet month, but not this year. Ten young people from our church visited Rwanda and found it a life-changing experience. The Mothers' Union Scarecrow Festival had numerous entries and provided imaginative creations all around the village. But to the shock of everyone, an area of plaster from the St Nicholas' Church ceiling fell to the floor, it shattered and clouds of dust flew everywhere. Miraculously no one was hurt, although that Sunday's Guardian, Alan Mutter, was nearby. The church had to be closed and all services moved to St Saviour's for the rest of the year.

Neil and Deb's departure day, 26 August, was a happy yet sad celebration; they had made many friends after 11 years. There were speeches, gifts, a buffet lunch and much love and appreciation was expressed. Finally, all those gathered successfully fitted into one wide photograph.

In **September** Diane wrote, 'We can face the future, whatever the changes, with confidence and hope'.

A technically adept team led by Peter Wales created the Parish Profile and Church Times advertisement which began the search for a new vicar. Reuben Humphreys joined us as a full-time Children and Youth Worker. Jenny Welton, Office Administrator left us to work at Brockenhurst College and Mary Robinson has efficiently replaced her. Luke Chambers was promoted to Caretaker for both St Nicholas' and St Saviour's. Holiday@Home guests went on Safari to South Africa; all will remember stroking the owls and a coach took a large party of parishioners to Neil's installation at St Jude's, Southsea.

In **October** and very quickly after much scrutiny and amending the Parish Profile was approved. It was reported from Winchester that it was the best they had seen and the team that had tirelessly worked on it have everyone's grateful thanks. The Vicarage garden was tidied by a willing team and the vicarage let. Reuben with the children's team held a very successful Light Party for about 30 children.

November

We were saddened to hear from Kenya that Dick Drown had died peacefully in his sleep only a few months from his 100th birthday. Sharon has gathered many tributes in a book which will be given to his daughter. Shortlisting for the

new vicar took place. On Sunday, 25th there was a much enjoyed Stir-up Lunch.

December

Despite teething problems the long awaited sound system was successfully installed.

Reuben created an amazing Advent Calendar, popular on Facebook and the Christingle Service, attended by a great crowd of people was safely handled by Francis and Tina. The Christmas Day lunch was served and the Watch Night Service held.

As we face 2019 I quote Neil Smart once again, 'We need to live with a degree of insecurity and accept that is how life works best. In the end it is our choice to be either anxious, fearful people or to be those who have faith, hope and love'.

Report submitted by Ros Dennison, Church Wardens

HOME GROUPS

Home Groups are an important part of our church life, building fellowship and opportunity for prayer and personal study. Our ten groups have a total of 99 members. One group closed during the year as people moved away and one is taking a break while it considers an alternative meeting time. Generally groups decide their own programme of study, although in the autumn term most of them followed the Bible Course produced by the Bible Society and found it helpful. Meetings are mostly in the evening; five are during the day. Some meet weekly and others twice a month in term-time. In addition, Brockenhurst Fellowship Group meets for breakfast one Saturday a month and has a varied programme of discussions and activities. Several of the groups have space for new members who would be warmly welcomed.

Report submitted by Revd. Canon Diane Webster

FINANCE TEAM

The Finance Team is appointed by the PCC to ensure that the resources available to it are harnessed and effectively used. The team assists the Parish Treasurer to establish the financial controls and procedures necessary to produce and publish the Annual Report & Financial Statements, certified by a competent External Examiner, as required by the Charities Commissioners et al.

The PCC establish the annual budget and the Finance team reviews performance against budget, recommending corrective action where required. The team comprises: Martyn Taylor; Peter Lay (Treasurer); Jeremy Moss (Gift Aid Secretary); Geoff Jennings; Nathan Parnaby and David Heslop. We are truly blessed to have so many individuals prepared to give time freely and share their expertise - and we are particularly grateful to Peter Lay for all his endeavours.

The detailed financial performance for 2018 is recorded in the Financial Statements on which the Treasurer will report - suffice to say that the year has had its ups and downs and the accounts show a shortfall of £8.5k. Once again we record our heartfelt thanks for the generous responses to the Appeals launched to help fund major projects e.g. St. Saviour's Sound System and the St. Nicholas' project to carry out the emergency repairs to the ceiling. While the current level of reserves can withstand some shortfalls the costs of maintaining the broader ministry and mission are inevitably rising. Looking forward it is apparent that there is a need for a specific Stewardship appeal aimed at increasing the level of General Giving in order to maintain the essential work of the church.

All that said, in all our stewardship appeals we do stress that it's not simply the giving of money - important though that is - it is the giving of time, the use of talents and the generosity of spirit, expressed in the way we treat one another, that is at the heart of our church community.

Report prepared by David Heslop, Team Chairman

FABRIC TEAM REPORT

Until the collapse of a large part of the ceiling in St. Nicholas' Church in September the major project for the year was the upgrading of the sound system in St. Saviour's. This was completed shortly before Christmas with a marked improvement in the management system and better audibility. Our grateful thanks to Olly Grant, Jeremy Moss and Phil Horner and the professionals who put it all together and got it installed.

In parallel, preparation for the repair of the ceiling at St Nicholas' began almost as soon as the dust had settled with the erection of scaffolding and plastic sheeting to protect the pews and provide access to assess what needed to be done. This enabled our architect to rapidly produce a specification of work and estimates to be obtained, leading to the award of a contract in early December and work commencing before Christmas. At the time of writing (February 2019) the plasterwork and limewash has been completed and it is hoped that the church will be back in use before the end of March. As will be known, a special appeal has been launched to cover the cost of this work.

The opportunity has also been taken to have a structural survey of the gallery at St. Nicholas' following concerns being expressed about its strength. While no obvious problems were noted, the formal report is still awaited.

As they say, it never rains but it pours, and while we hoped that the new roof on the south aisle at St. Saviour's had put paid to the leaks there, heavy rain accompanied by strong winds has shown that this is not the case and there have also been leaks into the vicar's vestry. Both these will require further investigation in the coming months.

Besides all this, the routine maintenance work has continued, with ongoing problems with the oven in the Church Hall. We do hope that the cause of the problems has been found, and that the action now being taken to resolve them will prove successful.

There have been some changes in the team, with Phil Horner stepping down as leader after many years, but continuing as a member, for which we are most grateful. Keith Nolan has also stepped down, while Steve Curson, who has been responsible for organising the ceiling repairs at St Nicholas', as well as overseeing maintenance and other works at both churches, will be taking a well-earned rest once the work at St Nicholas' is complete. We are fortunate that Paul Pearse has agreed to take over Steve Curson's responsibilities. Thanks are especially due to Steve Curson for pressing on with the ceiling work at St Nicholas', but also to all the other members of the team who give up their time to deal with the minor and not so minor tasks which have to be dealt with in the course of the year.

Report prepared by Tim Dodwell,, Fabric Team Leader

CHILDREN'S & YOUTH WORK TEAM

2018 was a momentous year for the Youth and Children's ministry in Brockenhurst. Last year saw the departures of Kay Pead and Helen Cheeseman. They were both brilliant and have contributed so much to the development of both the ministry and those who benefit from it. Thank you to them for all their hard work and contribution over the years. I joined the team in September and inherited a ministry that was running smoothly with lots of opportunities for growth. Since joining the team I have worked hard to raise the profile of the Youth and Children's Ministry in the church. A number of initiatives have been kicked off to do this, including the noticeboard at the back of the church and handouts at Christmas and in the school to publicise different services. I think it is important to involve and engage the entire church family in the Youth and Children's Ministry. This has been accomplished by announcing to the congregation what the different groups are studying each Sunday and through initiatives like the giant Advent Calendar. The latter half of 2018 was a real area of growth and development with a feeling of revitalization; I am excited to see what 2019 has in store. I would like to take a moment to thank the fantastic team of volunteers who so faithfully support the Youth and Children's Ministry; they are beyond brilliant.

Our **Bright Sparks** and **Sparklers** group (0-11 years) continues to meet first and third Sundays during term time. There is a steady regular group each week but on occasion the numbers have almost doubled, from five to ten. Please pray that the group continues to grow. Throughout 2018 the group has followed a rolling syllabus using the Urban Saints Energize materials which has worked well. As we move into 2019 we are beginning to move away from a rolling syllabus to a more dynamic method of planning and teaching which aims to meet the children where they are, this method will still be based on the Urban Saints materials.

Our **Pathfinders** group (12-14 years) continues to meet first and third Sundays during term time. There is a committed but small group of two young people who faithfully come to the sessions. Please pray that this group will be blessed with growth and for the members who are committed to the group. The Pathfinders

enjoyed their away weekend with Blaze to Foxlease last year. Sam Lansdowne has taken the decision to take a break from leading in Pathfinders. She has been amazing as a leader and has a huge heart for the Young People. I would like to say a big thank you for all she has done. In 2019 Camilla Pearse will be joining the team as a leader; please pray for her as she takes on this new role. There is a real need for an extra leader for this group; please pray that the right person will step forward.

Blaze (15-18+ years) continues to meet Sunday evenings. The group has a very committed core of eight young people who attend regularly. 2018 was a big year for the group with many of the group going on a mission trip to our link parish in Rwanda. The Young People had an amazing time which I know has had a positive impact on their lives. As a result of the trip the group have been faithfully donating their own money each week for a nursery in Rwanda and by December 2018 had raised enough for 72 children to go to nursery for a year. The money will be sent to Rwanda in 2019. As well as the mission trip to Rwanda the Young People also enjoyed sharing a residential to Foxlease with the Pathfinders group. There are plans for another residential in 2019. The residential weekends provide a space for the Young People to explore their faith and spirituality in greater depth; they are really key to encouraging good spiritual growth.

Our work in Brockenhurst Primary School continues with a committed team leading Collective Worship once a week. Our Monday lunch club, **Rooted**, will be starting up again in the New Year after a short break over the Autumn and Winter terms. Rooted explores the Bible with the children in a fun and engaging way. Thanks to Scripture Union the church was able to give each pupil a book telling the Christmas Story. The school and church continue to enjoy good links: a choir of school children performed at the Candlelit Carol service. We hope to see more links develop in 2019.

Throughout 2018 the church has been involved in outreach work with the village. The 'Little Flames' services are continuing to run for preschoolers and Year R. These services provide an informal time of teaching and worship and are enjoyed by both the children and parents. We are building on existing links with the Busy Badgers toddler group and are beginning to be involved in leading activities for the group on a semi-regular basis. The church also ran a stall during the Christmas Fun Evening; this was a wonderful way for the church to be involved with the life of the village. We also ran a successful Light Party in October. During a time of the year when the world seems to focus on the dark the church put on an event which gave a wonderful message of Jesus, the Light of the World, to 30 children and their parents. 2018 ended with our biggest outreach event of the year, our Christingle service. The service was a great success with an attendance of more than 400 people, mostly families with young children. The Christingle service shows the desire of the families of Brockenhurst to be involved and included in the church. There are plans to continue our outreach to the children and families of the village in 2019. Please pray that the families in the village who haven't met Jesus yet might come to know him over the next year.

There are lots of exciting opportunities for growth in the Children and Youth Ministry. In the New Year I will be taking on the role of Multi-Faith Chaplain for Brockenhurst College. Twice a week I will be offering pastoral support to students who need it. There are plans to relaunch the Christian Union at the college in the New Year. Please pray for the college, that the students and staff will be open to the light and love of Jesus.

If you would like to get more involved in the Youth and Children's ministry or are just interested in what goes on please come and have a chat after a service. There are lots of ways to get involved, from helping in groups to supporting us in prayer; perhaps this is something you could do as a home group? Please pray for the continuing work of the Youth and Children's Ministry, 'If you believe, you will receive whatever you ask for in prayer.' Matt. 21:22 (NIVUK).

Report prepared by Reuben Humphreys, Youth and Children's Worker

MISSION TEAM

In 2018 we supported 12 outreach/mission agencies in addition to the collections given to the British Legion and the Children's Society. Half of our Christmas collections were shared between Christians Against Poverty (CAP) and the Bishop's special appeal to help build a hospice in Winchester. From our contingency fund we gave £250 to Tearfund to help the refugees from Syria and Iran, £250 to CAP and £750 to help after the flooding in Indonesia; the latter in addition to the money from special collections in church. We also continue to support Christian Aid and Traidcraft. A group of 10 young people went with Neil and Debbie Smart to Rwanda in July and gained much from helping with building works at the hospital and visiting the school in Kigeme, as well as a visit to the hospital in Gahini where we had contributed towards the refurbishment of the paediatric ward. At our Mission Sunday services we heard from Sandra Tebbutt in April about the Bible Society and from Miles Jarvis in September on Tearfund.

Report prepared by Liz Dodwell

PRAYER MINISTRY TEAM

The team continues to minister to those who ask for prayer either during or after the giving of Communion at St. Saviour's on the first and third Sunday of the month, and also when people ask for a longer time of prayer ministry at other times. We have held three special evening services at St. Nicholas' Church during the year with prayer and ministry of healing. During the year we placed a box for prayer requests on the fence by the bottom gate to St. Saviour's. We have had 30 – 40 requests in the last few months and have prayed over these at our weekly times of prayer. Jesus proclaimed the good news of God's kingdom coming on earth, both by preaching and teaching, and also by healing those in need. He commissioned his church to do the same: "Go, preach the kingdom heal the sick." God wants to reach out to those who are sick or in

need today. Those of us who minister ask the Holy Spirit to use us as channels of his healing today to those who ask.

Report prepared by Francis & Tina Cumberlege

PASTORAL CARE TEAM – ‘BROCKCARE’

Our team of over 30 visitors continues to support the elderly, bereaved and sick of our village. Each visitor is dedicated and caring; it is so good to see them at work in our community. Revd Canon Diane Webster took over as Chairman at the AGM; thank you to Mary Nicholson who has stepped down as she will soon be leaving. We have been considering how we can strengthen the ways in which we offer spiritual as well as practical help to people unable to attend church.

Our regular weekly Wednesday Lunch, (co-ordinated by Lesley Munt) continues to be well attended and our thanks go to the cooks, helpers and drivers. We are often joined by students from Brockenhurst College and it is so good to see people from different generations chatting together.

CAMEO Coffee mornings are held every Thursday between 10.15am and 12.00 noon in The Church Hall and continue to be a place where friendships are formed and cemented and where passing visitors are welcomed. Numbers have been steadily increasing. We thank Kay Staines for co-ordinating and for all the people who help in the kitchen. We are always glad to receive offers of help, so please come along and offer! CAMEO guests help the office staff with folding Easter and Christmas cards whilst enjoying coffee, tea and biscuits and often cakes.

In 2018 CAMEO gave the following amounts of money to:

Church Hall	for use of hall	£300
Gateway Club		£50
Basics Bank		£100
Donation to Church Sound System		£100
Toys for Nativity service		£90

At the end of the year it was decided that CAMEO donations would be given to General Church Funds to cover costs of coffee, hall hire and to support chosen Mission charities. CAMEO paid £176.19 into Church Funds in December.

We hold Film & Tea afternoons once a term and our guests enjoy a movie and tea and home-made cake. The Bereavement Service held in October proves to be a great source of comfort for those who need the space to remember and mourn loved ones; having the opportunity to talk over tea and cake after the service proves to be particularly valuable.

Our tenth ‘Holidays @ Home’ event was greatly enjoyed by everyone who attended. We took a “Jeep Safari trip to South Africa” and enjoyed themed food, great talks and entertainment. A visit from Liberty’s Full Feathered Experiences

was a highlight, with a chance to meet and learn more about some amazing birds native to South Africa. Great companionship is enjoyed by our guests and the helpers. The Christmas Day lunch was enjoyed by people who would otherwise spend the day alone. Our thanks go to the Social Team who set up the Hall for the occasion, and to the chef, Roger Drake and his team, and especially to Di and Martin Fletcher, our hosts on this special day, and all the other helpers.

Brockcare volunteers can do as little or as much as they are able. The things they do and the time spent chatting to people is invaluable, visiting is hugely rewarding and the mark of a caring church. If you are interested in finding out more contact Sharon Dibden or Diane Webster in the Church Office.

Report prepared by Revd. Canon Diane Webster, Chairperson and Sharon Dibden, Co-Ordinator

SOCIAL TEAM

The Social team had its usual items such as the Newcomers' Party, and refreshments for other events such as the Bereavement and Carol Services. This year we also had Prince Harry's wedding celebration, Neil's 10th, and Neil's departure.

We are gearing up for a new Vicar celebration when someone decides to let us have one!

We are an ageing committee and really do need some young blood, especially in the Chairman.

Report prepared by Keith Nolan, Chairman

WORSHIP TEAM

The Worship Team continues to meet monthly despite significant changes. In August 2018, The Revd Neil Smart (vicar) moved to a new parish in Portsmouth Diocese. In September, we were blessed with the arrival of Reuben Humphreys – our new Youth Worker. Reuben took over from Kay Pead, as she started ordination training in September. The Worship Team now consists of 3 Licensed Lay Ministers (LLM), 4 clergy, 1 LLM in training and a Youth Worker.

On 19th August, the ceiling of St. Nicholas' Church collapsed, resulting in it being closed for safety reasons and all the services transferred to St. Saviour's Church. Therefore, from the beginning of September, our two church wardens and office administrator (Lesley) began to join us to lend their support in our monthly meeting to discuss, review and plan regular and special services. Lesley continues to organize our complicated service planner, working with our ever-dependable Worship Team.

In the first half of the year our sermon series followed a Christianity Explored course, expounding the Gospel of St Mark. This sermon series explored themes including: Good News, Identity, Sin, The Cross, Resurrection, Grace and Come and Die. These also formed the bases for Home Group discussions.

From the summer to Christmas, we followed the C of E's lectionary for readings which also guided our sermon themes for Holy Communion services on Sundays and Wednesdays. Sunday AAW and Café Church services are led by a team, coordinated by the Revd Francis Cumberlege, in exploring various issues and concerns raised by Scriptures, but contextual to our contemporary culture.

John Pearson, our LLM-in-training, is now coming towards the end of his 3-years training. At the beginning of next year John will be away for a three month placement in the Parish of Bransgore as part of the requirement of his training, On a more personal level, through God's grace, I have completed my curacy training and was signed off by Bishop Tim shortly before Christmas. It was agreed that I should stay on at Brockenhurst Parish until Easter. It is God's blessing that my future ministry has also been confirmed; I shall be licensed on 22nd May as associate priest at St. Mark's, Archers Road, Southampton. My plan, and hope, is to develop a Pioneering Ministry in Addiction and Recovery, and Homelessness.

Meanwhile our prayers are for our newly appointed incumbent, who is to be licensed as Vicar on June 13th 2019.

Report prepared by Mary Nicholson

MUSIC - Brockenhurst Church Choir and Organs

This was another somewhat difficult year for the Choir and our Organists team, but, despite the difficulties we encountered in terms of personnel, I believe we managed to sustain a reasonable level of musical competence and made a significant contribution to the quality of the Church's worship over the course of 2018. Many of the issues described in last year's report, however, continued to afflict us and I recognise these annual reports from me can tend towards repetition.

The problems we faced (and face) included the following:

The Choir continues to get steadily older, affecting the health and durability of its more senior members, and we are simply failing to attract and retain younger singers to replace them. For example, six years ago, when we began our Choral Evensong celebrations at St Nicholas', it was common for us to field up to 16 - 18 singers on these occasions, whereas currently 12 is our effective maximum. This reduction directly affects the quality of music produced and the level of ambition in the musical menu. This is a circular problem, as the less interesting service content discourages singers, particularly the better ones, from attending. We should all recognise the loyalty, service and commitment offered by our Choir, which are admirable, and the quality of singing remains remarkably high, but maintaining the musical standards to which we all aspire is increasingly difficult, especially in our male section. Choral singing should be a joyful experience, to encourage and inspire both singers and their audience, the congregation. If it becomes simply hard work, enjoyment levels drift downwards and the end result suffers.

There is no shortage of musical talent in the village and the wider benefice, but

we need a thoughtful and concerted campaign to tap into it more effectively on a sustained basis. The arrival of a new vicar will hopefully be one of the catalysts needed to spark this process.

We need to remember that I myself am the Organist Co-ordinator, not the Choirmaster or Director of Music, which is a different post that we do not currently fill, though I do so after a fashion on a de facto basis. We should not underestimate how hard these roles are to fill effectively and indeed to finance. Our Church as a whole, of course, has to have a clear and manifest desire to pursue high musical standards and understand why this an essential ingredient in the efficient running of the Parish. If this desire is uncertain or patchy, it will be increasingly hard to motivate our musicians appropriately.

We remain short of musician manpower, particularly in terms of keyboard players. Mike Kelly and his team, Miriam Newton and Cynthia Wilson deserve thanks and praise for their efforts at St. Saviour's. Richard Dingle unfortunately resigned his role as part-time assistant organist (for the second time) as the year ended, but this was at least partly compensated by the increasing role played by Mike Noble, who is a skilled instrumentalist. His ongoing organ occupation at Lyndhurst limits his availability, however, as does his Dibden Purlieu location.

The enormously helpful and cooperative Birgit Beil will become steadily less available in 2019 due to the travel ambitions of her newly-retired husband and the burgeoning musical career of her young and multi-talented daughter, which Birgit supports with daily transport and attendance at all of her performances.

We are currently having to make increased investment in the organs in both churches. We are learning that the assumptions made at the time of our investment in St. Saviour's Makin organ as to its very low or zero maintenance costs hold good only for a limited time period. The traditional organ at St. Nicholas' has been out of action for several months after the collapse of the nave roof, but will, I am delighted to say, be brought back to life on 17th March. Both organs will require some expenditure in 2019, though this will largely be funded by the Music Fund, selflessly sustained by the Choir's contribution of the fees charged (voluntarily) for its performance at the large number of funerals over the year. The Music Fund was this year used to defray the considerable expense of reprinting all of the Choir's psalters, also providing spare congregational copies, and will be used to reprint the responses cards this year. We also made a substantial contribution from this source to the refurbishment costs at St. Nicholas'.

This year we repeated last year's experiment of a single Carol Service (again at St. Saviour's). I personally think this works well, but not everybody agrees and the St. Nicholas' congregation feel the loss of one of the big set piece services quite keenly. There remains some dispute about the number of Choir carols at the joint services. This last Christmas there were three, taking a total of nine minutes, against seven carols for the congregation. I recall that at my first ever Carol Service in the village in the 1980s (for which I had no responsibility whatever) there were six Choir carols, several of them rather long. I think the balance was about correct this December, though I personally thought the

decision to hold the Carol Service well before the end of Advent was musically unfortunate.

I must, with pleasure and sincerity, extend my thanks to Nicky Rowntree, Tony Foulger and Sue Lynes for their administrative efforts on the Choir's behalf over the year. I also acknowledge the sterling work of Jacqueline Bush (recently indisposed but now hopefully on the mend) in organising choirs for our funerals. Lastly I should pay my own tribute to Neil Smart. Even though Neil's closest friends and family would not say that musicianship was amongst his many more obvious gifts, he was invariably and cheerfully helpful and (in the real sense of the word) sympathetic to me and has set high standards in this area for his successor to follow.

Report prepared by Andrew Parrish

OTHER ACTIVITIES IN THE LIFE OF THE CHURCH

BAPTISM PREPARATION

The Baptism Preparation team has continued to run sessions for parents wishing to have their baby/child baptised. These sessions are held in the informal setting of the home of one of our team. Baptism is given by the grace of God and parents are made aware of the promises and commitments that they will make during the service. We discuss the reasons they have for requesting a Baptism, watch a short video and then talk about what we have just seen and include a brief questionnaire. The parents are encouraged to take an active part in our Sunday worship prior to their children being baptised. We continue to find that many of the parents are willing to share with us their thoughts on their own journey of faith, on baptism and on the promises that they and the godparents will be making.

We encourage the parents to keep in touch through the 'Little Flames' services which are run by the Mothers' Union, through 'Busy Badgers', 'Sparklers' and the 'All Age Worship' services. We believe that these will help to introduce the children and their families to our fellowship and we find that many friendships are formed.

I wish to thank all the team and the parents who have so willingly participated.

Report prepared by Brenda Horner, Co-ordinator

MARRIAGE PREPARATION

We continued to offer Marriage Preparation in 2018 for couples planning to be married in the parish, using the Prepare/Enrich material which necessitated couples completing a long questionnaire which was done on line. The results highlighted strength and growth areas which were worked on during the Marriage Preparation day, and afterwards, and discussed individually during a 20 minute slot with one of the leaders who were once again Neil & Debbie Smart and Bill & Lesley Munt.

Topics covered during the day were marriage expectations, communication, effective listening, family background, conflict resolution, finance and budgets, and spiritual beliefs and couples were also led through the format of the marriage service.

Members of the Mothers' Union again fed everyone admirably throughout the day and also presented each couple with a copy of the book 'Growing Together'. As done in previous years, we invited back a couple married last year to share their experience of the first year of married life and we were delighted that Andrew & Eleanor West could be with us. They led a fun packed session, including a 'Mr & Mrs' style game and gave many useful tips to the nine couples marrying later in 2018.

It is a great privilege to be able to spend time with young couples as they prepare for married life, and to offer them the space and opportunity to discuss together issues that might arise within their relationship. This is obviously much appreciated by the couples, as displayed by the enthusiastic and positive feedback we receive –

'A really enjoyable day as a couple to reflect on strengths and weaknesses and the importance of marriage.'

'Very useful and insightful – nice to spend the time going over things together / getting answers to questions and thank you for catering for my partner's dietary requirements.'

'Come open, leave confident and have your fears melt away!'

'Fantastic to spend time thinking about the marriage as opposed to just the wedding. THANK YOU!!!'

'Good to do; lovely opportunity to get to know Neil more and vice versa!'

'Less daunting than we were expecting after filling in the questionnaire. A good reminder and time for us in the middle of wedding pressures.'

'A day about you as a couple, looking at your relationship. It's a good foundation for working towards a long and happy marriage.'

'Very useful. Food was fantastic. Well worth the time to come to.'

'A lovely day! Very informative and insightful. It was really great to hear from other couples. Thoughtful and yummy lunch and cakes!'

In an increasingly secular society, it is important that we do enable those who come for a church wedding to reflect on the meaning of Christian marriage in the 21st century.

Report prepared by Lesley Munt

BROCKENHURST CARE CARS

It has again been a very busy year for all of our volunteer drivers, to whom I, and I know I speak for the Community, say a very big Thank You. Without these wonderful drivers, many of our Brockenhurst residents would not be able to get to their medical appointments. For the year 2018 we covered 644 appointments and already for January 2019 we have placed over 40 requests.

Our co-ordinators, also volunteers, take the calls off our 0845 643 5808 number from the clients at least twice a day, Monday to Saturday. We try to place the requests quickly and then call our client back with the driver's name and client pick up time.

We are always in need of more volunteer drivers to cover our workload and I would ask anyone who has a few hours a month to spare, if they would like to consider joining us. Even if you no longer drive maybe you would like to consider being a co-ordinator. If so, please call Sue Hendry on 01590 623543.

Report prepared by Sue Hendry, Temporary Organiser

CHURCH HALL

2018 was another steady year for the Church Hall.

We continue to work on a programme of improvements and during 2018 the second half of the hall chairs were refurbished and the hall was redecorated.

The Hall continues to be a busy and vibrant place with all ages and activities passing through the space we have here. We will continue to strive to ensure that the hall continues to be a meeting place of excellence and increase the level of usage. Feedback continues to be very positive from all those who use and hire the Hall.

During 2018 there were some changes to our Hall Team; We were delighted to have Mary Robinson join us on the team as our Secretary. Mary is employed by the Church as a Parish Administrator responsible for the Hall. Also, Nicky Rowntree joined the team which is great as she also co-ordinates the Concerts in the Church and Hall.

Nothing could have been achieved without the dedication and effort of our Hall Team, who all care so much for this place and the service it provides to our Churches and Community. I say a huge THANK YOU to them all!

Report prepared by Gerry Radjen, Hall Chairman

LYNDHURST DEANERY SYNOD

A major function of the Synod is to encourage and support the Mission of the Parishes and be a link between them, the Southern Archdeaconry and the Diocese. The three Synods per year each concentrates on Mission, covering the business of the Deanery plus business handed down from the General or Diocesan synods.

Again it has been a busy year concentrating on Action Planning aimed at creating a 'Mission Shaped Diocese' focussing on specific areas of development for the next 3-5 years. Peter Salisbury (Area Dean) presented the dMAP which concentrates on 3 areas: Alpha and Pilgrim; Working with Secondary Schools; and Social Transformation. The activity will be led by a co-ordinator supported by a co-ordinating team comprising volunteers from the parishes.

In March Revd Phil Dykes, (Evangelism, Church Growth and Fresh Expressions Adviser) spoke about BCMs (Bishop's Commission for Mission) explaining what

they were. The aim is to equip people to go out into the community and carry out God's work under the guidance of the PCC and incumbent in the parish.

In October Dean Catherine Ogle (Dean of Winchester Cathedral) spoke about the wonder of the cathedral, emphasizing the importance of visitors having the opportunity to experience the living God which is so important in a changing and uncertain world.

The Deanery Overseas Mission Team works to increase events with our Link Partners Rwanda - they also co-ordinate the annual Lent Project. In 2018 £5,000 was donated from the Lent Appeal to Gahini Hospital for the Children's ward. In July 2018 a party of young people from Sway and Brockenhurst visited Rwanda. At the October Synod, three of their members spoke about their visit - how they had helped with a building project and their involvement with schools. The Deanery Church Tent Team organises the activities at the New Forest Show. The team is multi denominational and receives vital support from the M.U. As ever, this event which provides a oasis of peace in an otherwise secular environment, received favourable comments from the hundreds who visited 'The Tent' over the three day period in July.

The Deanery representatives from the Parish of Brockenhurst were:

Clergy: Revd Neil Smart, Revd Mary Nicholson. Laity: David Heslop, Martyn Taylor and Cynthia Wilson - they would be happy to expand on any issue.

Report produced by David Heslop, Lay Chairman

MOTHERS' UNION

We have had another busy year, contributing much, both as a branch and as individuals, to the life of our church, our community and the wider world.

We began the year with another of our popular outreach events, the 'GiftSwap4Coffee' morning when people were invited to bring along a donation to one of the charities we were supporting, in exchange for a free cup of coffee and home-made biscuit. This year we were again supporting New Forest Basics Bank, Tools for Self Reliance and the MU Away-From-It-All family holiday, which gives a week's break in the Sussex countryside to families under great pressure. We were excited to be able to send a family from Brockenhurst this year.

Our January branch meeting took the form of our annual Wave of Prayer service in St. Saviour's Church led by Rev. Canon Diane Webster who is also one of our members. This was a wonderful time of reflection when we remembered in detail and prayed for our linked Dioceses of Kumasi, Ghana, Kericho, Kenya, Nandyal, India and Mauritius as well as our own Diocese of Winchester.

Later in January, we helped with refreshments at the Marriage Preparation day and presented the wedding couples with the 'Growing Together' book. We also gave each couple a personalised card on their wedding day.

On Mothering Sunday, we were pleased to carry on our tradition of making small posies and 200 were given out to the congregations at St. Saviour's and St. Nicholas' churches.

Our summer outing was a lovely visit to Hilliers' Arboretum, ending with a cream tea.

In November, we joined the global '16 Days of Activism against Gender Violence' with a silent vigil in Brookley Road, where we handed out information leaflets and invited people to light a candle to remember those affected by these issues.

Throughout the year, Brenda Horner assists with baptism preparation and we give baptism and prayer cards to children on their baptism and follow this up with cards each year on the baptism anniversary, until the child goes to school. On a weekly basis, members help at the Busy Badgers' sessions by making refreshments and chatting with the mums.

Once a term, a team of our members organise and lead a short informal 'Little Flames' service for the Under 5s to which YR from the Primary School and children from the Playgroup and Busy Badgers regularly come. Pre school age children from our Baptism register also get a personal invite.

During the year we had many interesting and inspiring speakers at our monthly branch meetings and special thanks go to Wendy Trundle for organising such a varied programme

We raised funds for the many world-wide projects of the Mothers' Union in a variety of ways.

In May we provided tea and cakes at the village celebration of the Royal Wedding.

In June, Bill and Lesley Munt kindly opened their home and garden for a fundraising Strawberry Tea and despite being one of the very few wet and cold days of the summer, it was well attended and enjoyed by all.

A new initiative for the year was the Scarecrow Festival in August - the brain child of Gill Coombs. Despite a slow take-up, many scarecrows were made and displayed throughout the village and were enjoyed by villagers and tourists. The festival ended with a tea in the Church Hall where people could vote for their favourite scarecrow. The event was deemed a huge success and is planned to be repeated in 2019.

During the summer months, we welcomed several visiting groups from throughout the Diocese for either a ploughman's lunch or cream tea and a tour of St. Nicholas' Church by Di Fletcher.

Sadly, in September, Gill Coombs stepped down from her role as Branch Leader and Secretary which she had fulfilled for many years, during which time she has been a true inspiration. We have been unable to elect a new Branch Leader so are currently running 'by committee' with Lesley Munt appointed as Branch Secretary, Wendy Trundle as Programme Secretary and Anne Dow as Branch Treasurer.

Within the Diocese, however, we are thrilled that Sue Abernethy, one of our members, has been elected as the new Diocesan President and Gill Coombs and Hilary Turner as Diocesan Trustees. We wish them all well in their roles.

Report prepared by Lesley Munt, Branch Secretary

STREET PASTORS

New Forest South Street Pastors consist of 26 Street Pastors, and 15 Prayer Pastors. We are a relatively rural group, and hence operate differently from those in the inner cities.

We currently patrol on a Friday evening, occasionally on Saturday evenings; we patrol in one shift, from 7.30pm to 10.00/11.00pm according to what is happening that evening. We usually spend the early part of our shift in New Milton, connecting with the youth, individuals, various groups and door staff. We are now well recognised by the youngsters who are pleased to be offered sweets, but also the opportunity of a chat if required. We keep a watchful eye in case of any trouble, without being authoritarian.

A new Youth Club has opened in the Nedderman Centre in New Milton called Pam Springs. This is from the New Life Church and is open to all teenagers /children ages 11-16. It is weekly on Friday evenings and is superbly led by Youth Worker Rae Hicks and her team of helpers. We are always welcome to call in and join in.

The latter part of the shift is usually in Lymington, where we patrol the station, the main streets, football ground, and the gardens. We meet locals, tourists, and occasionally those who are homeless.

We are supported by our Prayer Pastors with whom we are in contact during the evening, and who pray for us, and those we meet. They are an invaluable support to us. Many of us have been on a Refresher Day this year as part of our ongoing training.

To give examples of some of the things we do during the year:

- Collect and sweep up glass and bottles.

- Give tea/coffee to any homeless person.

- Give first aid, flip flops.

- Walk people home.

- Pray if requested.

- Calming presence during fights, waiting for police/ambulance.

There have been reports of drug handling at Pennington; we patrol, observe and report to the Police if necessary.

Attend community events and help clear up afterwards.

We all feel it a privilege to be on the streets and helping where necessary, in the name of God. We thank everyone for your continued support.

Report prepared by Jane Forrest

ST. NICHOLAS' VISITOR 'GUARDIANS'

In 2018 we introduced two new display boards. One, entitled 'Legacy, Past, Present and Future', is about WWI New Zealand soldiers and their effect on this village and Richard Williams' board records the activities of 1918, leading to the Armistice. People came to St Nicholas and stayed for about an hour. They can

be curious about church history, some had a story to tell and many sat quietly in the cool church.

One visitor had a Research Scholarship awarded by Christchurch Council, New Zealand and has produced three podcasts from original diaries. One has stories of the Morant Hall and how it played a significant role in the soldiers' recovery. They can be heard at <https://robynandersonwriter.com/>

Starting on Maundy Thursday we opened every day and had had over a thousand visitors; it was a steady stream, that is until 12th August when an area of the nave ceiling collapsed.

Alan Mutter, our Sunday Guardian, was sitting in a pew under the balcony. He heard a very loud noise and realised an area of the ceiling plaster had fallen and crashed into the aisle close to the chancel step. Only minutes before Alan, with visitors, had been in that part of the nave. The next person to come into church, a builder, rightly persuaded Alan not to clear up the fallen plaster, indeed, to go nowhere near, as more could fall.

This layer of plaster was almost three inches thick and it was fortunate that no one was injured. Sadly, the church had to close, but we must give thanks to Steve Curson for organising the speedy way in which scaffolding was erected, surveys were carried out and the repair completed.

We open St Nicholas' Church for visitors from Maundy Thursday until the end of October each day from 2 to 5pm. Guardians who generally do one or two afternoons a month sign up for duty on the board in the church porch. Of course, we would love to have more Guardians so do contact Di Fletcher or Ros Dennison if you are interested in joining the team.

Report prepared by Ros Dennison

ST. NICHOLAS' FLOWER GUILD

The annual report has even less to say than usual, due of course to the closure resulting from the ceiling problems. Up to the enforced closure we had 2 or 3 weddings with the brides' wishes with regards to floral decorations interpreted and organised with considerable skill by Jane Thatcher and the usual band of helpers.

We can only look forward to the re-opening of the church after which "normal service will be resumed".

Report prepared by Suzanne Sewell, St Nicholas' Flower Guild

ST. SAVIOUR'S FLOWER GUILD

This has been a very busy year due to the closure of St. Nicholas' Parish Church whilst renovations to the ceiling were underway. This meant that all the weddings, funerals and special services took place in St. Saviour's Church. Our loyal Guild members took up the challenge and thanks to Jane Thatcher,

who organises all the weddings voluntarily and this year also designed our Easter and Christmas decorations, we managed to cover all our commitments. We were delighted to be joined by Suzanne Sewell and Sandra Randell from St. Nicholas' Flower Guild who helped us with some arrangements, especially the weddings that had been booked for St. Nicholas' and had been changed to St. Saviour's, as we tried to keep the brides happy with this disruption to their plans. We are grateful to all who make donations to our funds on the four Flower Pot Sundays throughout the year which are an important source of income to maintain flowers in St. Saviour's Church. New members are always welcome so why not come and join us.

Report prepared by Sue Park, Co-ordinator

THE SANCTUARY GUILD

This has been a very interesting year for the members of the Sanctuary Guild. Our members have been constant at 6 people. Lindy Waight, Marion Burden, Lizzie Tindell, Ros Dennison, Sian Husband and Tricia Hilborn who washes and irons all the altar cloths for us. Jenni Oakhill decided in the end not to join us. Until the closure of St Nicholas' we cleaned and prepared for all communions at both churches. When St Nicholas' had to be closed for repairs, we found we had to adapt to the St Nicholas' services at St Saviour's. We soon settled down but have found the filling of the candles for the extra services, weddings and funerals at St Saviour's our biggest challenge! At times we had to refill the candles 3 times a day! However, we all look forward to the time when we can be back at St Nicholas' as we all love the peace and quiet of the church. Thank you to all who have willingly stepped in when we were stretched due to illness, holidays and time pressures.

Tony Foulger has continued to be a great help especially as he sometimes steps in when we are stretched. We thank him for his help.

Report prepared by Lindy Waight

WEDNESDAY LUNCHES

We began the year by celebrating our 30th Anniversary with a celebration lunch, inviting 7 guests who were involved at the very beginning - two of whom are still leading teams, Lesley Munt and Sue Hendry and Sue Griffiths, helping with transport.

During 2018, we served 1,088 lunches to our ever grateful guests. This is slightly lower than in the past as we have sadly lost some old, familiar faces but have also welcomed a number of new guests, both male and female. Our 43 volunteer cooks continue to work with a cheerful smile within the 4 teams which operate on a monthly basis and a 5th team who cook when there is a 5th Wednesday in the month. Each week, 6 cars collect 16 of our less agile guests and grateful thanks go to Joyce Kolaczowski who very efficiently organises the rota of 29 volunteer drivers, as well as visiting and keeping in close contact with our guests. The drivers do a really valuable job, collecting and delivering our

guests, who have varying degrees of mobility, in all weathers and often fairly difficult conditions.

This year, we have once again been delighted to welcome each week two Health and Social Care students and their Learning Support Assistants from Brockenhurst College. They have enjoyed their time with us, socialising with the guests and helping to serve and clear away meals and have been a real asset to the lunch teams. Their presence has been greatly appreciated by our guests who have enjoyed and valued the time they take to sit and talk with them.

With the majority of our volunteer cooks in their 70s or in some cases even 80s, they are understandably finding it more difficult to do mass shopping, put up and take down tables, lift heavy pans etc. and should, in an ideal world, be joining our guests and having meals cooked for them.

If the lunches are to continue in their present format, I feel it is becoming imperative that we regularly introduce some new, younger blood to the teams. It would be such a shame if they were to flounder through lack of younger volunteers coming forward, especially now we have such wonderful facilities in which to operate.

Report prepared by Lesley Munt, Lunch Club Co-ordinator

CHURCH ELECTORAL ROLL

The Electoral Roll as at Annual Meeting 2018	256
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The new Electoral Roll as at Annual Meeting 2019	219
(<i>Resident: 183</i> <i>Non resident: 36</i>)	