

# ANNUAL REPORT

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## Facebook

As we moved into Lockdown, Facebook became a key way of interacting as a community, limited in lots of ways it did enable us to share what we were doing across the North Bersted and Bognor community.

264 posts were published

3360 people saw one of our posts

702 people saw a post of bunting outside the church for VE Day.

## Emails

The mailing list increased during the year and by December the weekly email was being sent to over 65 households with information about services and other prompts for worship.



## A year in lockdown

No-one could have expected the year 2020 to pan out quite the way it did. When

we closed the church in March everyone fully expected it would be back to life and usual by the summer or at the very latest September, but the virus didn't stick to the programme. Many of our congregation faced three months of staying at home with determination, little realising it was going to become a way of life.

Leading a church congregation in these circumstances was challenging, to say the least. I learnt many new technical skills but none of that replaced the importance of face to face communication and the joy of worshipping together. There was no one simple solution that would reach everyone in our community but through mailings, emails, phone, Facebook, YouTube and Zoom we managed to keep nearly everyone in touch with the community and together. Well done to everyone who made an effort to stay connected.





## YouTube

The vicar became a YouTube star! Well not quite, but we did have our own channel which had a total 1500 views over the year. There were pre-recorded services online as well as assemblies posted on the channel. Our services received an average of 45 views mostly from computers or mobile phones.

## Food Hampers

It has been a pleasure to partner with Bersted Parish Council to support their food hamper initiative supplementing their fresh food with special treats for Christmas and Easter. Through the local schools this project was able to help struggling families.

# The Church Centre

This year the church centre has been a precious life line for many in our community. Although the centre was closed for many months, we are able to facilitate the meeting of the local AA group and the dementia care groups who use the building. These groups were extremely grateful that we are able to safely open our building when others in the area were still closed. Much of this was due to the sterling work of Paul our caretaker, and Ted who manages the bookings. Although our income for the year is a long way down from usual we were given a grant to cover some of those costs, this will show in the next year financial records.

We were also able to use the time to update the hall with a fresh new coat of paint in a neutral grey. The centre looks very smart and we are hoping we might be able to encourage more bookings for parties. If you are planning a celebration you might consider using the hall as a venue. Contact Ted for bookings.

Photograph of  
our stone poppy  
made for  
Remembrance  
2020



## Schools Work

Engagement with our local schools looked a bit different this year. Instead of attending the school regularly for assemblies Jo was able to prerecord an assembly and send the link to all our local schools for use in school or by families at home.

Nyewood Infants and Juniors, Bersted Green, Bartons Primary and Southway were all grateful for the time taken on these assemblies.

Y10 chaplaincy at Bishop Luffa was also different with more prerecorded sessions and the occasional live assembly to the whole school.

Both Nyewood schools, Bartons Primary and Bersted Green got involved in the Christmas tree trail and had trees on their sites.

## *Report on the Electoral Roll for 2020*

During the year there were 2 deaths and two new members so the number is still 58 on the Roll for 2020.



A picture of our socially distanced church picnic from July 2020



## Christmas Tree Trail

It was wonderful to be able to plan something new for our community. The Christmas tree trail involved local schools, businesses, and community groups. We saw over 60 children and families take part over the weekends. The trail also raised some vital extra funds for the church.

Thanks to everyone who helped make it such a great success.



A picture of some runner beans that sent out with one of mailings



**Thank you to everyone who helped out in 2020, especially those who learnt how to do new things or faced their worst fears!**

Special thanks as always to Rosemary and Colin who always bring us so much more than I could ever achieve alone, and to Peter and Ted who are so helpful and supportive.

### **Structure, governance and management**

The Parochial Church Council (PCC) is a charity, but is exempt from registering with the Charity Commission within the meaning of Section 30 of the Charities Act 2011. During the year the following served as members of the Parochial Church Council:

Ex Officio Members:

Incumbent: Revd Jo King

Reader: Mrs Rosemary Towse (also Deanery Synod Rep)

Wardens: Mr Ted Towse and Mr Peter Toone

Elected Members:

Mrs Mandy Canty

Mrs Jan Chartier

Mrs Joan Coles (Deanery Synod Rep)

Mrs Sheila Green (until September 2020)

Mr Paul Hughes

Mr Steven Hughes (from September 2020)

Mr Patrick Reeve (Treasurer)

Mr Jonathan Towse

Mr Tony Wightwick-Hotston

Ms Sammy Whiteman

Membership of the PCC is determined under the Church Representation Rules and consists of certain ex-officio members (Incumbent, Lay Readers licensed to officiate in the church), the churchwardens and members of the Deanery, Diocesan or General Synods and 9 members of the church who are elected at the Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM). Members are warmly encouraged to stand for election to the PCC and we try to ensure a balance of skills and experience where possible.

Aim and Purposes

The primary objective of Holy Cross' PCC is the promotion of the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to the doctrines and practices of the Church of England. The PCC has the responsibility of co-operating with the Incumbent, the Revd Jo King, in promoting in the ecclesiastical Parish the whole mission of the Church pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical."



