



St Matthew with St Paul
Pilgrims on a journey

2021 Review

**A people-focused look at the year's activities,
with thanks for 2021 and plans for 2022 and beyond**

**This review is designed to complement our 2021 annual
report, which sets out our financial position in detail
and meets the reporting requirements of our regulators**

St Matthew's with St Paul's is an inclusive, welcoming and open Anglican parish for all ages, serving the wider community.

Our mission is to:

Provide a rich variety of worship relevant to our community
Encourage, challenge and enable people to explore and grow in their faith
Act beyond ourselves, both locally and globally
Commit to the challenge of resources to make this possible, for now and future generations
Effectively proclaim our faith and values through active collaboration within the community, offering caring pastoral support to all.

PCC
St Matthew with St Paul

PCC subcommittees	PCC links	Clergy and staff
Faith development	Service planning group	Rector
Pastoral care	Maintenance team	Assistant Priest / Children's and Youth Worker
<i>Beyond Ourselves</i>	Sound / streaming team	Associate Priest
Finance	Hospitality team	Parish Administrator
Stewardship	Safeguarding Officer	Rector's Assistant / <i>Building for Life</i> Administrator
Development Board <i>(Building for Life)</i>	Western Church School (Foundation Governors)	Finance Administrator
St Matthew's planning group	Churches Together in Winchester	Organist
Music*	Cluster churches	
Friends*	Deanery and diocese	

* Not currently meeting

Contents

Annual Parochial Church Meetings 2021	4	<i>Basics Bank</i>	15
Acting rector's report	4	<i>Ride + Stride</i>	15
Churchwardens' report, St Paul's	5	<i>Friends of St Matthew with St Paul</i>	15
Churchwarden's report, St Matthew's	6	Outreach activities	16
<i>Building for Life at St Paul's</i>	7	<i>Beyond Ourselves Committee</i>	16
<i>Project Board</i>	7	<i>Eco Church</i>	17
<i>Development Board</i>	7	<i>Christian Aid</i>	18
Safeguarding	8	<i>City Centre Chaplaincy</i>	18
Children's and youth work	8	<i>Mission to Seafarers</i>	18
Faith development	8	Church environment	19
<i>Christian meditation</i>	9	<i>Property / maintenance / grounds</i>	19
<i>Thursday homegroup</i>	9	<i>Music</i>	20
<i>Bible Reading Fellowship</i>	10	<i>Flowers</i>	20
<i>Email prayer group</i>	10	Social	21
Community-related activities	10	Communication	21
<i>Community hub</i>	10	<i>Website</i>	21
<i>Western Church School</i>	13	<i>Printed information</i>	21
<i>Parish visitors</i>	14	Church electoral roll	22
<i>Toddler group</i>	14	Finance	22
<i>St Paul's Coffee Pot</i>	15		

Annual Parochial Church Meetings 2021

On 26 May 2021 the annual parochial meetings (APCMs) were held by Zoom. The main business of these meetings is elections. There are also reports from the Electoral Roll Officer and Treasurer, and a report from the rector on the past year. The following were elected as churchwardens:

St Matthew's: Mike Russell-Smith, Dick Wilkinson

St Paul's: Bill Lucas, Christopher Seaman

There were no nominations to the Deanery Synod.

The following were elected to the Parochial Church Council (PCC): Helen Chambers, Kathleen Freeman, Alexa Heady, Talia Hedstrom, Jonathan Jesty, Keith Jones, Sandra Lewis, Linda Russell-Smith, Nathalie Schulz and Vicky Scott.

The PCC is made up of the elected members above plus the incumbent (Canon Peter Seal until the end of August 2021) and curate, Revd Professor Liz Stuart (now Associate Priest). As an employee of the parish, Revd Mary Copping attends PCC meetings as a non-voting member. Tim Stannard (Treasurer and Chair of the Finance Committee) also attends meetings as a non-voting member.

At the APCMs Bill Lucas was elected vice-chair, which meant that he took over the role of PCC Chair after Peter's retirement. Nathalie Schulz was elected as Honorary Secretary.

At the PCC meeting on 30 October 2021, Stephen Adam and Vicki Tibbitts were seconded onto the PCC to assist with the recruitment of a new rector.

Nathalie Schulz

Acting rector's report

During 2021 we had to make difficult decisions about Covid safety, but throughout we held weekly Zoom meetings of our service planning committee to discuss the situation as it developed and so come to wise decisions about how we as a parish should respond. We were glad to be able to hold some Christmas services at each church.

We were so sorry to say goodbye to Canon Peter Seal, our rector, in August. We had a very well attended bring and share lunch (carefully spaced out!) to say farewell, and were able to give him a generous gift from us all.

Revd Professor Liz Stuart and I were able to make sure that services continued with the help of our retired clergy, Revd Neil Birkett, Canon Keith Anderson and Revd Canon Dr Paul Burt, and also sometimes requests to the clergy registry to obtain help from other retired clergy in the diocese.

The music has been really inspiring thanks to a great team (and at St Paul's we were sad to say goodbye to our wonderful organist Ian Rees in March 2022).

Thanks go to all the people who have been giving of their time to help during this interregnum, including our four churchwardens who have supported Liz and me so wonderfully. I especially want to thank John Schulz for all his skill and dedication in keeping our technology up to speed. He is often in the church during the week fixing cables and speakers and doing many other unseen tasks. This is work I want to draw attention to because we are so grateful for his help. He quietly gets on with anything that needs to be done, and there are many challenges in dealing with church technology for outside bookings as well as regular services – so, thank you, John.

We are thrilled that our new rector will be inducted on Thursday 16 June 2022.

Above all we thank God for how he has brought us through these challenging times. Looking to the future I am reminded of the verse in Romans 15: 13, 'May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit'.

Mary Copping

Churchwardens' report, St Paul's

A churchwarden reflects, what a year it's been!

Chris Seaman, Dick Wilkinson, Mike Russell-Smith and I did our best to navigate our way through Peter Seal's last six months with us – including a glorious send-off – feeling our way through the complex process of being in an interregnum, and leading a process of recruitment, all the while dealing with the challenges everyone faced with Covid-19.

In the words of Psalm 9: 9–10, 'The Lord is a refuge for the oppressed, a stronghold in times of trouble. Those who know your name trust in you, for you, Lord, have never forsaken those who seek you.'

Working with so many people to produce our parish profile was an uplifting experience and a powerful reminder both of what we already do and of the dreams many of us have that have not yet come to pass. It was a special moment when Bishop David told us that it was one of the best profiles he had ever seen.

If you had asked me what a Section 11 meeting was, I would have had no idea until we began to understand the process of appointing a new rector. As some may know, it is the special meeting at which the PCC decides who will be their representatives on the shortlisting and interviewing panel. We have been blessed by the commitment of two people, Vicki Tibbitts and Stephen Adam, who were unanimously elected to fulfil this role.

Meeting four extraordinary candidates on Valentine's Day was a highlight of my life in the parish and we are delighted that, through God's grace, we believe we have found a wonderful successor to Peter.

Meanwhile, side by side with our wonderful clergy, we have met every week through the wonders of Zoom to ensure that worship in both churches continues to be full of Word and sacrament, joy, fellowship, wisdom ... and safe. That we have been able to live-stream services thanks to John Schulz has been an enormous blessing. Our deepest thanks go to Mary Copping and Liz Stuart, who have somehow managed to absorb the load of a full-time priest with such commitment and skill, along with our dedicated staff team.

Bill Lucas

Churchwardens' report, St Matthew's

St Matthew's survived the turbulence and uncertainties of 2021 in good heart. Thanks to the planning group, which met six times, the church coped flexibly and effectively with the various changes in restrictions and requirements. The year began with the church closed for worship. It was able to re-open in March with a limit of about a dozen worshippers who had to register with Linda Russell-Smith in advance. To ensure that all who wished to make their communion could, the pattern of worship was modified so Holy Communion was held alternate Sundays. The midweek service resumed and attendance quickly returned to around its pre-pandemic number. The 8 am Holy Communion on Sunday was however suspended, and it will be for the new incumbent to decide its future.

Peter Seal's farewell service on 15 August marked the end of an era, and the St Matthew's congregation are grateful for the care and attention he bestowed on them during his 20 years of ministry. After his retirement worship at the main service returned to its traditional pattern of Holy Communion on the first Sunday of the month and Mattins on all others. We are grateful to the clergy and lay people who helped: in addition to Mary and Liz, Neil Birkett, Paul Burt and Warwick Heathcote took services and preached, while Chris Seaman and others from St Paul's preached as did the two churchwardens. Numbers held up well.

Ensuring a regular supply of organists has been a greater problem and Mike Russell-Smith has worked hard to provide a rota. Of our regular organists only Sue Woodd remains, and while Jenny Hobbs, David Blunt and others have been able to help, the long-term position is unclear.

Although the major reordering of the church has worked out well there have been some fabric problems. A fall of plaster above the organ loft needed professional attention, and the roof of the lavatory extension is leaking. We are most grateful to the parish maintenance team and to Bryony and Peter Lucas for seeing to the remaining belfry work from the quinquennial inspection of 2018.

St Matthew's traditional parish supper took place on 23 October in St Paul's and was attended by some 30 people. The congregation are most grateful for all the support they have received from Mary, Liz and others during the interregnum and look forward to the new incumbency with confidence.

Dick Wilkinson and Mike Russell-Smith

Building for Life at St Paul's

Project Board

Although St Paul's re-opened for public worship on 20 September 2020, nearly a year after its closure in October 2019, the *Building for Life* Project Board continued to run until November 2021 to oversee final stages of work such as snagging and production of user manuals. The board had been constituted to oversee the project, to make decisions as it continued and to manage the budget. Its composition meant that a variety of skills within the congregation were combined to great effect. It also ensured that the parish, our architect Antony Feltham-King and the main contractors, Amiri, worked well as a team even under the difficult circumstances of the pandemic. The Project Board was happy to oversee completion in line with the budget approved by the PCC.

Nick Page

Development Board

In November 2021 the Development Board was established as a successor to the Project Board. Its wider remit takes on ideas discussed over Zoom in 'next steps' focus groups organised by Bill Lucas and Peter Seal in 2020, exploring the 'life' element of *Building for Life*. The board is encouraged to look forward and to think creatively so that we can maximise the use of our premises for the benefit of the wider community, making a real difference in our city.

The board also considers how we might further enhance the St Paul's site, for example, by improving the courtyard behind St Paul's Hall, and the parish rooms. The group hopes to ensure that our modernised church building is used more fully. It's exciting to discover that it is attracting increasing numbers of choirs and classical musicians as a result of its wonderful acoustics. It has also become the home of the Friends of Winchester Music, who support young musicians in their musical development, and in December 2021 they in turn kindly loaned the church a Brodman grand piano. Due to the lettings hiatus caused by Covid, it is yet to be gauged to what extent income from lettings will help us towards financial sustainability and enable us to expand our initiatives to support needier groups within society.

Nick Page

Safeguarding

The parish is committed to the safeguarding, care and nurture of everyone within our church community. We are grateful to our Safeguarding Officer, Niki Bray, who has kept the parish up-to-date on best practice and training and been ready to field any concerns. Thanks also go to Maggie Brecknell for taking on the processing of Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) checks.

Children's and youth work

2021 was a strange year for our children and young people. We continued with filmed children's services for a while – these enabled children to take part by recording films of readings and prayers, which Olli Wilson-Smith edited together each week. When Covid restrictions reduced and services in church restarted, we realised that families had got out of the way of going to church, and few came back. Sandra Lewis solved the problem for Family Eucharist on the first Sunday of the month by writing wonderful dramas for the children to take part in, and this drew in many families. Molly Atkins and Robin Johnson, students from the university, helped with the children's group.

We continued toddler group, moving it to Fridays, and held occasional afternoon family services followed by tea. We were able to put on a Christingle service, an animal nativity service outside – both of these drew in a huge number of families – and a very good Nativity Zoom with lots of families involved and the Blunt family providing music. We continue to find ways of welcoming children and families to St Paul's.

Bill Lucas has continued to give me strong support over this year on children's and youth work, as well as other church matters.

Mary Copping

Faith development

The Faith Development Group met via Zoom to discuss how we might best respond during the Covid pandemic. Liz Stuart arranged for Revd Rachel Noel, known as 'the pink vicar', to give a fascinating and informative talk on neurodiversity at St Paul's in September. A talk by Janet Sparks on dementia given at the autumn parish visitors' course is being considered for the parish as a whole. *Living in Faith and Love*, a Church of England course exploring identity, sexuality, relationships and marriage, was discussed and planned for 2022.

Online Lent meetings were held over Zoom with a brief chat followed by meditations led by Richard Carter of St Martin-in-the-Fields, ending with Compline. A parish Advent course ran over Zoom with Liz Stuart, Mary Copping and Michael Joseph leading Zoom reflections on the 'O Antiphons' used during Advent, such as 'O Sapientia' ('O Wisdom') and 'O Adonai' ('O Lord'). A parish Advent Day, 'A Journey through Advent in Image and Poetry' was held at Wisdom Centre, Romsey, led by Revd Maggie Guillebaud. She gave short talks on the meaning of Advent using pieces of art and poetry, there were many opportunities for reflection, and the day ended with a Eucharist. A 2022 Lent course on Zoom looking at different traditions of prayer was proposed, with Liz to book speakers.

The group urgently seeks new members, particularly those who might represent differing age groups or situations in our parish.

Michael Joseph

Christian meditation

We began meeting again in September 2021 and due to the pandemic are much reduced in numbers. For some, circumstances have changed; others joined online World Community for Christian Meditation (WCCM) groups during Covid and have found that this suits them better. Three of us have made an active decision to continue meeting, and at some point we will focus on expanding outwards. For now, the silent meditation and then the time we share together remains very valuable. We continue to be part of the WCCM community with its meaningful support and resources.

Kathleen Freeman

Thursday homegroup

The Thursday homegroup struggled with the pandemic but managed to keep going with a mixture of online and hybrid sessions. At the beginning of 2021 we studied online *The Naturalist and the Christ*, a course based on the film *Creation*, about Charles Darwin. This took us rather longer than it normally would, because we found we couldn't manage quite as much online as in person. After a couple of sessions looking at Easter sermons – one from Liz Stuart and one from Bishop Tim Dakin – we started another series, *From Now On*, based on the film *The Greatest Showman*. We were pleased to be joined by one new member over the year, and we look forward to welcoming others in 2022.

Peter and Irene Casey

Bible Reading Fellowship

Bible readers using the Bible Reading Fellowship's series of notes lost one reader (out of six) and gained another, while a new reader is trialling the notes. We always welcome new readers: contact me on birchmore1@talktalk.net or 865432.

Geoffrey Burnaby

Email prayer group

This continues to go out weekly to almost 40 people from both our churches and perhaps had a role in contributing to keeping us connected through the pandemic. The prayer suggestions draw on things that we do and face in our church community and on those we support beyond ourselves. It also includes some prayer suggestions on environmental matters drawn from sources such as Green Christian. The hope is that praying together, albeit from our homes and probably at different times, helps underpin our church life.

Kathleen Freeman

Community-related activities

Community hub

2021 saw many of our hirers making a welcome return to St Paul's and we are now enjoying having most of them back, along with some new groups. Several concerts made use of the fantastic space in St Paul's and we look forward to many more events. It's great to be working with the wonderful people who benefit from using our varied spaces and who help to make us the community hub we are.

If you are interested in hiring one of our spaces, please contact the parish office.

Katy Palacio

Groups from the parish and wider community using the St Paul's site, 2021

Notes

- children's events annual footfall figures include children, staff and parents collecting
- regular worship not included

Group	Frequency of use	Average user number	Annual footfall
Pre-school in St Paul's Hall	32½ hours per week (daily, Mon–Fri term time)	28	11,110
Ballet classes	9 hours per week (term time, 9 different weekly groups) for 3 months	10–20	1,316
Toddler group	2 hours per week for 6 months	20	390
Pilates Monday	3 hours per week (term time, 3 classes for 6 months)	13	250
Meditation	2 hours per week for 3 months	10	120
Kettle Bells (fitness class)	2 hours per week for 6 months	5	190
Kung Fu and Tai Chi class	2 hours per week (average)	20	1040
Guitar lesson	1 hour per week	2	48
Winchester Shape Note Singing	4 hours per month (2 classes)	15	360
Children's group during 9.30 am Sunday services	1 hour per week	15	150
Carol service rehearsals	annual	12	60
Flower arranging	1 hour per week	2	40
Informal café	2.5 hours per month for 3 months	15	45
Rooms and hall used for parties	3 times in 2021	15	90
Management committee (PCC)	2 in person in 2021 (2 hours)	18	36
<i>Building for Life</i> Project Board/Development Board	3 times in 2021 (2 hours)	8	24
Friends of St Matthew with St Paul events	2 in 2021	100	100
Pre-school staff meetings	6 times per year (1 hour)	5	30

Pre-school welcome for new families	annual (1 hour)	50	50
Pre-school Christmas fair	annual	80	80
Concert: Winchester Chamber Orchestra	annual	100	100
Concert: Winchester Chamber Orchestra	annual	100	100
Concerts: Esprimo	once in 2021	60	60
Concert: Shape Note	once in 2021	50	50
Concert: Becky Lynch	one off	30	30
Rehearsals: Ashton Singers	one off	30	30
Rehearsals: Camerata	3 times per year	25	75
Rehearsals: Southern Voices	weekly in term time	35	1,225
Rehearsals: Kingsgate Voices	30 times per year	30	900
Rehearsals: Esprimo	one off	5	5
Rehearsals: Wayneflete Singers	4 times in 2021 (2 hours each session)	110	440
Ride + Stride	annual	20	20
Winchester City Centre Chaplaincy	one off	8	8
<i>Beyond Ourselves</i>	twice in 2021 (2 hours)	5	9
St Matthew's Supper	annual (2 hours)	40	40
Polling Station local election	annual (15 hours)	800	800
Polling Station general election	every 4 years (15 hours)	0	0
Pre-School parents' evenings	annual (3 hours)	50	50
Pre-School leavers' ceremony	annual	40	40
Meetings with wedding couples	2 per year (as required)	2	4
Meetings with funeral families	4 per year (as required)	2	8
Funerals	5 in 2021	40	200
Parish Visitor training	6-week course	30	180
Rooms and hall used for local business /	2 times per year (approx.)	15	30

community-type meetings			
Local residents' and business parking	365 days per year	12	4,420
Pre-school AGM	annual	15	15
Thanksgiving services (in addition to funerals)	2 in 2021	40	80
<i>New in 2021</i>			
Winchester Chamber Music Festival	annual (9 concerts)	75	675
Concert: Winchester City Festival Choir	one off	100	100
Concert: Southern Voices	annual	100	100
Concert: Kingsgate Voices	annual	100	100
Western KS1 transition service	one off	70	70
Western Remembrance service	annual	100	100
Western Christingle service	annual	100	100
Action Hampshire graduation service	annual	50	50
Children's social	one off	20	20
Private dance lesson	6 hours in 2021	2	12
Meeting of the Society of Catholic Priests	one off	15	15
<i>Total annual footfall</i>			<i>25,790</i>

Western Church School

We have continuing good links with the school through Peter Burbridge, the headteacher, and went in to visit during 2021 when it was possible, including walkabouts at lunchtime to get to know the children and staff better. Some of our congregation have been going in to hear children read. We held Remembrance and Christingle services for Western in St Paul's attended by particular year groups and their families. They were fascinated to see the refurbishments.

Mary Copping

Foundation Governor reflections on 2021 Due to the pandemic, 2021 was an incredibly tough year for our church school. A member of the senior leadership team at school wrote to me in the spring term saying, 'I think it is going to be a challenging term with lots of mixed feelings from staff, children and parents, but I'm sure the Western team will pull together in the way that it usually does'. Huge challenges continued right through the year as the staff became increasingly tired and hard pressed, but they continued to give excellent commitment to all the children whether taught in school or at home.

We asked the school how those of us at church could give practical help. We were requested to become reading buddies to support individual children who had missed out in lockdown. We attended a helpful training session, filled in the inevitable DBS safeguarding forms and a few of us have been reading with children ever since. There is plenty of scope for new volunteers; please be in touch if you are interested.

The headteacher said everyone was 'bowled over' by the new St Paul' building, although it was sad when Peter Seal retired as he had been so committed to Western.

Helen Jesty

Parish visitors

There are 18 active parish visitors (PVs) and around 30 visitees.

- During lockdown PVs continued support to their visitees by telephone; some limited face-to-face contact was established where safe to do so.
- The PV support structure was maintained by PVs via regular Zoom meetings held for groups and sessions for all.
- A farewell garden party for Peter and Julia was hosted by PVs.
- Five new PVs were recruited and trained by in-house course co-ordinated with cluster churches and St John's, hosted at St Paul's.

Jan Walley, Co-ordinator

Toddler group

The Friday morning toddler group serves so many of the objectives of our community hub offerings.

- somewhere for the little ones to come and play, sing and have a story
- a place for parents and carers to have a cup of coffee and a chat
- a place of informality for families to get to know what we offer at St Paul's and for them to further their interest before coming to church services
- a starting point for the children to get to know us and move on through to pre-school.

It is a lovely group and it is well used by the families that attend.

Sandra Lewis

St Paul's Coffee Pot

This monthly pop-up café restarted as a Wednesday meeting in October 2021, enjoying the refurbished St Paul's and the well-equipped new kitchen. Its primary aim was always social rather than fund-raising for *Building for Life*, but now the donations go to support the parish's *Beyond Ourselves* charities. Coffee Pot joined forces with St Paul's Pre-school to host a Macmillan Coffee Morning in late October. Thank you to all who run, assist with and support Coffee Pot, especially Harriet Hide and Irene Casey.

Basics Bank

During the worst of the pandemic we weren't able to have the previous range of collection crates at the back of St Paul's, but in autumn 2021 we resumed collecting for Basics Bank in both churches. Thank you to all who donate food for those who are struggling to make ends meet, and to Keith Brown and Linda Russell-Smith for taking supplies to the food bank.

Ride + Stride

Thanks to all the volunteers who generously gave their time to welcome visitors to St Paul's and St Matthew's for this year's Ride + Stride, held on 11 September. Thousands of people were cycling, walking, running or driving around the county's historic churches and chapels for Hampshire and the Islands Historic Churches Trust's annual event, generously raising money for these wonderful buildings. We are most grateful to the charity for supporting *Building for Life* at both our churches. Thanks go to Heather Ellis for co-ordinating the volunteers at this event for many years. If you might like to take this on, please contact 844878 or admin@stmatthewstpaul.org.

Friends of St Matthew with St Paul

The Friends of St Matthew with St Paul were delighted and relieved to be able to hold three events in 2021. The Echo Choir concert kindly arranged by Geoffrey Burnaby was a musical treat and help with supper for the choir from Irene Casey was appreciated enormously. 'An evening with Liz Stuart' gave us an entertaining account of her background, life at the University of Winchester and her strong Christian faith, leading to her ordination and licensing as the parish's Associate Priest. Our third event of the year was the Readathon of the Psalms and Isaiah in St Matthew's.

We have some events in mind for 2022 including a concert performed by the quirksters from Winchester College and a talk by Bruce Parker, Chair of the Friends of Winchester Cathedral. I would welcome offers of help with these events and suggestions for others; please email roberta@fabrock.plus.com.

Roberta Brockman

Outreach activities

Beyond Ourselves Committee

You shall love your neighbour as yourself. (Matthew 22: 39)

In 2021 this committee supported 23 charities – local, national and international. The budget was £10,000, as it has been since 2016. We were left a legacy, gratefully received, and were additionally able to support Vaccinaid.

Looking forward, we hope we shall continue to have a budget, out of the General Fund, of £10,000 or more, enabling us to carry out our important Christian commitment to help people in greatest need.

***Beyond Ourselves* giving in 2021**

United Society Partners in the Gospel	£1,500
Church Mission Society	£750
CMS mission partners in South East Asia	£750
Barnabas Fund	£500
Bible Society	£250
Embrace the Middle East	£500
Feed the Minds	£350
Leprosy Mission	£250
Mission to Seafarers	£250
WaterHarvest	£350
Basics Bank	£200
Boaz Trust	£200
Church Urban Fund	£250
Winchester Churches' Nightshelter	£450
Friends of the Family	£350
Spurgeons	£150
Minstead Training Trust	£200
Olive Branch Christian Counselling Service	£200
Southampton and Winchester Visitors Group	£350
Street Pastors	£250
Trinity Centre	£350
Winchester Action on Climate Change	£100
Winchester City Centre Chaplaincy	£500
Churches Together Winchester's refugee nominated charities	£1,000

Due to the pandemic, in 2021 there weren't as many special event collections as usual, although we organised envelope distribution for Christian Aid Week, and Advent collections for St Martin-in-the-Fields Christmas appeal raised £197.50.

For further details about the charities we support, visit www.stmatthewstpaul.org/beyond-ourselves/.

Alexa Heady

Eco Church

During 2021 we were delighted to receive an Eco Church Bronze Award for the improvements made in both churches to become more sustainable. Now we are aiming for a Silver Award.

We held a Climate Sunday service in early February, with green ribbons made by Norma Goodwin. For Lent people were encouraged to cut back on meat; Kathleen Freeman co-ordinated vegetarian recipes put forward for inclusion in the welcome sheet and on our website. We received little feedback, perhaps because this was a stage in the pandemic when worship was online only. Lent also saw a prayer initiative in the lead-up to COP26, when we signed up to and participated in the Global Prayer and Action Chain for Climate Justice, a faith initiative co-ordinated by Christian Aid.

An online workshop was held with WinACC and local councillors which was positive and helpful. There was a 'no mowing' policy in both churchyards in May, and plans were made to instal a water butt at St Paul's. Keith Jones updated the group on plans for investing money in an ethical banking fund, in line with the Church of England advisory board.

A second Climate Sunday service was held in October at the end of Winchester Green Week. During that week Kathleen Freeman and Max Priesemann attended the Churches Together service at Winchester Cathedral with our pledges written on a banner: to plant more trees and do more rewilding at St Paul's.

The green group looked into the best sustainability options for improving the St Paul's site and found that changing church light fittings to LED would be the most effective way of lowering our carbon footprint. It would be more cost-effective than installing solar panels, given our patterns of usage and the current state of the technology of battery storage.

The green group made a significant contribution to the parish magazine, covering subjects such as vegetarianism, carbon footprints, climate change and the corporate world, Winchester Cycling Charter, installing solar panels at home, greenfield housing development, food waste and litter. We shall continue to write articles to encourage us all to live more sustainably. It would be lovely if you would like to contribute as well.

Alexa Heady

Christian Aid

Christian Aid's mission is to eradicate poverty by tackling its root causes and the underlying structures that keep poor people poor, as well as dealing with its effects. Prior to the pandemic, the parish generally raised over £4,000 each year from Christian Aid Week house-to-house collections, under the enthusiastic leadership of an energetic parish co-ordinator. In 2021, without a co-ordinator in place, parish staff organised volunteers to distribute Christian Aid Week envelopes throughout our allocated area, with people invited to drop their donations at St Paul's or the rectory; however, this raised only a small sum. Plans for 2022 are to both deliver and collect envelopes wherever possible, and to seek a new and enthusiastic organiser for 2023.

City Centre Chaplaincy

This has been a really difficult time, with need high but restrictions preventing most of our work until the latter part of 2021. The chaplaincy team shrank significantly for a range of reasons including vulnerability/shielding of some chaplains. When allowed, the existing chaplains were hard at work and welcomed by shops in the city. Canon Nick Fennemore was a most welcome and effective Lead Chaplain but retired in the autumn and moved away. A new Lead Chaplain, Karen Markiewicz, has been recruited and appointed, and is starting to recruit new chaplains to work in the city centre. Volunteers are always welcome and much needed. Neither the law courts nor Winchester City Council are yet in a position to allow chaplains to resume activities. Towards the end of the year, Michael Joseph stepped back from the position of Chair; a new volunteer for this post is expected in 2022.

Michael Joseph

Mission to Seafarers

The Mission to Seafarers were unable to accept donations of knitted hats and balaclavas until the end of 2021, when 41 hats and 8 balaclavas in various colours were sent to be distributed to the hardworking seafarers. New knitters are always welcome; please contact Jeanette Batt on 860249.

Jeanette Batt

Church environment

Property/maintenance/grounds

Following the completion of the first phase of *Building for Life*, the church building at St Paul's in 2021 was in an excellent state of repair and, of its type, state of the art. We have some relatively minor issues to deal with such as a leak from the water pipes in the small toilet and associated damage to the woodwork; that will be attended to by our contractors Amiri, at their expense. At the end of 2021 there were a few outstanding matters that were budgeted for and are nearing completion, such as the new circular light to be hung in the gallery meeting room and a handrail to be fitted on the south side of the dais.

St Paul's Hall is in a good state of repair having been repainted, with a new floor fitted and a new kitchen installed. Two of the three parish rooms have been newly painted, and in 2022 refurbishment of the kitchen area is being considered.

St Paul's grounds are maintained well by our gardener. In addition, a team cleared the area around the hall, which had become overgrown. The back fence suffered storm damage, and repairs have been carried out. Some of the bank at the front of the church has been cleared and additional bulbs planted. In early 2022, a new tree was planted on the high bank in memory of a parishioner.

St Matthew's is also in a good state of repair. The maintenance team has completed all the work required by the quinquennial report, which has included cleaning the belfry, rust-proofing the clappers in the bells and fixing new mesh in the belfry to prevent bats and birds from nesting there. In 2022 some water ingress has been noted into the back lobby, which is causing significant damp over the exterior door. It is being investigated by the church architect and builders.

The grounds at St Matthew's have been very well maintained by a willing team of volunteers. Helen Chambers writes, 'The circle of life in the churchyard has brought us back to spring – and the joy of snowdrops, wild daffodils, and primroses in abundance. There have been occasional losses to frost, but we continue to plant and enjoy the theme of fragrant and old-fashioned varieties.'

We now have maintenance schedules for both churches and churchyards and a wonderful team of 12 volunteers established during 2021 who help to carry out many of these tasks.

Nick Page

Music

Providing music for services during the worst of the pandemic proved challenging and required a ready willingness to switch between ways of operating, as services switched between online and in-person.

We are hugely grateful to Ian Rees, the St Paul's organist since 2014, for all his contributions to the parish, musical, spiritual and organisational, and for his wonderful sense of humour. He retired in early 2022 and a new organist/director of music is sought. In 2022 we are indebted to those who are playing organ and piano in the interim, in particular volunteers David Blunt, Vicki Tibbitts and Jan Walley, and Christopher Tolley who is our regular organist on the fourth Sunday of the month.

We could not continue with the high standard of music at St Paul's without our instrumentalists and singers, and we are grateful to the small groups that kept music in worship going when congregational singing was not allowed by the government (their forces pared to the minimum to reduce risk of infection). In 2022 we look forward to expanding the band and singing group, welcoming people of all abilities.

As described in the churchwardens' report above, the previous organists' rota at St Matthew's is depleted by retirement and new volunteers would be welcomed.

Flowers

St Paul's As with so many things, Covid prevented us from flower arranging in the normal way in 2021 and presented new challenges. For the flower team it was considering, on occasions, what would look good when viewed via the streamed services and, later, working out the best places for arrangements in the new space in St Paul's. A delightful splash of spring yellow was seen with the Mothering Sunday daffodil display, followed by an Easter arrangement. There was a return of weekly pedestals as public services restarted, and we were delighted to create several large and colourful arrangements for Peter Seal's farewell Sunday in August, and again at Christmastime.

Sarah Eadie

St Matthew's Sadly Heather Riley, who had been arranging flowers at St Matthew's for many years, died in October 2020. In spring 2021, a team of volunteers was formed to carry on her good work, and flowers have been adorning the church ever since, despite the Covid pandemic.

Linda Russell-Smith

Social

We had an enormous and wonderful bring and share lunch in August 2021, immaculately planned by St Paul's churchwardens and a team of volunteers to be safely spaced and well ventilated, using outdoor spaces under awnings as well as the body of St Paul's Church. We wanted to give the Seal family a good and loving send-off, and that is what happened.

A second bring and share lunch followed for Harvest, at smaller scale. We look forward to many more community meals in the future.

Communication

Website

This is where many people first look when exploring which church they might go to. It's also well used by members of the congregation, and it took on particular importance during the pandemic as the means of accessing recorded and streamed services.

The website was updated weekly throughout 2021, with the St Paul's 9.30 Order of Service incorporated into the weekly welcome sheet so that online worshippers could access it along with the notices. Further website updating was done regularly so sermon scripts were available for people to mull over, and to highlight particular church services and events. Following St Paul's re-opening after the *Building for Life* project, a lot of new photographic material was incorporated and hiring information was enhanced. Further development, including adaptation to suit access on mobile phones, is planned for the future.

Printed information

As mentioned above, the weekly welcome sheet included the liturgy for St Paul's throughout 2021. This mini booklet carried information about services and events at both churches, was a place to find details of how to meet people and get involved, carried requests for volunteers and signposted a range of events taking place in numerous contexts beyond the parish.

The parish magazine was issued 10 times in 2021, with 200 copies of each edition delivered or posted. Content oversight came from Peter Seal until July, and thereafter from St Paul's churchwardens. Thanks go to all who contribute regularly, and to those who occasionally submit an article. Particular mention should go to Alexa Heady for her faithful compilation of articles on the *Beyond Ourselves* theme, and to members of the green group who tirelessly make us aware of our calling to care for God's good creation. The intention is for a wide

range of voices from within the community to be heard in the magazine on subjects that touch our faith and how we live it out. We are grateful to those who month by month print, batch and deliver copies.

In 2021 we continued to produce street-front posters to comfort, reassure, cheer up and challenge passers-by, whether they consider themselves religious or not.

As in previous years, we engaged with the local press and were pleased to received good coverage in the *Hampshire Chronicle*.

Ursula Payne

Church electoral roll

As of 12 May 2021, there were 249 people on the parish's electoral roll (2020: 249). 108 were resident in the parish and 141 non-resident (2020: 110 resident, 139 non-resident).

Alison Collins

Finance

Following the difficulties of 2020, the return to St Paul's at the end of *Building for Life* and the easing of coronavirus restrictions, the hope was that 2021 would be less challenging. Unfortunately, world events were to conspire against us: there were ongoing restrictions and the return to both St Matthew's and St Paul's was initially not possible, and then only in a restricted manner with reduced numbers in the congregations. Along with this was the departure of Peter Seal and the prospect of an interregnum of undetermined length!

This, coupled with both temporary and permanent losses of several income streams and increased running costs, resulted in a year-end deficit, the level of which was significantly lower than initially forecast following a marvellous response by parishioners to the appeal early in the year by Peter.

However, 2021 still ended with a general fund deficit, and going forward into 2022 the focus will be on returning to annual growth in regular giving, and increasing revenue from other income sources such as facilities hire, magazine subscriptions and parking. With these aims in mind there is wonderful work being done by members of the Development Board, chaired by Nick Page, in looking at the wider use of the excellent facilities that the *Building for Life* project has delivered. Similarly, a team led by Keith Jones, in conjunction with the clergy and churchwardens, has been exploring ways to promote stewardship in these difficult times.

More specifically for the finance team, there is still the need to finalise agreement on our investment policy, to move as much as possible of our banking from NatWest to the more charity-focused and sustainable Charities Aid Foundation Bank and to undertake as much as feasible of our financial activity electronically.

Tim Stannard

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Large print versions are available

