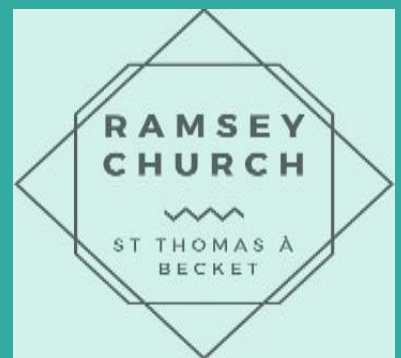

APCM REPORTS 2021



ST THOMAS A BECKET CHURCH



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Clergy Report October 2020 to May 2021

Our faith teaches us that church is not just a social club for people who like this kind of thing, but that we are “a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God’s own people” (1 Peter 2:9). This is reassuring, but also brings an awareness of dependence. We only exist because God calls: if God stops calling, then we will soon peter out. But, if we walk in God’s will, we will thrive joyfully.

This reflection is prompted by the way church life has recently gone invisible – that is to say, from time to time we have been unable to see each other on Sunday morning. We have kept on trying to feed the flock – through our broadcast services, Morning Prayer over Zoom, weekly bulletin, Wednesday Night Live, personal pastoral contact, social media, written material delivered to many who do not venture online. Taking on-line and face-to-face together, we offered full programmes for Christmas and Easter, as well as a joyous Confirmation Service. We could not see the response to all this – it has been invisible, at-home and individual. But, I believe, none the less real and faithful.

Our overall life of prayer and service has been maintained, and we have many reasons to be encouraged. Numbers engaging with our online material have been robust and, sometimes, many times larger than the numbers we could have reached through any other means (see the graphs in our Operations Manager’s report). Wednesday Night Live has offered nurturing fellowship to many, as does our daily Morning Prayer (both online). Our parish’s finances have shown a deficit, but we are in a better shape than many parishes that rely less on regular giving, more on the plate. When we have been able to hold face-to-face services, congregations have been faithful and enthusiastic, although lower than usual. New people have stepped forward to serve in leadership and on the PCC.

The various reports to this year’s APCM represent many kinds of faithful service this year. I would like to express my thanks to all who have sustained our ministry. Thanks to our ministry team (Vicki our LLM, our several ALMs, and the retired clergy who sustain weekly worship across the benefice: Rev’d Janet Humphries, and Rev’ds Val and Fred Kilner). Thanks to our Music Director, choir and other musicians who have shown great flexibility.

Thanks to the PCC and our Synod reps. Thanks to those who clean and decorate the church, and those who have continued to improve its fabric and facilities (e.g., new noticeboards). Thanks to the Foodbank team.

What of the coming year? I hope it will be a time of recovery: a summer of normal, pleasant activities to rebuild our stamina; a return to singing in church, proper family services, contact with schools and care-homes. I believe it will also be a time of renewal and growth, building on what God has taught us this year. Taking activities online has enabled much wider participation – congregations for the Sunday service, Morning Prayer, Wednesday Night Live are all growing fast. Old and new activities are both healthy and life-giving. Our task is to work out how to integrate together the familiar and the new, while remaining united by the love of Christ.

We only exist because of God's call, which is only ever forwards, never back to the past. And God always has something better yet in mind for us.

Iain Osborne

Finance Report

Ramsey St Thomas a Becket Church Financial Facts 2020

	<u>2020</u>	<u>2019</u>
1. Cash in all accounts	£ 110,590	£ 126,457
2. Cash in general account	£ 35,221	£ 36,957
3. Income from giving, fund raising, funerals per year	£ 62,225	£ 79,517
per week	£ 1,197	£ 1,529
4. Fixed costs for running church	£ 63,960	£ 77,840
per week	£ 1,230	£ 1,497
5. (Deficit) / Surplus per week	£ (33)	£ 32
Deficit in general account of £ 1,736 (surplus 2019 £ 1,677)		
6. Ministry share for 2020 £ 42,021 (2018 £ 43,095) paid in full.		
7. Restorations fund £ 40,711		
• South Door & Electrics + slabs £ 14k		
• Sound System Cost £12k Donations £ 4k		
○ (Total cost =£12k – donations £11k)		
• Quinquennial grant £6k		
• £15k is owed from Re-ordering Account.		
8. Re-ordering Fund £ 26,111		
• Ramp £ 38k (Total cost = £ 54k less grants £21k)		
• £15 k is owed to Restoration Account.		
9. Normal giving (i.e. before any fundraising) in 2020 was £51,000 (2019=£59,000). This covered 80% (2019=79%) of the annual church costs, which were £64,000 (2019=£74,000).		
10. More detailed set of accounts are available on request.		

RAMSEY ST. THOMAS A BECKET ACCOUNT BALANCES

as at 31-Dec-20

2020

All figures rounded to nearest £1

A		B	C	D	E	F
		Opening Balance £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers to other accounts £	Closing Balance £
<u>General Funds</u>						
1	Barclays General Account 20740659	8,938	44,743	52,844	10,909	11,746
2	TSB General Account 16350260	28,019	20,123	13,758	(10,909)	23,475
3	Total General Funds	36,957	64,866	66,602		35,221
<u>Restoration Account</u>						
4	Restoration Current Account 40743089	12,823		156	6,576	19,243
5	CBF Restoration 614023002D	21,522	55		(21,576)	0
6	Restoration TSB Account 16622860	21,970	30,143	30,645		21,468
7	Total Restoration Funds	56,315	30,198	30,801	(15,000)	40,711
<u>Re ordering Accounts</u>						
8	Barclays Reordering Account 03299236	13,934	48	2,823	(10,000)	1,160
9	TSB Reordering Account 16622168	11,218	24,466	35,733	25,000	24,952
10	Total Parish Hall Funds	25,153	24,514	38,555	15,000	26,111
<u>Chancel Accounts</u>						
11	Chancel Deposit Fund 114001189D	2,973	164			3,137
12	Investment Fund (114001241S) Note 1	5,061				5,409
13	Total Chancel Accounts	8,033	164			8,546
14	Total funds available to church	126,457				110,590

RAMSEY ST. THOMAS A BECKET - Year End Summary 2020

	Last Year 2019 Actual	Current Year 2020 Actual	Better / (worse) on Year	Budget 2021	Last Year 2019 Per week	Current Year 2020 Per week	Better / (worse) on Year Per week
	A	B	C	D	E	F	G
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
General Account							
1 Opening Balance	35,280	36,957	1,677	35,221			
Receipts							
2 Gift Aid	34,627	35,844	1,217	36,047	666	689	23
3 Plates	7,098	3,244	(3,854)	5,040	137	62	(74)
4 Envelopes	6,133	1,594	(4,540)	4,340	118	31	(87)
5 Tax Rebates	10,797	10,211	(586)	10,770	208	196	(11)
6 Normal Giving	58,655	50,893	(7,762)	56,197	1,128	979	(149)
7 Net Income from Wedding, Funeral, Baptism	6,376	6,061	(315)	2,772	123	117	(6)
8 Summer Fete	1,937		(1,937)	1,450	37		(37)
9 Craft Nights	666	180	(486)	200	13	3	(9)
10 Summer teas	1,013		(1,013)	760	19		(19)
11 Wednesday Night Live		81	81			2	2
12 Flower Festival	2,660		(2,660)	2,000	51		(51)
13 other fundraising	153	309	157		3	6	3
14 Heating	715	165	(550)	550	14	3	(11)
15 Special donations / collections	2,487	1,922	(565)	150	48	37	(11)
16 Leos Mobile		348	348			7	7
17 Coffee Am	3,335	916	(2,420)	1,410	64	18	(47)
18 Childrens Soc - Christingle	210		(210)	200	4		(4)
19 2½% rebate Ministry Share	1,310	1,350	40		25	26	1
20 TOTAL RECEIPTS	79,517	62,225	(17,292)	65,689	1,529	1,197	(333)
Payments							
21 Ministry share	43,095	42,021	1,074	42,021	829	808	21
22 Net Clergy Costs - Ramsey team ministry	3,626	89	3,536	1,225	70	2	68
23 Insurance	3,626	3,598	28	3,735	70	69	1
24 Organist, deputies	2,700	2,700		2,700	52	52	
25 Secretarial work		350	(350)	2,760		7	(7)
26 Photocopying / Riso	766	235	531	200	15	5	10
27 Gas	3,833	5,355	(1,522)	5,430	74	103	(29)
28 Electricity	5,338	3,021	2,316	3,210	103	58	45
29 Water	68	72	(4)	80	1	1	(0)
30 Church maintenance	5,470	1,626	3,844	3,600	105	31	74
31 Upkeep Services	1,937	1,706	230	2,040	37	33	4
32 Sunday school, baptism cards	977	171	806	450	19	3	15
33 Fete, fair, teas exps	969		969	725	19		19
34 Bank charges	293	204	88	240	6	4	2
35 Subscriptions	130	164	(34)	185	3	3	(1)
36 Stationery	829	168	661	300	16	3	13
37 Postage	61		61	60	1		1
38 Freewill Envelopes	70		70		1		1
39 Charities / Donations	2,055	101	1,955	700	40	2	38
40 Licenses	602	680	(78)	575	12	13	(1)
41 Telephone / Wi-Fi	682	1,374	(692)	1,500	13	26	(13)
42 Miscellaneous	504	323	181	300	10	6	3
43 Childrens Soc - Christingle	210		210	200	4		4
44 TOTAL PAYMENTS	77,840	63,960	13,880	72,236	1,497	1,230	267
45 Surplus / (Deficit) in year before transfers	1,677	(1,736)	(3,412)	(6,547)	32	(33)	(66)
Transfers to other accounts							
46 Receipts	10,200	13,935	3,735		196	268	72
47 Expenditure	10,200	13,935	3,735		196	268	72
48 TOTAL AT BANK	36,957	35,221	(1,736)	(6,547)	32	(33)	(66)
49 Surplus / (Deficit) in year after transfers	1,677	(1,736)					
			Change on year				
50 Total giving	58,655	50,893	(7,762)	56,197	79%	80%	80%
51 Net income from Wedding / Funerals	6,376	6,061	(315)	2,772	9%	10%	4%
52 Other fundraising	8,503	1,282	(7,221)	4,855	11%	2%	7%
53 Other Income	2,456	3,684	1,228	1,228	3%	6%	
54 shortfall / (surplus)	(1,677)	1,736	3,412	6,547	-2%	3%	9%
55 Annual running costs	74,313	63,655	(10,658)	70,371			

St Ives Deanery Report

As this year has been somewhat fractured the most positive way of conveying the support of the Deanery is to quote the resolve of synod to address post covid recovery.

Deanery planning

The Parish Audit, for which Ramsey has asked for an extension of time, can be used as a tool in Deanery planning. The synod asked how we can move forward after Covid? what is the Lord asking of us at this time?

New Ministries and training

While looking at the makeup of parishes and Benefices in a spiritual and rational way there is a need in our parishes to establish more lay people sufficiently trained who could minister in different areas.

Possible legal changes

Possible legal changes The Rural Dean said that at a meeting of the Church Commissioners there was agreement that very small Parishes in a Benefice could be joined together as one Parish, thus simplifying all the administration. This would require legal changes, but if a Deanery Synod proposed such a change, there could be no legal challenge as was possible in the past which effectively prevented such things happening. Also, the Diocesan Chancellor was now in agreement with Churches being used for other purposes than worship that would enable outreach.

Worship patterns During covid we have been recording and live streaming services and reaching people not touched before. We need to consider continuing with this to some extent after lockdown has finished. The main criteria need to be that what we do, we do well. If we are using modern technology, we need to make sure that we have good equipment and do the job well.

Spiritual development Since we have not been meeting together in person, as a Church, in Church groups, or Diocesan events, we have missed the fellowship and spiritual development that these bring. We need to develop ways of growing spiritually by meeting

together after the lockdown. The Colne Men's Group have continued to meet weekly on zoom since the beginning of the pandemic. Although this was not ideal, they all felt that a lot had been gained from the meetings.

Ministry share John Hayes, Deanery treasurer, said that for many years we had paid our share in full as a Deanery and received the rebate which latterly amounted to around £6,500. In 2020 we only paid 93% and so will not get the rebate. Overall, the Diocese only managed to pay just over 90%. Some of our Parishes only managed to pay by using financial reserves and have said that next year they will not be able to pay in full. The Diocese are making savings where they can, but investment income which now attracts low interest rates means that this year they will have around a £1,000,000 deficit. Tim Berry, Deanery secretary, said that as God promises to meet all our needs, He will have put the money in our pockets if He requires our Churches to remain.

At the last meeting of Synod of this semester there was an emphasis in Spiritual development. Two visiting speakers, both retired but extremely active clergy spoke respectively on (a) Proclamation of Good news and (b) Teaching and Nurturing.

Individuals as well as Churches were collectively challenged to move forward as instructed in Mathew 28 v19 "therefore go and make disciples of all nations.....and surely I will be with you always to the very end of the age".

Diana Lucas (retiring Deanery Representative) April 2021

Electoral Roll Report

There has not been much movement since I reported the numbers in November 20 at that time there were 115 and at the moment I have records for 116

Some people have been asking about Parish Passes, the entitlement to which is to be on the Electoral Roll in a Parish.

The link to the form is below and also [here](#)...the form needs to be countersigned.

<https://www.elycathedral.org/files/pdf/parish-pass-application-july19.pdf>

and as has been mentioned in the recent bulletin the link to obtain an application for electoral roll membership is [here](#)

These forms are held by me and used to create the published roll - it is fashioned to only show a persons name and postcode for the purposes of publishing for view.

Applications for new members on the roll can be made at any time, generally though this only happens when advertised.

Ian Bell-Berry

Operations Manager Report

Another very interesting year this last year has been. We have seen Revd. Iain join us and continued our hybrid version of church. This has meant having to be flexible to changing regulations all the time adapting the service offering to what we have been allowed to do. I have continued to adapt and update our online offering as well as experiment with Leo and Iain on live streaming from the building. This last Easter was a great example of a very well planned and orchestrated online and in person live offering over Holy Week. It worked really well.

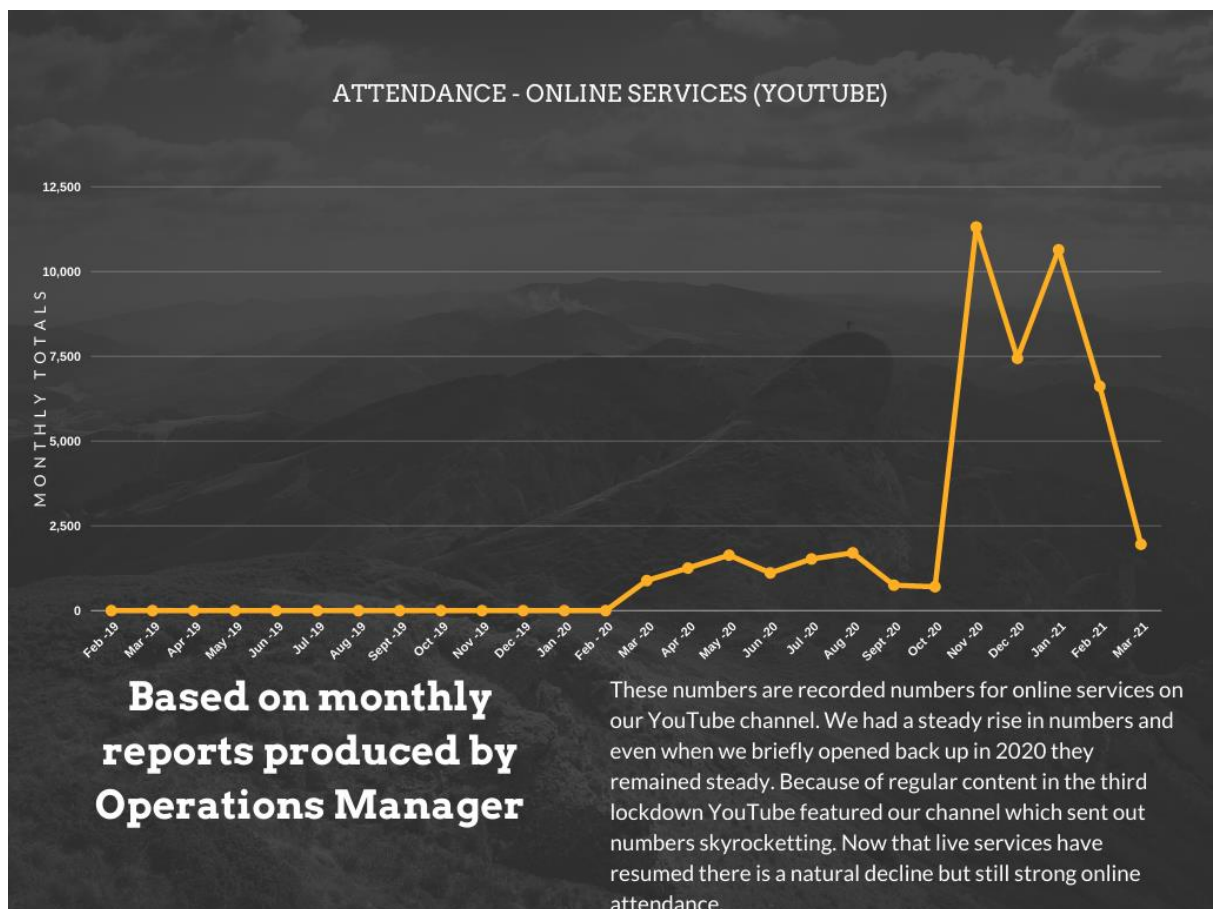
We also had the arrival of Carolyn the church administrator which has meant I have been training her up on our systems and thankfully she has taken over all the church administration. She has done incredibly well picking up all wedding, baptism and church admin. We are so grateful to have her. This year our APCM document is being pulled together by Carolyn and I have been freed up to take on more operational duties. What this has meant is that I have had some scope to look at redesigning our website. This is currently in consultation and we hope to launch the new site this year. It has also meant I have been able to do things like pull together the below stats that give a total overview of numbers since I started reporting them. It has shown some really interesting trends and definitely proves the need for an online presence. Even when we have come back to services in the building, we have a dedicated online audience who tune in every week to join our online service.

Another item that I was able to look into since Carolyn has come on board has been grants. I managed to secure a grant for the church to help pay the bills. It has meant the church finances have not suffered because of church closure during our lockdowns.

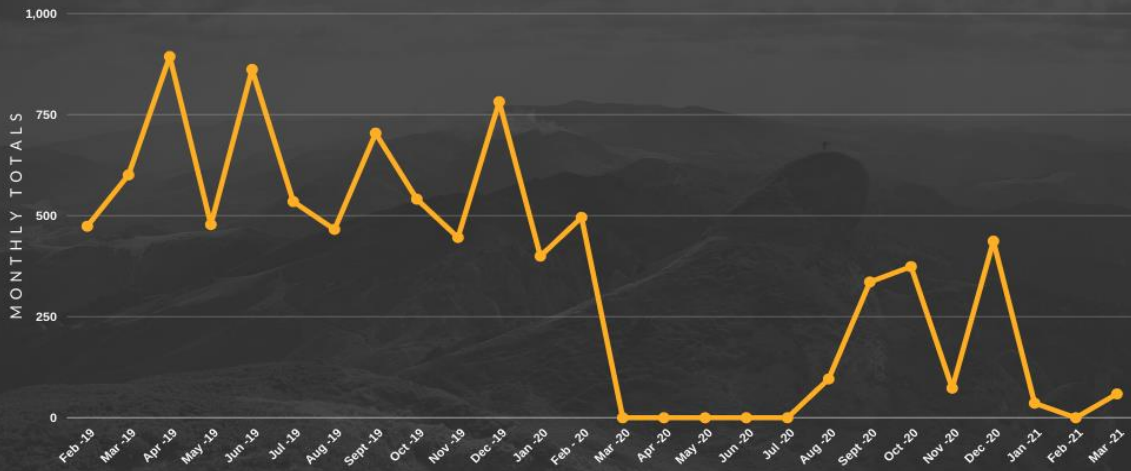
Looking ahead, my contract will be ending in November of this year. It is currently under revision with the Diocese as to what the contract will look like in terms of going forward, so my focus will be training members of the church in what I do so that we can continue our online offering and the church volunteers are equipped with everything they need to continue the hybrid church.

One last thing I hope to achieve is to introduce Office365 to the church processes as this will be so much safer and more efficient for all the processes that happen behind the scenes. It will be a fantastic change for all who currently use the G-Suite offering.

Daniela Osborne



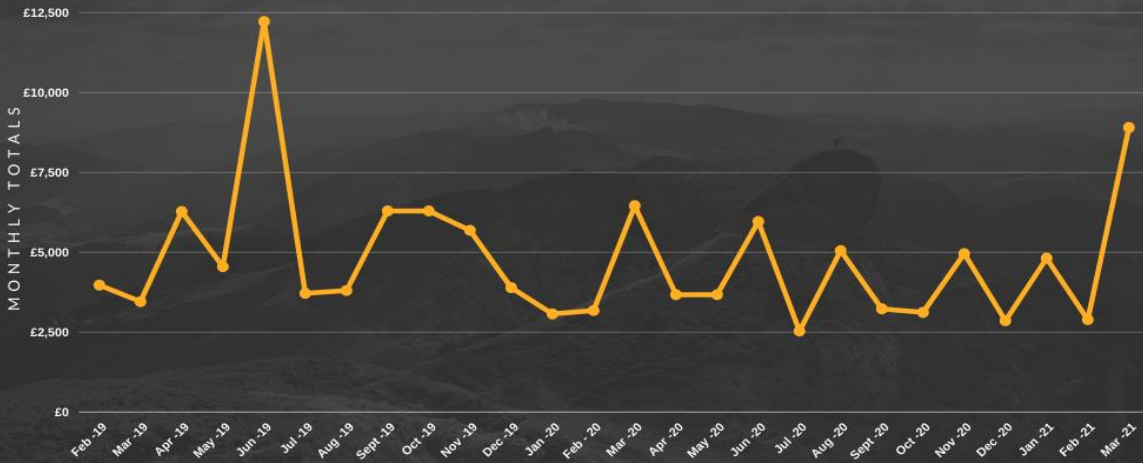
ATTENDANCE - SUNDAY SERVICES



Based on monthly reports produced by Operations Manager

These numbers are recorded numbers (Adults and Children) in the church building on a Sunday for a Sunday service. These figures do not include fresh expressions of church or special services except for Christmas Day figures which are included.

MONTHLY GIVING



Based on monthly reports produced by Operations Manager

These giving figures are provided by the treasurer every month for the monthly report. They include all giving, so whether through fundraising, grants, one-off donations or regular giving.

Ramsey Foodbank Report

Volunteers

Everyone matters, in this challenging year of a Global pandemic Ramsey Foodbank volunteers epitomise ubuntu which means “I am, because you are.” Ubuntu means that a person is a person through other people. Every person in need of the foodbank support becomes a person through the selfless dedicated service of the foodbank volunteers.

A massive thank you, to all the volunteers who have been able to volunteer from the beginning of the first lockdown in March 2020 until now. We are also grateful to the volunteers who were unable to volunteer because they are an at-risk group shielding to protect themselves and their loved ones. Ramsey Foodbank has 20 volunteers + 1 project manager - 15 Foodbank centre assistants, 2 volunteer administrator, 1 social media co-ordinator, 2 team leaders.

Covid vaccination – In February 2021, Ramsey Foodbank took up the NHS provision of the COVID vaccine to staff and volunteers within the VCSE. 16 volunteers have had their first and second jabs.

Volunteer recruitment - Ramsey foodbank recruited Alanna Skelton as volunteer social media co-ordinator on 3rd February 2021 and Lisa Williamson as volunteer administrator on the 22nd of March 2021. Ramsey Foodbank is still recruiting for volunteer fundraising coordinator, volunteer website coordinator.

Volunteer staffing - The first lockdown in March 2020, we decided to scale volunteers' numbers down to six for Tuesday & Thursday to be compliant with social distancing restrictions. The team of six comprises of project manager, one team leader volunteer, two foodbank centre assistants picking/packing up food items and one foodbank centre assistant on Tuesday processing E - vouchers, two foodbank centre assistants labelling/weighing in donated food items. The church was open solely for the use of the foodbank operations, we had ample space to place pre-packed food items on the church pews designated for Foodbank use only. Once the lockdown restrictions were lifted allowing the church to reopen, we had access to use the kitchen for holding pre-packed food items and full use of the vestry room shared with the choir to stock food items.

Delivery Drivers – Roger Brereton has been invaluable in making deliveries of food parcels to foodbank clients with the community bus. He also recruited Bob to help make food parcel deliveries on Thursday. March 2020 is the first time in the history of Ramsey Foodbank that we have ever made delivery of Food parcels to Foodbank clients.

Hampers

Veronica as referral agency liaison volunteer worked with referral agencies to obtain their client list so we could provide their clients with Christmas hampers. Hiring Ramsey Methodist church room to pack and distribute Christmas Hampers made the Christmas hamper operations run smoother. We did have low November Tesco collection and donation of food items for Christmas Hampers in 2020, this is partly down to Tesco not allowing Ramsey Foodbank to have manned collection points at Tesco due to covid restrictions. Judith Hyde and Veronica Barker worked superbly using Ramsey Foodbank account to purchase Christmas Hamper items from ALDI supermarket. In total December 2020 Ramsey Foodbank gave out 98 Christmas Hampers to single individuals, couple, small families & large families. The volunteers did a fantastic job of picking/ packing and distributing Christmas Hamper to the food clients and their referral agencies. Ramsey Foodbank also provided 30 emergency Christmas hampers to support victims of the flooding in Ramsey in the same month of December 2020.

Ramsey Foodbank clients

We switched foodbank operations to deliver food parcels to clients due to covid restrictions and the nationwide lockdown on March 23rd, 2020. We closed the Foodbank drop-in café; this was difficult decision, and it very not providing hospitality and pastoral support to foodbank client face to face. Ramsey foodbank worked closely in collaboration with Ramsey Neighbourhood Trust & Ramsey Town Council in providing a joint up support to those in need in Ramsey. Initially during the first lockdown we allowed clients to come in, wait and pick up food parcels at the Foodbank centre, running the foodbank operation in this way allowed us to signposting support to some of the clients who popped in to pick up food parcels.

During the second lockdown of 31 October 2020, we decided to change foodbank operations indefinitely to client pick up outside the church porch area and delivery of food parcels to clients.

Client stats record of vouchers fulfilled - Please see report below of the March – December 2019 Vouchers Report & January – December 2020 Vouchers Report

Vouchers Report

January 1, 2019 to December 31, 2019

Vouchers by Ward

Ward	No. Vouchers	Adults	Children	Total
Benwick, Coates & Eastrea	1	1 (20%)	4 (80%)	5
Doddington & Wimblington	2	2 (100%)	0	2
Huntingdon North	1	1 (100%)	0	1
NFA	8	9 (75%)	3 (25%)	12
Ramsey	182	291 (50.17%)	289 (49.83%)	580
Sawtry	3	6 (33.33%)	12 (66.67%)	18
Slade Lode	2	6 (50%)	6 (50%)	12
Somersham	8	14 (33.33%)	28 (66.67%)	42
St Ives South	1	2 (40%)	3 (60%)	5
Unknown	2	2 (100%)	0	2
Warboys	25	41 (48.81%)	43 (51.19%)	84
Totals	235	375	388	763

Crisis Types

Crisis	No. Vouchers	Adults	Children	Total
Benefit Changes	63	102 (49.51%)	104 (50.49%)	206
Benefit Delays	20	30 (63.83%)	17 (36.17%)	47
Child Holiday Meals	11	20 (42.55%)	27 (57.45%)	47
Debt	32	49 (59.04%)	34 (40.96%)	83
Delayed Wages	1	2 (66.67%)	1 (33.33%)	3
Domestic Violence	2	2 (33.33%)	4 (66.67%)	6
Homeless	8	10 (90.91%)	1 (9.09%)	11
Low Income	83	141 (43.65%)	182 (56.35%)	323
No recourse to public funds	2	2 (100%)	0	2
Other	7	10 (45.45%)	12 (54.55%)	22
Refused STBA	1	1 (100%)	0	1
Sickness	5	6 (50%)	6 (50%)	12
Totals	235	375	388	763

Age Group

Age Group	Number of people
Adults (17 - 24 yrs)	36
Adults (25 - 64 yrs)	326
Adults (Over 65 yrs)	11
Adults (unknown age)	2
Children (0 - 4 yrs)	102
Children (12 - 16 yrs)	104
Children (5 - 11 yrs)	182
Children (unknown age)	0
Totals	763

Size of Family	No. Vouchers
Couple	17 (7.23%)
Family	93 (39.57%)
Other	13 (5.53%)
Single	80 (34.04%)
Single Parent	32 (13.62%)
Totals	235

Vouchers by Ward

Ward	No. Vouchers	Adults	Children	Total
Yaxley	2	4 (66.67%)	2 (33.33%)	6
Warboys	84	147 (44.55%)	183 (55.45%)	330
Unknown	4	4 (57.14%)	3 (42.86%)	7
Stanground South	3	6 (22.22%)	21 (77.78%)	27
St Andrews	1	1 (100%)	0	1
Somersham	1	3 (37.5%)	5 (62.5%)	8
Sawtry	7	12 (37.5%)	20 (62.5%)	32
Ramsey	259	400 (51.41%)	378 (48.59%)	778
Orton Longueville	2	2 (100%)	0	2
NFA	36	57 (86.36%)	9 (13.64%)	66
Huntingdon North	3	10 (76.92%)	3 (23.08%)	13
Holywell-cum-Needingworth	6	12 (60%)	8 (40%)	20
Hemingford Grey & Houghton	1	1 (100%)	0	1
Central	1	2 (33.33%)	4 (66.67%)	6
Benwick, Coates & Eastrea	4	5 (33.33%)	10 (66.67%)	15
Bassenhally	1	2 (33.33%)	4 (66.67%)	6
Totals	415	668	650	1318

Crisis Types

Crisis	No. Vouchers	Adults	Children	Total
Benefit Changes	39	61 (41.22%)	87 (58.78%)	148
Benefit Delays	45	77 (49.36%)	79 (50.64%)	156
Child Holiday Meals	4	8 (38.1%)	13 (61.9%)	21
Debt	12	17 (73.91%)	6 (26.09%)	23
Delayed Wages	5	8 (53.33%)	7 (46.67%)	15
Domestic Violence	4	6 (28.57%)	15 (71.43%)	21
Homeless	33	51 (89.47%)	6 (10.53%)	57
Low Income	203	332 (49.7%)	336 (50.3%)	668
No recourse to public funds	1	1 (100%)	0	1
Other	28	49 (42.61%)	66 (57.39%)	115
Sickness	41	58 (62.37%)	35 (37.63%)	93
Totals	415	668	650	1318

Age Groups

Age Group	Number of people
Adults (17 - 24 yrs)	63
Adults (25 - 64 yrs)	554
Adults (Over 65 yrs)	26
Adults (unknown age)	25
Children (0 - 4 yrs)	169
Children (12 - 16 yrs)	184
Children (5 - 11 yrs)	297
Children (unknown age)	0
Totals	1318

Size of Family	No. Vouchers
Couple	58 (13.98%)
Family	141 (33.98%)
Other	22 (5.3%)
Single	107 (25.78%)
Single Parent	87 (20.96%)
Totals	415

Citizens Advice Bureau

We continue to refer clients to our two CARC advisers. **Sarah Heather & Meghan Hawthorne**. I work with Veronica in referring foodbank clients through a electronic shared Excel spreadsheet which is picked up by both CARC advisers.

Ramsey Foodbank CARC referral figures - In the months of September 2020 – February 2021 Ramsey Foodbank made a total of 21 referrals to CARC. 4 of the referrals out the 21 referred will no longer need Ramsey Foodbank support.

ACTS435

Acts 435 is an online giving charity, directly connecting those who want to give with those who are in genuine need of their help, through a network of local churches and charities. St Thomas a Becket church is registered with Acts 435. We have used Acts345 to purchase a phone for a homeless foodbank clients.

We need more Acts 435 advocates for Ramsey Foodbank and Revive who will be trained by ACTS435. Anyone interested in becoming and Acts 435 advocate, email me leo@ramseysandupwood.org

Grant funding

The Lambe shed (Portacabin) is our Warehouse generously provided by Les Jones a landowner on a caravan site. The Warehouse is made of timber, it is constantly in need of repair and it is on its last legs. In March, 2021 I have been successful in applying for a £5000 DEFRA grant with the help of Community Development Officer Amanda Turner to purchase a new/second hand portacabin.

Community Bus - In the first lockdown, Ramsey Neighbourhood Trust funded the fuel costs of the community bus to make food deliveries to foodbank clients for the first 4 months. Thank you to RNT for providing such invaluable support to Ramsey Foodbank & Ramsey town communities clients in need of vital food deliveries.

Once the generous RNT funding came to an end, Ramsey Town Council have funded the community bus operation. Thanks to Roger Brereton who has been a voice for Ramsey Foodbank at the Town council meetings and a massive thank you to Ramsey Town Council.

Heron Foods Charity Donation - Veronica secured £250 worth of Heron Food vouchers that can be spent on vital supplies.

Annie Wells is looking for funding for electric van, she also looking for accommodation for Ramsey Foodbank centre and funding for an accommodation space for Ramsey Foodbank.

Foodbank Client testimonies

Homelessness – S had ongoing long-term homelessness since 2004. S got a personal housing plan with HDC after I took him to HDC last year. Journeying S into housing was a difficult road of many lows and highs. It's a story of patience, persistent determination on both sides to see him flourish. Good news in October 2020 S got into a rental accommodation with Huntingdon District Council. S turnaround from homelessness into secure rental accommodation is a story of collaboration with Probation service, Ramsey Informer newspaper, Ramsey Neighbourhood Trust, Ramsey Deputy Mayor and Huntingdon District Council.

I referred J to P3, J also had historic homelessness but now he has secure housing provided by HDC February 2021.

Wednesday Night Live Report August 2020 – May 2021

Wednesday Night Live connect Zoom services has helped attendees to grow in their faith, keep connected and coped well during the lockdowns.

We are delighted to have some young adults and friends from Sacred Heart Church Ramsey attend the services. Additionally we continue to have two of our attendees from Bognor Regis and Lancashire join WNL on Zoom. We continue to have a rich fellowship, prayer, testimonies of breakthroughs and connection with Jesus Christ.

WNL services will continue until July 14th 2021, when we'll break up for summer holidays. After summer, we will start back on the 15th September 2021 meeting face to face.

Anyone and everyone is welcome, do extend the invitation to WNL to those in the Ramsey area and let's connect and grow together.

Leo Orobor

Parish Safeguarding Officer's Report

I have been in the position of Parish Safeguarding Officer/DBS Checker since June 2019, and the past year has been a difficult year for all Churches and the role of safeguarding has been no different. DBS checking and safeguarding training has had to be done online as there has been no face-to-face contact. The Ely safeguarding team was working from home so had limited access. However, safeguarding networking and updating has taken place on Zoom. Some good has come out of the lockdown, not least, a lot of the training required for certain roles in the church can now be done online, which means travel is kept to a minimum and saves everyone's time. It is likely that DBS checks and training will be required to be renewed every three years in future. Dates are constantly under review and reminders sent out when required.

Now that we are on the pathway to opening up the Church and some of the activities can start again, it is important for all those people requiring Safeguarding Training that they undertake the various modules relevant to their roles and notify me when completed. Free training is available through the Diocese of Ely Safeguarding website. Modules C0 (Basic Awareness) and C1 (Foundation) can be completed online, whilst Leadership (C2), Safer Recruitment (S1) and Responding to Domestic Abuse (S3) is currently carried out via Zoom and can be booked through the Ely Diocese Safeguarding website.

In order to assist all Church bodies to ensure they follow the Church of England's safeguarding policy statement, 'Promoting a Safer Church', the Parish Dashboard IT system is being used to provide an Action Plan for the PCC and is reviewed on a regular basis. If anyone has any safeguarding concerns or wants more information about training or anything related to safeguarding, please contact me on 01487 814984 or email safeguarding@ramseysandupwood.org

Jane Cusworth
Parish Safeguarding Officer

Bell Ringers Report

This report is made as Covid-19 restrictions on social activities continue into their second year, including the ringing of church bells.

We were able to ring a farewell quarter peal of Grandsire Doubles on the retirement of Canon Revd. Richard Darmody on the last Sunday before the churches had to close.

During the initial springtime weeks of the pandemic meetings regularly took place on practice nights on Abbey Green where we tried to practice our methods on hand bells. During the latter part of 2020 following an improvement in the national pandemic statistics, and in accordance with the risk assessment agreed with the churchwardens, under strict conditions of hygiene we were able to ring all six bells for Sunday service. We also rang for a small number of weddings, including that of one of our ringers and her husband, a promising learner ringer.

We were able to ring for our new Rector, Revd Iain Osborne's induction service when he tolled a bell to signify his ownership of the bells.

On Remembrance Sunday and Armistice Day although all six bells could not be rung, a bell was tolled.

With the onset of the 2nd wave of the pandemic regular ringing then ceased once again before Christmas 2020 and this situation continues at the time of writing (April 2021). Ringing of a single bell is allowed, so a five-minute call bell is rung for Sunday Service.

The passing bell has been tolled before the funerals of Margaret Brown, Peter Chamberlain, and one of our own ringers, Peter Warboys.

Again, the bell was tolled before the minute silence prior to the funeral of HRH the Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh.

Throughout this difficult time our Ramsey ringers have kept in touch, albeit often at reduced level, whilst always offering their service to the limit legally allowed and under challenging conditions, such as wearing face coverings. This included maintaining in good condition the ringing room and the bells themselves and demonstrates a continuity of

dedication that will surely enable regular ringing to resume as soon as it is safe to do so. For this, the joint tower captains are most grateful to their fellow ringers.

Following the Central Council of Church Bellringers guidelines, we hope that May 17th will see the resumption of regular bellringing.

Paul Kneller and Cathy Moulton

STaB's provision for the Care Homes

We continued to provide monthly services at The Red House and The Manor House on the first and last Wednesdays of the month respectively, as we had for years, until the Covid pandemic. Numbers of residents and visitors attending services at both Homes remained steady at about 22 at The Red House and about 14 at The Manor House. Our excellent team comprised Sheena Allen, who sings, Margaret Bailey, from the Methodists, who plays the keyboard, Betty Gilbert and our most recent recruit, Diana Lucas, who joined in early 2020. "Many thanks" to them for their support, helping the residents to follow the services and join in. The residents and their visitors certainly seemed to appreciate it. Increasingly over 2019 and 2020 we were asked to visit bedridden residents to give Bedside Communion and I was asked to give comfort to the dying. This included additional visits to residents, who had been members of STaB.

Just before the 1st Lockdown in March, 2020, I was contacted by the Red House, Ramsey, and The Manor House, Upwood, to inform us that we would no longer be able to visit the Homes because only medical staff would be allowed in. So services stopped. Instead, I provided devotional material that could be photocopied and given to the residents, as they would be largely confined to their rooms. I followed the lectionary readings for the Church seasons but during Ordinary time, I varied the material, to provide Favourite Prayers, Morning and Evening Prayers and Reflections on favourite Psalms.

Before Richard Darmody retired, he asked me to keep a watching brief on Florence House as well, where Judith Hyde had been distributing Holy Communion pre-Covid. Given that we were no longer allowed to go into the Care Homes, I offered to send devotional material to them as well, which they welcomed.

In November 2020, the new 'Well Being Manager' at the Manor House contacted me and asked for something for Remembrance, which I had planned anyway. I included a simple Act of Remembrance including Binion's words. She was delighted and reported she had held a service with both residents and staff which they had really appreciated. From then on I have provided material comprising a Reflection and a Short Worship Service, suitable for individuals or groups and fortnightly instead of monthly. I have received expressions of gratitude from both staff and residents.

We look forward to the Care Homes opening up post-Covid and hope to resume monthly face-to-face services.

Vicki Latter

Cleaning Team Report

- With almost a year of lockdown 2020 has seen little change to the cleaning rota or team.
- Currently we have 12 cleaners who volunteer, all but one from our regular congregation.
- For the whole of the church to be covered every week of the year we need **another 12 volunteers** to join us.
- Please contact me if you or anyone you know give 90 mins per month to help clean our church building.
- The rota is divided into five areas of the church building so that each is a manageable size.
- There is an expectation that the church building be ready for use and cleaning is an essential.
- We owe thanks to the commitment of the church cleaning team and the work they carry out.

Rachel Thompson, Coordinator

Craft Evenings Report

During the past 12 months of socially distancing ourselves our Craft Evenings have not necessarily as regular as once a month.

We continued to have Zoom gatherings to reach those that may have enjoyed a social time whilst crafting, and simply to keep in touch. Whilst we have not had the numbers we were used to when we meet face to face, it has still been a valuable time of fellowship. Lately we have met monthly, with regular and new attendees.

Ideas blossomed for a winter project to benefit the charity Knit for Peace (<https://knitforpeace.org.uk/knit-for-good/donate-goods/>) based in London who work with marginalised sections of society.

As a result, some have been lovingly knitting brightly coloured strips keeping in mind the marginalised whose need is for such items. When strips are complete, they are sewn together to create a colourful blanket, referred to as an Afghan blanket. One is complete now and another is soon to be. We will then ask for these to be blessed by Iain before we sent them on.

The attendees have also been involved in helping formulate a media campaign to say “Thank you” to those younger people in our community who have sacrificed much during the pandemic to keep the older people safe from Covid 19. This is work in progress – watch out for the progress!

We look forward to being able to meet in person again, and as long as the rules allow, we are aiming for walks in the summer months enjoying the God given natural world that so often inspires creativity.

New members always welcome, and those willing to bring a craft to demonstrate and for us to try!

Perhaps September 2021 will see us resuming our face-to-face meetings. We do hope so.

Judith Hyde and Rachel Thompson

Finance and Fabric Report

During the past year, despite many months when the church building has been shut, we have been working to ensure that our building is well maintained and that we can source the funds for any necessary repairs.

We have noticed several minor problems with our new ramp and, as it was under warranty so to speak, we have been working with the architect and builders to rectify these. They have now been fixed and the project has been signed off. Work has also been undertaken on the repairs identified in our 2019 quinquennial inspection. For those not familiar with the legal working of the church, every 5 years church buildings are inspected by the architect and a report produced identifying repair work that needs to be undertaken and the urgency of these repairs. As you can imagine, these reports are awaited with some trepidation as they can often bring up expensive and urgent repairs – witness the need to re-roof the tower in our last inspection! Fortunately this one was not too bad, with lots of re-pointing etc and, thanks to hard work by Shan our churchwarden we received a grant to cover the cost of most of this.

Many of you will have spotted that we now have new notice boards in church. We had wanted to replace the board outside the church but unfortunately did not receive approval from the diocese so instead it has been taken down and refurbished.

Currently we are looking at 2 important items. The first is to replace the heater in the kitchen which has been malfunctioning and becomes dangerously hot. Hopefully this work will be done soon. The second is to sort out the problems with our new sound system and look to install audio-visual screens for which we have received a grant.

Finally I would like to thank everyone who is involved in ensuring that our church and grounds are kept clean and well maintained. We have volunteers who clear the gutters, sweep the leaves, cut back overhanging branches and paint the walls, plus of course our cleaners. You all know who you are and we are very grateful for all you do.

Lesley Barker

Becket Flower Group Report

Our flower rota duties have resumed now that there are regular services in church.

If there is a fete, Becket Flower Group hopes be there with a stall.

A Flower Festival is penciled in for August Bank Holiday weekend and planning has commenced. We will not order any flyers or materials though until we see the Roadmap out of Lockdown working to plan. Sponsorship from business in the town may be problematical as many of the shops, etc have been forced to close for so many months. We will approach only those who were allowed to stay open in the hope that they can help. We also still hold funds donated by Friends of Becket Flower Group for 2020 Festival and this is ringfenced for Festival 2021. However, it is 2 years since our last fundraiser event so our day to day operating funds are running down while we plan another, maybe in Spring 2022 and possibly a multi-media art exhibition and coffee shop.

Becket Flower Group

Fundraising Report

Uganda appeal

Due to the pandemic restriction the Christmas and Easter card donations had to be adapted. Christmas cards were still put onto the board at the back of the church after being left in a box for 72hours. £110 was raised, £29:10p less than last year.

As the church had only opened again on Palm Sunday it was difficult to publicise for Easter donations but £20 was raised.

Cathy Moulton

Shoe box appeal (Love in a Box)

Due to the Covid-19 regulations our boxes could not join those at the Methodist church as in previous years but £125 + 29 boxes from St Thomas a Becket were taken straight to the collection point in St Ives. 265,975 boxes were sent from the UK. Delivery of many of the boxes has been delayed but the Liberian containers arrived a couple of weeks ago.

Thank you again for your generosity. We are part of a HUGE outpouring of love.

Cathy Moulton

Hinchingbrooke Hospital Chapel Support Team

1. Since the formation of the newly merged trust involving Hinchingbrooke, Peterborough and Stamford Hospitals (to form the North West Anglia NHS Foundation Trust) chapel volunteers have had to go through the hospital's official induction and safeguarding process before being allowed to interact with patients. The Ramsey Chapel Support Team are normally rostered for two Sundays in the year; however, our volunteers can (and do) also provide assistance on an individual basis on other occasions during the year (e.g. Christmas and Easter).

Current Situation

2. As reported last year, few of our previous volunteers opted to undertake the DBS check and new training. Further, two of our volunteers have now moved away and we are now reduced to having only two members of the congregation who have fully completed the required process.
3. If we wish to continue this important service as representatives of the Ramsey parish, if and when chapel services resume post pandemic, then we must have a larger pool of volunteers. Despite requests in previous years we still do not have a sustainable team of eight but preferably 10 people from the parish who have completed the induction process, including the hospital's DBS checks. These numbers would be necessary in order to provide sufficient contingency in the event of team members' non-availability due to sickness or other commitments to meet the preferred complement of 6 team members available for each chapel visit.

Decision Required

4. Accordingly, in these circumstances, we as a church community need to decide whether or not to continue fielding a chapel support team for when the hospital chapel services resume. If we are not able to do so with sufficient numbers to sustain the required level of support then the hospital chaplaincy team would need to be notified so that they can make alternative roster arrangements for Ramsey's share of slots.

Mike & Sandy Boyles

Mission Committee 2021

Despite all the problems caused by the pandemic we are regularly updated on the progress of our sponsored children by Ken and Rachel from FNKD who are in daily contact with their workers on the ground in Uganda. Moses is now back in school and studying for his O levels and Annicent has started university at Mbaraba. Johnson, the youngest of our sponsored children, is growing and thriving. Thanks to the help of those members of St Thomas a Becket who donate regularly we have been able to cover the school and university fees of our children, provide any necessary equipment and also send a Christmas gift of a food hamper to their families. If you would like to join this group of supporters then do please contact us. In February we put out an appeal for knitted items to be sent to Uganda and the response from our knitters has been great and as soon as we are able we look forward to sending these items to Uganda.

This year we said farewell to Di Pitts from our committee as she has moved to Lowestoft and Jo Latter, our treasurer and one of our original committee members, has retired from the committee. Sadly we also lost one of our long-term and original supporters when Lesley Harding died of covid. We are pleased to welcome Val Molloy to our committee but there is always room for at least one more so do get in touch if you would like to join us.

It is now 11 years since our work for Kybagashe School started with a sponsored walk from Ely to Carrow Road. Later this summer a small group, including Martin and Lesley, will be walking from Ely to Cambridge to raise money for one of the schools in the area. Be warned – we will be looking for sponsors!

Martin Muir
Lesley Barker

Music Report

I am pleased that the choir did manage to sing at services between lockdowns last year, especially at Christmas. At the time of writing we have one cantor but we wait for better times so that we all can sing safely, including the congregation.

Thanks to those members who recorded music at home or who came to church to record for the online services. Thanks also to those who were 'thrown in at the deep end' to edit and layer the recordings.

The organ has not been affected by long periods of not being played and I was pleased to be able to try it out at regular intervals.

Neville Palmer

The Reordering Committee report

Our year has been, like many others the quietest we have known since our existence, coupled with the fact that The Reordering Committee purpose will no doubt change due to some clash in direction with Fabric and Finance also dare I mention the Pandemic! seeing many regulars events cancelled.

However, your Committee has kept in touch and certain areas have been completed. For example, David Cusworth has carried out the main issues ref the Ramp, you will notice the glass panels go all the way to the bottom with easier access at the foot, enabling wheelchairs to have direct entry to the body of the Church.

David has spent endless hours in discussions with the Contactors and Architect's ref' the wooden floor expansion issues. On our behalf & we thank him for his dedication.

During the year 3 of our planned Concerts were cancelled also we were unable to hold the "50/50 Auction on the Green" together with two Quizzes.

This has had a severe impact on the Church's finances. There is much ground to be made up!

We therefore go forward in a positive manner and have booked the Somersham Town Band for December (date to be Confirmed by Janet Reed) who sits on the committee together with Douglas Crane, Jo Latter, Sylvia King (Sec').

Richard Hyde MBE (Chairman)

Toddler Time Group

Dear friends,

St Thomas a Becket Toddler group meets term time on Monday's from 9.30am-10.30am. We welcome children from 0-5 years, with their parents, Grandparents, carers and child minders.

We follow the Christian calendar to plan our sessions we light a candle to show that 'Jesus is the light of the world'.

During the Toddler Time we sing Christian songs and nursery rhymes and our families join in. We read stories and make a craft to support our weekly theme. We all enjoy refreshments and finish with a special song.

We set up a private facebook group about 5 years ago; this has proven invaluable during the Covid pandemic.

We have used this group as a contact for our families; everyone opened up on how they were feeling throughout the past year. We have been able to offer to support and encouragement to each other.

We decided to put together 'Goodie bags' for our families. These were carefully planned and we used our Toddler Plan as a guide. We delivered them by hand to their homes. A craft was designed and prepared for the families to do, such as Lanterns to decorate at Christmas and a Lent journey planner to complete as a family.

We weighed out ingredients and packaged them; we posted videos on our group with cookery demonstrations for the families to follow and to bake together.

We encourage our families to post their photographs of their crafts, singing, baking, colouring, it has been so uplifting for everyone. We have had wonderful feedback but most of all thanks from our Toddler families that we have made such an effort to keep in contact.

In between lockdowns we carefully planned a weekend afternoon session at the church with social distancing as a priority, families were allocated a table 'bubble' to enjoy and complete activities. This is something we may try in the future as it enables working Mum's and Dad's to be involved too.

We feel we have helped the toddlers and their families and they know we're all here if they need us. They're part of the Church family.

Kind regards

Judith Hyde, Pip Cadman & Jayney Marsland