

2019 St John's Church Wardens Report

At last year's AGM, we were "enthusiastically and unanimously elected and welcomed" and what a full and busy year we've had! We joined the wonderful clergy team of Paddy, Brian, Kate and John, the loyal partnership of deputy wardens, Peter and Fiona and a great group of people on the DCC, especially including Sarah - our administrator.

In the first half of course, we still had Paddy and Ann with us and there were so many events to look forward to, with a mixture of new plans and regular, longstanding ones. Everyone was very patient with us as we picked up the reins.

Some of the highlights are the Christian Aid Big Brekkie, the Village Fete, the St Catherine's Hospice Midnight walker's visit, Camp, Holiday Club and Paddy and Ann's final service and leaving party.

It's lovely to know Paddy and Ann are settling well in Cranleigh.

The second half brought the start of the Interregnum or Vacancy. Locally, many churches are also in Vacancy and realistically the pool of available Clergy is small. We are so blessed to have Brian, Kate and John and value their excellent lead at our services. It really saves us from spending hours searching for cover. The Autumn was even more fast paced but we were so blessed to see the church responding to the Vacancy in such a united and active way. Even the challenge of Church Suite following the introduction of GDPR, has worked well. We think we are all seeing the versatility of it with communicating on the rotas etc.

Highlights in this half are the Children's groups' relaunch, Women of the Bible sketches, Harvest, Glow Wild party, the 100th Armistice Anniversary and Remembering Loved Ones services, the Carol Service, Nativity play, Christingle, and other Christmas services.

2019 began with planning for and holding the 'Who are we?' meeting. The thoughts and comments from that will be valuable for producing the Profile (effectively the job advert) as part of the search for our new vicar. Connected with this is the Team Ministry Review which was conducted during February and March. This unexpected task resulted from the Horsham Team Parish rector, Guy Bridgewater's move to Bath Abbey and has led to the recommendation that St John's becomes its own parish. Meanwhile, further administration has included the renewal of the Electoral Roll, showing all those who are part of St John's and it is good to know that our numbers have risen.

As we look ahead, we shall rejoice again with Easter services, we have the Profile to finalise and the expectation of the new parish plans to work on.

We couldn't have done even half of what we've done without the constant support, love and prayer of the congregation and as we are all aware, there is still more to do. We look forward to working alongside everyone at St. John's as we continue to serve our loving and faithful God together.

Liz New and Anne Mellor

Wardens