

TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT and FINANCIAL REPORT

For the year ended 31st December 2021

**The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish
of Southbourne with West Thorney**

Registered Charity no. 1130876



**75 local children and young families received free
food and essential supplies during lockdown**

***"Thank you all so much for all the time and effort you have put in to
helping us"***

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St John's Church,

Church Office, Stein Road, Southbourne, Hampshire PO10 8LB

St Nicholas Church

West Thorney, Emsworth

Website: www.stjohnssouthbourne.com

Incumbent: The Revd Matt Luff

The Vicarage, 271 Main Road, Southbourne PO10 8JE

Independent examiner: Mr E Thompson

Bankers: Lloyds Bank

Havant Branch, 4 West St, Havant, Hants PO9 1PE

Trustees

During the year, the following served as members of the Parochial Church Council and as trustees:

Incumbent: The Revd Mathew Luff- Chairman

Church Wardens: Jon Robinson
 Sue McNeill

Elected Members: Sarah MacLennan- PCC Secretary
 Alan McNeill – Treasurer
 Christine Liddle – Safeguarding officer
 Jane Inglis
 Julie Fair
 James Webb
 John Temple

For St Nicholas: Andy Walkley
 Rupert Lucas

Deanery Synod Representatives:
 Tim Marsden
 Barbara Wilson
 Anne Poulter

Co-opted members
 Kim & Richard Carter

Trustees Report

2021 was a challenging year for us all with many answers to big prayers.

Covid lockdown caused the church to be closed for the early part of the year which forced us to move services on line and also produce a Daily Reflection which was emailed to members of the congregation. Zoom was once again a great blessing for keeping everyone in touch and enabling groups to keep going.

There were concerns that church attendance and giving would drop during this period but in fact church members worshiped regularly on line in the comfort of their own homes and continued to support the church generously.

From January to July a 'Free Shop' was set up and opened every week to help those in need which was staffed by church members and local volunteers. The idea was that people could choose the food they liked and wanted and we are pleased to say that the system worked really well. The shop was stocked with tinned and dry goods, fresh vegetables and fruit and cakes as well as chilled items. These goods were donated by members of the church, bought with money given for this purpose and generously provided by the charity UK Harvest. Over 75 local children and young families received regular food and essential supplies, all free, during lockdown.

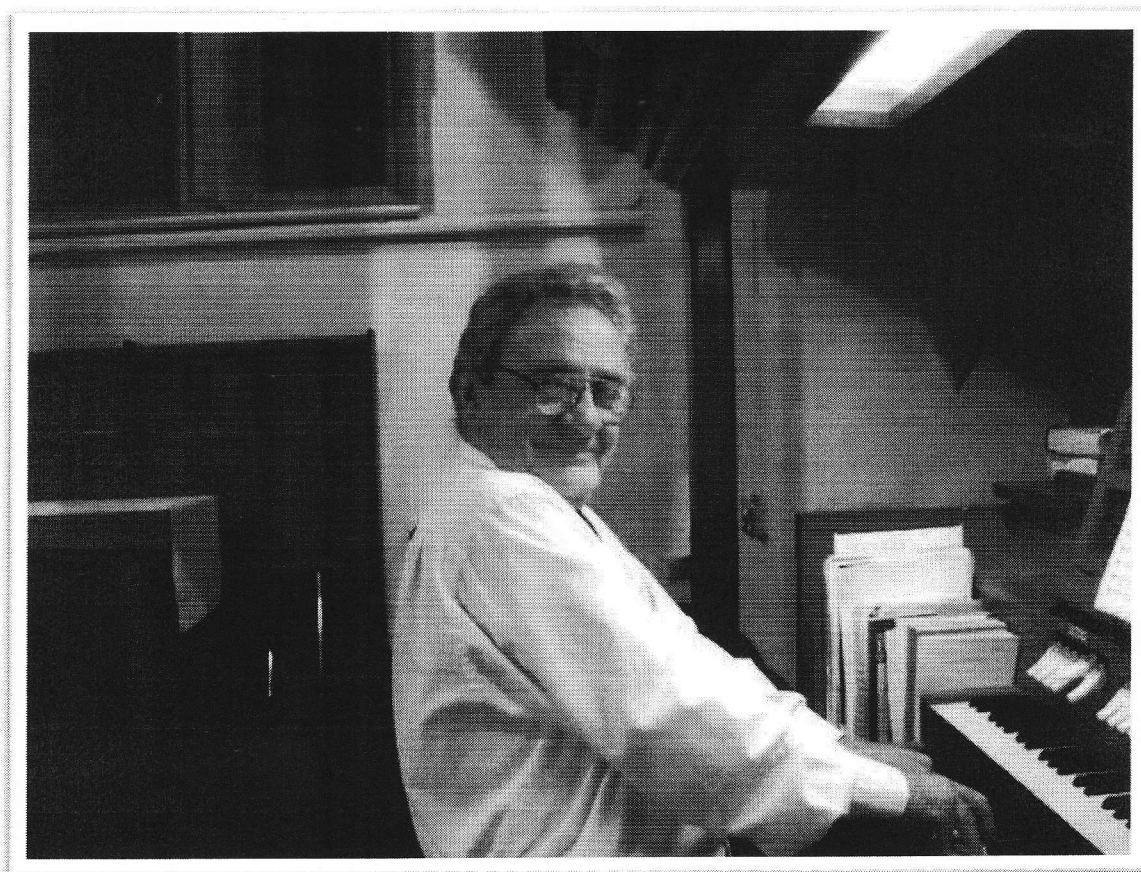
'Free Stuff' was a swap shop run at the same time by volunteers with toys, books, clothes and larger items all donated and swapped between users of the Free Shop and local community. The church also became a library for the local community with hundreds of donated books and toys to encourage everyone during lockdown.

In May there was a serious accident in church involving a member of the congregation. Daily prayer meetings were held for their recovery and by the end of the year they are much better. The prayer meetings continue and have been an unexpected blessing in the year.

As a result of the accident and subsequent investigation the church was closed for repair works. We took the opportunity to do some of the Quinquennial repair work including rewiring and the church only opened again just in time for the Christmas Day service. Thanks to everyone who gave of their time and skills to enable this to happen. It was testimony to our rigorous culture of safeguarding and risk assessment that HSE found no case for us to answer.

While the church was closed, we were fortunate to be able to use St Nicholas church for weddings, baptisms and regular services. It was also possible to hold services in the church centre and outside when the weather was good, as well as at Chidham Primary School for the Family Service. We are very encouraged that the Family Church attendance has grown significantly throughout the year despite these trying times.

Tribute to Mark Everson



We are very sad that our dear friend Mark has passed away. He served as Church Warden and Organist and was a PCC member for many years. He also served Southbourne community as Vice Chairman on the Parish Council for a number of years.

Mark was always ready with a smile and a kind word. We will miss his sense of humour which he often expressed in his playing and mimicry of TV characters.

We are pleased that an appeal has raised the funds to erect a memorial bench for him next to the church entrance.