

TEAM REPORTS

APCM

St John's Church
Southbourne

St Nicholas' Church
West Thorney

27th April 2022

Audio Visual

It has been a challenging year for the audio visual team. The closure of the church building initially due to the pandemic and more recently due to the refurbishment following the accident last May has meant we needed to move services into the centre and/or online. Much work was done to gather video content and assemble it into a format which could be made available for viewing online. When in-person services resumed in the centre we needed to offer a mobile and cut-down sound desk which was easy to set up and operate. Jon Robinson rose to this challenge and offered huge amounts of his time, as well as his personal equipment and expertise, to get us set up with a simplified sound desk.

More recently, following the reopening of the church building around Christmas 2021, we have needed to reestablish the sound desk set up from scratch. Again Jon Robinson led this effort, ably supported by Martin Fair and many others.

On the visual front, we have also recently implemented new software to display screens at the front of church, using the new wiring installed as part of the refurbishment of the church building. Gill Prosser has almost single-handedly set everything up and got it to the point where others can now be asked to assist.

We are most grateful for the enthusiasm and ingenuity which Jon, Martin, Gill and others shown as they set about providing a good audio visual experience at St. John's. Their service of all of us through long hours of behind-the-scenes work is very much appreciated.

The audio visual team is always willing to welcome new members if you would like to serve the congregation in this way. Our focus is to make operating the sound desk and displaying the necessary words amazingly simple. We have reached a point where no previous experience is needed and everything is easy to use! Please contact me if you would like to consider getting involved in this way.

Ian Maclennan

Book Group

There is very little to report over the last 12 months because for the majority of that time we were meeting via Zoom. Some members did not join in these discussion groups because they could not cope with this type of meeting. Since October we have begun meeting again in person, having divided the original group into 2, one group meeting in the afternoon & the other during the evening of the 3rd Thursday in the month. Each member is now taking a turn in choosing the titles to be read and discussed, and this is proving popular and giving us a wider variety of subject matter to read.

We enjoyed a New Year's lunch at Northney Farm Cafe, and our membership now stands at 19.

Jenny Bond

Befriending

Due to Covid 19 the past year has been very quiet. There were no requests for visits and due to changes in the lives of the volunteers the team now only consisting of three people.

With Covid numbers reducing and clubs and activities opening up again the decision to advertise the service was taken. This has resulted in a couple of contacts. Unfortunately this did not result in anything we were able to help with but signposting to other services was offered.

The service will continue to advertise and a decision on whether to continue or not will be taken later in the year.

Sandy Barton

Coffee Connect

"Here to connect the community"

As a consequence of Covid 19 Coffee Connect was unfortunately unable to operate in 2021. The volunteers are looking forward to our reopening as soon as the numbers of Covid cases reduces to a safer level.

We would like to thank all those members of the team who have now stepped down and we are pleased to be welcoming some new members. If you would be interested in joining the team please have a word with Barbara Wilson.

Barbara Wilson, Julie Collins, Diana Blain
(Coffee Connect Management Committee).

Craft Club

For Craft Club the year started very tentatively on 29th July 2021 when we met in the garden for the first time since lockdown, with our own chairs and thermos flasks, but with much joy at seeing each other again. As rules relaxed we moved back into the Centre but into the lounge, where ventilation is easier and there are no tables to be moved, rather than upstairs as before.

For various reasons we now meet just once a month on a purely social basis with no organised activities. We have no firm plans at the moment to go back to our pre-pandemic programme but we hope to increase what we do gradually. Our membership is less than this time two years ago but we have about twenty-five who attend each month. Janice Collett, Daphne Mann, Anne Poulter, Sue Whewell, Sue Hall, Margaret Bowman. Rose Franklin.

Children and Family Work

INTRODUCTION:

Within this past twelve months the Families & Youth ministry has been through almost constant re-adaption and change due to the pandemic. This report is an attempt at describing this complex and at times frustrating journey.

SUNDAY FAMILY CHURCH AT 4pm STAGE 1:

WEEKLY: Sunday 4pm – 5pm

The Sunday Family Church at 4pm continued to run. In April 21 Kim

and I began facilitating the transition from Zoom provision back to 'a live service' held outside on the church lawn. This service continued to grow

FAMILY CHURCH AT 4pm STAGE 2:

FROM: October 21 – December 21

WEEKLY: Sunday 4pm – 5pm

As the weather deteriorated and the COVID guidance changed to allow inside gatherings Kim began exploring an alternative 'inside' location as St. John's was closed due to the accident & renovation. Due to Richard's relationship with Chidham Primary School and their open policy to churches requesting use of their hall, Kim was able to secure Chidham Paroachial Primary school hall and grounds as an alternative location for Family Church at 4pm for **FREE!** This was the new home for this service until December 21 and the congregation continued to grow & blossom here.

FAMILY CHURCH AT 4PM STAGE 3:

WEEKLY: Sunday 4pm – 5pm

As the renovations were completed in the church the first service inside St. John's was Christmas day 2021 and was a real cause for celebration. This was the new era for the Family Service as it had completed the transition from outside, to a school and now in the church.

Later, Kim made the executive decision to re-brand Family Church to 4 o'clock Church so as to be inclusive to all.

Again, God has been gracious and the service has continued to attract more families to St. John's. Not all have made St. John's their spiritual home but it is fantastic to see that 'word of mouth' about this service has spread. At it's height the congregation size was over 100 people. It is fair to say that with the warmer weather we have seen a slight drop in numbers but also we have seen an uptake of people from the 10am

service coming to the 4pm which is lovely.

THE AIM OF THE 4PM SERVICE:

It is important for us to remember the aim behind the 4pm service.

(a): This service originated, evolved and grew within the pandemic and has become this congregation's pattern of worship for those who attend.

(b): The timing of this service means that there is no competition for families over sports, family commitments, recreation and worship.

(c): Due to the pandemic many people have now developed new patterns and priorities for their Sunday's and the 4pm service doesn't seem to interfere with these.

ST. JOHN'S TOTS:

PARTICIPANTS: Pre-school children and their parents/care givers.

TOTAL NUMBER OF PARENT/CARE GIVERS: 16

TOTAL NUMBER OF CHILDREN: 30

AVERAGE NUMBER PER SESSION: 30 PEOPLE

WEEKLY PROVISION: Thursday's 10am – 11:45am

St. John's tots was reinstated as a 'live' parent/care giver and pre-school provision in September 21. This has been steadily growing. The leadership team for toddlers is Kim & Richard Carter supported by Susanna Shaw

FRIDAY FELLOWSHIP:

OCTOBER 21 to CURRENT DATE

BI-WEEKLY: Friday 3pm – 5:30pm

TOTAL NUMBER OF ADULTS: 17

TOTAL NUMBER OF CHILDREN: 28

AVERAGE NUMBER PER SESSION: 25 – 35 people

The ethos and emphasis is on family provision rather than exclusive children groups. Since Friday Fellowship began in October 21 it is safe to say that we are still experimenting with the content.

AIM:

The aim of FRIDAY FELLOWSHIP was to have a mid-week provision for families where adults and children could build fellowship, friendship & spirituality.

What the team didn't expect was for it to become an outreach and entry point into the life of the church, yet, this is what has organically transpired. 38% of the total amount of people who come to Friday Fellowship don't come to church. With sixty percent of these having a first contact with the church through TOT's and then coming to Friday Fellowship.

Now Friday Fellowship has a dual aim of building Fellowship, friendship & spirituality in the families who already come to the 4pm service as well as being a bridge builder between Tots and the wider church and our local Infant and Junior school and the wider church. This is really exciting.

ASSEMBLIES:

Richard is regularly taking assemblies at both Southbourne Infant and Junior school with the latter being the main beneficiary of assemblies. Richard conducts between 2 - 3 assemblies a month at present.

YOUTH STAGE 1:

SUNDAY MORNINGS:

ST. JOHN'S YOUTH GROUP – Sunday 10am outside.

SCHOOL YEARS: 5-8

GROUP SIZE: 11 Young people

DURATION: 25 April 21 – 18th July

WEEKLY PROVISION: Sunday 10am – 11:15am

DETAILS:

On 25th April 2021 we began our re-emergence from Zoom content to face to face provision due to the changes in the COVID guidance. Following on from Alpha Youth (that was conducted over Zoom) the

Alpha Youth team continued to meet the same group of young people at the same time on a Sunday morning but now face to face under the umbrella of St. John's Youth Group outside. This provision stopped on 18th July as we wanted to integrate the majority of these young people and families to the 4pm service and the older youth (School year 8+) to the discipleship groups at St. Pancras Church in Chichester (SPC) & Chichester Baptist Church (CBC)

YOUTH STAGE 2:

TRANSITION TO 4PM CHURCH & DISCIPLESHIP GROUP AT ST. PANCRAS CHURCH & CHICHESTER BAPTIST CHURCH (CBC):

With all the constant change during the pandemic Kim and I really needed a period of consistency. We decided upon two things:

(1): That the **Sunday provision** for all children from pre-school to school year 6 (11 years old) would be 4pm Church. Out of the seven young people (in this age category) who had been coming to the Sunday morning Youth group six successfully made this transition.

There are now **twelve** young people who are currently regularly attending 4pm church who are presently in school year 5-6 age group (7-11 years old) which is a real reason to celebrate & give thanks to God.

(2): This left us with four young people in the school year 8-9 age group (13-14 years old). As this is a very small number to create a group and so that they could continue to explore their faith amongst their peers Richard communicated with both parents and other churches in order to create some collaborative working. It seemed that the most obvious collaboration would be with St. Pancras Church in Chichester as we had already successfully worked together on a 'Mini-May Camp' (on Saturday 29th May 21) which was a huge success.

YOUTH STAGE 3:

A YOUTH MENU:

In the end, Richard created a Youth provision menu using the below collaborative provisions:

Sunday Evening Youth Group at SPC.

Tuesday Evening Discipleship Group at CBC.

Both were really successful initiatives.

We were regular seeing all 4 young people regularly attending the Sunday evening youth provision at SPC (and enjoying it) but alas this provision stopped running. This was disappointing and a step backwards for our youth.

The Tuesday CBC Discipleship Group was also successful with two young people attending this provision, which was 50% of this group.

YOUTH STAGE 4:

WHAT NOW?

With the St. Pancras provision ceasing that left two of our young people disconnected from church. Richard continued to communicate with parents and the young people concerned and Richard agreed to create a Sunday Evening Youth Group (SYG) and continue with the Discipleship group (DG) at CBC.

Since its creation SYG now has a nucleus of six young people, all boys and is going really well.

Other areas of ministry.

Kim liaises with the foodbank in Chichester and we are considered a satellite, which means we can provide boxed up food to local families in need – however, since the lift broke down, we are not easily able to access our storage area so for now, we are issuing vouchers. We hope to be able again to provide food boxes for local families.

Kim is now a Governor at Southbourne Infant School. In a recent meeting where the RE policy was reviewed she was able to secure an open door for Richard to come and provide assemblies. There are also various positive links between the school and the church as a result of this.

The Love Your Neighbour scheme continues to bear fruit even now, long after it has concluded. We wanted to protect the dignity of some of the individuals so it's not for this report but if you're interested to hear how God continues to work as a result of this initiative then please see Kim.

Kim is currently undertaking the Dynamics of Biblical Change Course for Leaders.

We are going to New Wine along with other families from St John's and aim to deepen fellowship and discuss spiritual things around the fire and into the night.

Richard and Kim Carter

Deanery Report

Synod met only twice in the year. In June on Zoom and in person in November.

At the first meeting, Jane Wilkinson was elected Lay Chairman; Alyzn Johnston as Lay Representative for the Standing Committee; Jennie Dolman as Deanery Secretary (for the first year only); Revd Lindsay Yates as Chapter Clerk; and Revd Matt Luff as Clergy Representative for the Standing Committee. Peter Rogers was co-opted to the Deanery Synod and appointed Treasurer.

It was reported that outstanding balances had been cleared and that Deanery finances were on track for the current year. Safeguarding training was going well and parishes were getting up to date. Parishes reported on their activities during lockdown.

Revd Lindsay Yates gave a presentation on Living in Love and Faith, and

resources available to help PCCs and discussion groups. Clergy are expected to give a lead and provide a forum for discussion.

Diocese reports that it faces a financial shortfall; it can not continue in its present state; income needs to grow by 10-15% over the next 5 years or they will have to consider redundancies in the parishes.

At the November meeting, there was a presentation by the Diocese on finance at which the deanery was commended for meeting its pledges. The presentation in other respects followed in the same vein as previous years and discussion between Synod members was more robust than usual.

Synod learned that the Rural Dean would relinquish his role in April 2022 and that the Secretary, Jennie Dolman would retire at the end of the meeting.

Tim Marsden.

Fabric

After a busy 2 years and the incident in Church in May 2021 all the main fabric works have now been completed. They are as follows:-

Vestry Re-roofed

Tower repointedd and louvers made good and repainted

Lead work repaired and replaced where necessary

Stonework repaired where necessary

Carpet removed and replaced

New electrical works, including heaters and lighting, emergency lights, now up to the latest codes and standards

Refurbishment to the altar rails and steps

New hand rail by the altar steps

All of these se works required Faculties which have now been granted by the DAC, they have taken up a lot of time and been at significant financial cost to the Church. The work has cost over £35,000, some of which was covered by an insurance claim, the rest of it by Church

Funds.

The major item left to do is the screen/sound system which is under review by a team of people who know about the requirements of the church and how it is used.

Other works carried out include the additional paving around the centre, and the redecoration of some of the rooms in the centre, which will be on going and not part of a faculty

Julian Vallis of Janes Jones Warner has been now appointed our Church Architect and we will be consulting with him on any further work. This includes any changes to be made to the War Memorial.

Thank you to Matt, the Church Wardens, and others who have supported me during this challenging times.

Jane Inglis

Homegroups

St John's has 7 thriving homegroups who meet weekly for bible study, prayer and worship. During the various lockdowns the groups have kept in contact through phone calls, WhatsApp groups, Zoom meetings and outdoor meetings. It is lovely to see that groups are now able to start meeting in person.

Homegroup leaders are grateful for the support they have received from the Preaching Team; the regular notes and question on the Sunday sermons have provided guidance and good discussion starters throughout the year.

If you are interested in joining a group or would like to receive the sermon notes for your personal study, please let me know.

Gill Prosser

Love Southbourne

Unfortunately due to Covid and all the restrictions that have been in place, we have been unable to hold any event.

Susie Bartlett

Mission

2021 was certainly a difficult year for everyone. The combined effect of Covid impacting on our income and the need to undertake urgent repairs to the church prompted some difficult financial decisions from the PCC. As a result, the PCC limited the mission giving to our two main missions, those which we have directly sent from the church; namely Rachel Mande and Callum Adams. Both these families received a grant of £2000 each last year.

Additionally, the pandemic also understandably denied us the opportunity to invite missions to come and talk to us at our services. However, we did arrange for Rachel and Callum separately to 'visit' our iWonder prayer meetings during the year to give us an update on their ongoing work. We also prayed for the persecuted church in November. St Nicholas continued its Island mission by opening up 24/7 as soon as permitted by station covid security regime, closing only Saturday nights after sanitation for the 1030 service next morning. Collections were taken for Chichester Food Bank at Harvest and for SSAFA on Remembrance Sunday. This fellowship is aware that Thorney has a large, young but separate community on our doorstep, with all the domestic challenges plus PTSD. Although they are independently supported, a bridge to the civil community is important, which our joint churches are equipped to offer.

We are hoping to revitalise the Mission Team in 2022, and if anyone has a heart for mission, we would welcome you onto our team.

Martin Fair & Andy Walkley, March 2022

Pastoral Team

As we know, the last year has been difficult for lots of people suffering from loneliness and isolation due to the Covid situation.

As a Church several folk have also suffered other serious illness. We have, too, lost some dear members who have gone to heaven; this is wonderful for them but sad for those who are left. Our love and

concern goes out to them.

Many in the Church have a real ministry of caring for others in distress. They don't often get thanked, but what they do is so appreciated. In particular it is good at this time to thank members of the pastoral team for their ongoing regular and discreet support of vulnerable members.

This is also a good opportunity to thank Eileen Henrick publicly for her valued support and friendship as joint coordinator of the pastoral team until her well-deserved retirement at the end of December.

Rosemary Pearson

Safeguarding

The Parish Safeguarding Group is made up of the following people: -

Revd. Matt Luff	Vicar
Christine Liddle	Parish Safeguarding Officer
Sue MacNeill & Jon Robinson	Church Wardens
Richard & Kim Carter	Children and Families Worker

It should be noted that all PCC members have responsibility for the safeguarding within the church and all hold both a DBS and safeguarding certificate.

Safeguarding files that contain relevant information, policies, and procedures as well as copies of recent risk assessments are held in the church office. They are routinely updated and approved by the PCC. Additionally, essential reading for volunteers & PCC members is now on the church website.

New Guidance from the House of Bishops

The house of Bishop's Safe Recruitment & People Management Guidance was issued in June 2021. It is a revision of guidance issued in 2016. It helps fulfil the church's commitment to promote a safe environment and culture across our community for children, young people & vulnerable adults by setting out safer recruitment &

management processes. It ensures continual vigilance once someone is in role.

As a result of this new guidance, the Diocese SQP (Simple Quality Protects) document and supporting policies were reviewed & updated. The Families team has re-assessed the volunteers process and it was updated to align it with the new guidance. Please ask for further information if you are interested in becoming a volunteer.

DBS applications

As a result of the new guidance, from January 2024; DBS certifications must now be checked/renewed every 3 years rather than 5 years. This means we have a period from **April 2022** to **31st December 2023** to carry out the rechecks needed. A rolling program has been put into place to ensure all current DBS's will be on the new 3-year cycle by the end of 2023 to bring the church into line with the new requirement.

Consequently, by **3rd January 2024, everyone** must have a DBS certificate that has been issued within 3-years. From then onwards all must be on 3-year renewal cycle.

People applying for a DBS will be expected to register for the update service, which is both **free, and easy to use** once the certification process is complete. This will enable the DBS certification to be checked by the safeguarding officer. It will also cut down the cost for the parish and less work for the volunteers.

Safeguarding Training

The change of procedure for obtaining safeguarding training prior to applying for a DBS is working extremely well. It ensures that all volunteers are appropriately covered and can start helping immediately.

The C2 leadership safeguarding course is now accessible online, as are the Basic (C0) & Foundation (C1) courses. Three people from the church have accessed the C2 course online.

One-to one sessions

These were being delivered over zoom weekly. This was very successful. All risk assessment requirements were adhered to. Sessions were planned, and subsequently reported on jointly by the organiser and observer. Issues arising were addressed at the end of each session and adapted. These sessions were very much enjoyed by the recipient during the lockdown periods.

In conclusion, I would like to thank all those who have undergone safeguarding training and DBS checks. This enables our young and vulnerable members of the community to participate in church activities. Your commitment is truly appreciated.

Christine Liddle
Safeguarding Officer

Seniors

We have not held any of our usual events during the past year.

We have a Tea Party planned for 25th March.

We delivered Christmas cards to all the people we usually invite to join us.

Hopefully it will be business as usual from now on.

Diana Blain

Social Team

It has been very difficult to run any social events due to the Covid restrictions, but we did manage to have a Hog Roast in the Autumn for the Church, which was well attended.

Susie Bartlett

St. Nicholas Church

The start of 2021 was marked by Lockdown 3, starting Boxing Day and running through to the Ides of March. No access to St Nicholas on Thorney Island base meant St Nicholas was mothballed. It was strange to be removing our Nativity figures while preparing open for Mothering Sunday.

We were heartened by the arrival of the new station chaplain, Padre Catherine Gillham. Though inhibited while waiting the granting of her permission to officiate in time for Easter, she welcomed participating in our lay-led fellowships, where she got to know us as she began her ministry on the Island. We then resumed a routine of alternate Eucharist and Fellowship services.

The resumption of singing was a great boon for our congregation, though the requirement to sing behind masks muted much of our usual volume. Nobody can tell who's smirking at the wrong words or being wildly out of tune. In general, we had all got used to our Covid-Safe regime by then, many drawing comfort from worship together while the variants raged around us and the vaccine programmes rolled out.

Our summer was punctuated by a series of special services for those catching up with their lives. St Nicholas hosted 7 baptisms, 5 weddings and 2 funerals during the year, a number of them transferring from St Johns during its forced closure from Pentecost to Christmas. One couple had had their service postponed twice before their pre-Omicron nuptials at St Nicholas.

A number of folk from St John's congregation also made the journey down to join us and received a good welcome. Our congregation numbers thus remained resilient, getting close to, but never exceeding our bubble capacity.

We repeated our Harvest Festival theme by taking another special

collection for Chichester Food Bank. Padre Catherine commemorated an All Souls, a Remembrance Sunday and Commonwealth War Grave Cemetery services, with good numbers attending all. A collection was taken for the Sussex branch of the SSAFA.

In fear of a second year of partial opening denting our income stream, it was gratifying to see our congregation responding generously to increase their giving through 2021. Recognising that 2021 is our Quinquennial Report (QR) year, giving directly into the St Nicholas Repair & Renovation Fund went some way to ameliorating the PCC prohibiting our long-standing habit of transferring any the General Fund surplus.

A programme of repair on QR items will start as soon as PCC give the permission to begin the process. The stream of visitors from the coast path continue to show their appreciation of St Nicholas being open to welcome them. Our works programme will allow that to continue.

Notes on St Nicholas Finance

I have been asked how St Nicholas operates financially, given its position on Thorney Island as a Chapel of Ease in the Church of England Parish of Southbourne with West Thorney. We seek to balance the needs of two very different churches within one parish with a transparency for the different interests of the parties who sustain them.

As an old building, St Nicholas' prime costs are fabric maintenance and insurance, while running costs are managed strictly within means. This necessitates keeping a restricted fund (Repair & Renovation) to hold donations (with any repair grants) and; a General Fund through which day to day expenses are managed.

On the merging of the West Thorney & Southbourne parishes in 1980, it was decided to maintain a separate accounting approach to monitor and control the risk to St John's growth from St Nicholas' fabric costs.

Although not strictly in tune with the Diocesan accounting rules, the ring-fence approach offers greater transparency to all parties and has covered the combined parish through some challenging periods: the building of St John's Centre (1993 – 1996) and the renovation of St Nicholas' Tower, Nave Roof and Gable projects (2008-2018). As the Deanery faces more challenges, it seems a sensible approach to monitor finances separately to support decision-making into the future.

Accounts for the Parish follow charities legislation and Diocesan rules, with incomes and costs of both churches combined and published in audited accounts that are submitted to the Charity Commission. A Sub-Account produced annually shows clearly the St Nicholas transactions on a simple basis in a 2-page Statement of Funds.

The Sub-Account shows St Nicholas to be much less than 10% of the parish turnover in normal years, with open plate donations going to the General Fund (GF) and specific donations offered to the Repair & Renovation (R&R) Fund. A parish contribution is made from GF income to the Diocese as part of St John's, being in the same proportion of GF donor income. Tax recovery through Gift Aid provisions is managed at St Johns across open plate, wall box, pink-envelop and bank transfers. Donors may specify the proportion of their giving sent to St Johns GF or St Nicholas GF or the St Nicholas R&R Fund with tax recovery as appropriate. Donor choice encourages generous giving.

Over the past years 2011 to 2020, St Nicholas GF income supported the parish contribution by £27,224.49 while at the same time transferring £25,500.00 to the R&R Fund to lever repair projects' spending of £250,251.82 to secure St Nicholas as a parish asset to serve our parishioners and the Thorney Island military into the 21st century.

You can choose the way in which you wish to support St Nicholas into the future through regular giving, one-off donations or as a bequest. Please specify your preference regarding the General or Repair &

Renovation Funds for your donation, use the forms to confirm any Gift Aid potential and understand the giving options within St Nicholas:

Open Plate during services is for the General Fund, receiving GASD tax recovery on donations of £20 and under;

Wall slot (by main door) for R&R Fund also receiving GASD tax recovery; and Pink Envelops for larger donations over £20 – please mark envelop with GF or R&R and date & sign it for us to collect the tax element.

Please speak to me or the Treasurer for larger donations or thoughts on bequests, or to Jane Inglis, Parish Gift Aid Secretary to update your regular giving sums & preferences.

Andy Walkley

Worship

At the start of 2021 our morning worship was still online, and so we continued to make use of the songs recorded at home by the singing group. I'd like to thank the singers (and the string section) for their tremendous dedication during this time, not just in terms of the actual singing, but also for mastering the technology that was needed to make it all happen.

We were able, for a short period, to hold said services in church, with organ music before and after, in parallel with online worship, then we went back to fully online. Thankfully by this time we had a substantial 'back catalogue' of recorded music which eased both the recording workload for the singers and the editing effort needed to assemble the final versions. We now have over 50 songs in the catalogue, which is quite an impressive achievement, and I know that many people were encouraged not just by the songs, but also by seeing familiar faces on the screen during lockdown.

Later in the year we resumed sung worship in the centre, and this

continued until near the end of the year when we were able to return to the church. We were not able to have a carol service, as the regulations in place made rehearsals virtually impossible, however we did hold a number of Christmas services, with a good selection of carols.

Since returning to (almost) normal worship, several singers have said they now feel more confident when singing, and this could well have been due to having to sing 'solo' during lockdown – an unexpected but welcome outcome.

Mike Prosser