

**ALL SAINTS' CHURCH,  
STRETTON ON DUNSMORE**

**ANNUAL REPORT  
of the Parochial Church Council  
for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> December 2020  
to be presented to the  
ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING ON  
SUNDAY MAY 16<sup>TH</sup> 2021  
VIA ZOOM AFTER THE 10.30AM SERVICE**

**RECTOR: VACANCY**

**CHURCH WARDENS**

Douglas Hutchinson

Amanda Ross

**TREASURER**

Vicky Deasley

**SECRETARY**

Zena Hutchinson

**INDEPENDENT EXAMINER**

Cathy Lisztwan

**BANKERS**

HSBC

Central Board of Finance

**ALL SAINTS' CHURCH, STRETTON ON DUNSMORE**

With **PRINCETHORPE**

to be held on

**SUNDAY 16<sup>TH</sup> MAY 2021**

**VIA ZOOM AFTER THE 10.30AM SERVICE**

**VESTRY MEETING**

Apologies for Absence

Appointment of Clerk to the Vestry Meeting

Appointment of Churchwardens

**ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING**

- 1 Opening Prayers
- 2 Apologies for Absence
- 3 Minutes of APCM 2020
- 4 Matters Arising
- 5 Report of Electoral Roll Officer
- 6 Presentation of Annual Report
- 7 Presentation of financial statements
- 8 Report on the fabric and goods (Terrier and Log Book)
- 9 Report on Safeguarding
- 10 Election of Deanery Synod Representatives
- 11 Election of PCC Members
- 12 Appointment of Sides persons
- 13 Election of independent examiner
- 14 Any Other Business
- 15 Closing Prayers

**MINUTES OF THE VESTRY**  
and  
**ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETINGS**  
**ALL SAINTS CHURCH, STRETTON ON DUNSMORE**  
with  
**PRINCETHORPE**

**Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> October 2020 at 11.45am in All Saints, Church, Stretton on Dunsmore**

**Present:** Douglas Hutchinson, Amanda Ross, Zena Hutchinson, Peter and Barbara Lewis, John and Janet Simmonds, Vicky Deasley, David and Mair Shaw, Janice Robinson, Paulin and Brian Clay, Thelma Cain, Mary Pinchen, Irene Bird, Beverley Suffell, Mike Harcourt

**Apologies:** Rona Freeman, Janet Harcourt, Mary Hughes

A Holy Communion Service preceded the APCM at 10.30am.

**VESTRY MEETING**

Zena Hutchinson was elected Clerk to the Meeting, proposed by Thelma Cain seconded by Mair Shaw.

Appointment of Church Wardens:

Douglas Hutchinson and Amanda Ross were nominated by Mair Shaw and seconded by John Simmonds.

A vote of thanks was given to Douglas and Amanda for working tirelessly with the general running and the fabric of the church.

Douglas and Amanda thanked everyone for their help.

**ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING**

1. **Present:** As the Vestry Meeting
2. **Apologies:** As the Vestry Meeting

The meeting opened with a prayer led by Douglas Hutchinson. Everyone was welcomed.

3. Minutes of APCM 2019 (previously circulated)

The minutes were accepted as a true record having been proposed by John Simmonds and seconded by Vicky Deasley.

4. Matters Arising from APCM minutes 2019 - None.

**A. Church Wardens Report**

1. **Services:** During the pandemic two services per month have been held online via Zoom, alternating with two services per month held in church, which will continue for the time being.

2. **New Incumbent**

Amanda outlined the proposed arrangements for two full-time vicars for the 12 parishes covering the Southern section of the Rugby Deanery area. A map is available on line to

view the different parishes involved. Thurlaston will stay with Dunchurch. The incumbent for our area will live in the house in Thurlaston. An advertisement for the incumbents has not been placed at the moment as there are ongoing discussions to resolve concerns with some parishes in the proposed new areas.

### 3. **St. Cuthbert's**

Money is being held in a Trust Fund from the sale of St. Cuthbert's which will eventually be used to fund a modular building to be erected at the school.

### 4. **Ceiling Works**

A quote for the building work has been accepted and they should be looking at starting the replastering works in the near future.

### **B. Report of Electoral Roll Officer - John Simmonds**

Nothing further to report.

### **C. Presentation of Annual Report - Reports as published and issued.**

1. Treasurer: Many thanks to Vicky Deasley for producing monthly/annual accounts. A big thank you to Brian Clay for keeping the benefice accounts, who is now standing down.

2. Deanery Synod: Meetings are online at the present time. Douglas was prepared to continue as our representative. No one else came forward to be a second representative.

3. A Time of Prayer: During lock down prayer time has been via Zoom online Tuesday morning 9 - 9.30am. Saturday morning prayers 9 - 9.30am continued after lock down operating every other Saturday morning in Church.

Many thanks to Thelma for continuing with the prayer chain. Thelma reported that there were no prayer requests during lock down.

4. Gift Aid: Many thanks to Barbara Lewis for the work she continues to do for Gift Aid.

5. Bells and Bell Ringing - The Bell Ringers have been practising on line during lock down. Many thanks to Peter for dealing with the infestation of flies in the bell tower.

6. Safeguarding: Many thanks to Janice who is now the Benefice Safeguarding Officer. She reported that there had been no incidents during 2019.

An up-to-date Safeguarding Policy is on the notice board and all were in agreement of accepting this policy.

7. Church Cleaning: Many thanks to Maureen for cleaning the church during lock down. A new rota will be circulated from January 2021 to clean the church once a month.

8. Many thanks also to:

Peter for overseeing the upkeep of the churchyard

Kath Bellis for Flowers and Brasses. Kath is unfortunately not well at the moment and Amanda is organising a flower rota operating once a month when the church is open.

Gilly for Good Neighbours Scheme.

Janet for Hospital Lifts & Visits - during lock down we were unable to carry out these visits, the doctors' surgery has now taken on this roll.

Paulin for Men's Breakfast, which unfortunately has not been able to continue at all during the pandemic.

Stretton Ladies Fellowship which hasn't been able to meet during the pandemic.

Alec Ross for taking on the role of Foundation Governor after Katie Waterworth's resignation.

9. Pendulum - Many thanks to Paulin who has now stepped down from the Pendulum team having spent many years being co-ordinator and organising the advertisements in Pendulum. Zena has taken over as overall co-ordinator with Eleanor collating Pendulum after the very sad death of Matthew. Many thanks to Mel Williams who has joined the Pendulum team overseeing the advertisements. Amanda is temporarily editing Pendulum, Vicky continues as Treasurer and Peter continues to organise the distribution of Pendulum. Many thanks to all the volunteers who deliver Pendulum to our homes every month.

During lock down the Parish Council paid and delivered two issues of Pendulum but we will continue to produce Pendulum from October.

Discussions are to take place with the PCC regarding the annual collection of payment for Pendulum and how best to request payment from households in future, rather than the deliverers knocking on doors collecting payment.

It was suggested that we should advertise for someone to take on the role of collating Pendulum every month rather than paying Eleanor for her time taking on this role. This will also be discussed with PCC in the future.

#### **D. Presentation of Financial Statements (previously circulated)**

1. Vicky reported that our income is considerably down on this time last year due to the pandemic. Our parish share has gone up. The ceiling repairs are going to cost more than originally estimated due to the need for a new contractor.

2. Many thanks to Barbara for claiming the Tax Refund on our Gift Aid giving and thanks to those who continue to give.

#### **E. Churchyard**

1. Amanda and Maureen have had discussions with an environmental organisation regarding creating a strip of wildlife garden along the brick wall in the churchyard. They would provide a management plan for the garden once planted and advise on how this area should be mowed to keep it looking appropriate for this part of the churchyard.

Peter Lewis stated that he was against wildlife gardens and reported the roundabout this company have planted in Coventry looks a mess now the flowers had died and wanted his views known to the PCC.

#### **F. Baptisms**

Two families are waiting for the rules to be relaxed.

#### **G. Election of PCC members**

Mair, Zena and Janice have agreed to continue as members of the PCC for another term of office.

#### **H. Election of Independent Accounts Examiner**

All in favour of Cathy Lisztwan continuing as our independent examiner.

#### **I. A.O.B.**

1. The Church Wardens wanted to record thanks to Karen Armbrister for all her work arranging and organising all the Zoom online services.

The meeting ended with the grace.

## **ALL SAINTS CHURCH ANNUAL REPORT 2020**

This report provides the necessary information required by the Charity Commissions and Church of England Canon Law for presentation at the Church's APCM and includes:

- PCC Proceedings
- Church Worship
- The Church's Fabric, Goods and Ornaments including the Churchyard

### **The Parochial Church Council (PCC)**

All Saints PCC has the responsibility in the ecclesiastical Parish of Stretton on Dunsmore with Princethorpe for promoting the mission of the Church in matters pastoral, evangelical, economic and social concerns focusing on three priorities:

### **Worshipping God, Making New Disciples and Transforming Communities**

During the year 2020 the following people served on the PCC:

Church Wardens:	Amanda Ross	
	Douglas Hutchinson	
Elected Members:	John Simmonds	Mair Shaw
	Janice Robinson	Vicky Deasley
	Zena Hutchinson	Thelma Cain

The PCC has been meeting on Zoom during the year due to COVID19 situation. Attendance has been good and our meetings have focused on ways to engage with our community without being able to hold services.

The PCC continued working as part of the Draycote Benefice and combined with churches in Frankton, Bourton and Birdingbury to provide regular online worship during the year.

### **Outreach**

All our usual outreach activities came to a halt in 2020. We have had to come up with new ways to engage and to show that God's love is ever present, even in these challenging circumstances.

We have encouraged charitable giving through online promotion and Pendulum by promoting initiatives such as Christingle and Christian Aid week.

### **Children's Ministry**

HBC was cancelled but Celebrate@4 continued online all year to provide monthly worship for families. Our Nativity in the phone box was also popular with children. Karen and Douglas continued to connect with the children at Knightlow online by providing Zoom recordings for the children to be shown in their classroom.

### **Financial Activities**

Special thanks are due to Vicky Deasley for undertaking the onerous role of Treasurer, to Brian Clay for organising the Benefice Office accounts and to Barbara Lewis for her work with Deeds of Covenant, Planned Giving and the Reclaiming of tax of Gift Aid Giving.

### **Church Worship**

In mid-March 2020 our in-church worship came to an abrupt halt. 'Church is changing but is not closed' was the message we sent out. It took a few weeks to muster our resources and to move online. The benefice purchased a Zoom account and soon we were providing

three services every Sunday as well as Morning Prayer every Tuesday and Night Prayer on Thursdays. We used our website and the 'All Things Stretton' Facebook page to promote our worship.

We are extremely grateful to Rev. David Shaw, who has been writing a weekly reflection on the lectionary readings to discuss at our mid-morning Sunday service. This has proved inspirational to many and has enabled us to explore some fascinating topics in greater depth.

Thanks to the hard work of Karen Armbrister and Ian Francis, we were able to improve the technical quality of our Zoom services, introducing video hymns (with participants muted to allow us to sing!). We provided support to those new to Zoom, enabling new people to join us as lockdown continued. Attendance from across the benefice numbered between 20 and 25 at the mid-morning worship and 5-10 at other times.

We were constantly aware that there were a significant number of regular worshippers unable to access online services. We have done our best to maintain contact through Pendulum, telephone calls and outdoor chats.

Unfortunately, our period "In Vacancy" continued during 2020.

### **The Church's Fabric, Goods and Ornaments including the Churchyard**

The Church building was only used for a limited time due to the COVID19 situation. The churches record including the Terrier and Log Book were updated and the churches goods and ornaments were kept safely with no losses during the year.

Repair works to the ceiling area adjacent to the church organ were progressed when a suitable contractor was found.

In June 2020 the Quinquennial Inspection for the church building was undertaken. The Report indicated no major concerns but a number of items to be undertaken. These will be completed in line with the current restrictions.

### **The Churchyard**

The churchyard was kept in good order throughout the year and thanks go to Bernard Timings for mowing and making it a pleasant and peaceful place during the year.

### **The Parish Office**

Due to the COVID19 situation no progress was made on the construction of a St. Cuthbert's building at Knightlow School. In the meantime, the Parish Office operated partly in the school and off site.

### **Conclusion**

2020 was a difficult and somewhat strange year due to the COVID19 situation and the church still being in vacancy. However, we attempted as far as possible, to keep in touch with our church members and to support the village community within the various challenges. The Churchwardens continued to be committed to keeping the Light of Christ shining in our village throughout the year.

***Amanda Ross & Douglas Hutchinson, Church Wardens***

## **DEANERY SYNOD REPORT 2020**

Deanery Synod meetings were held on three occasions in the past year, two of which in June and November were held online. At these meetings presentations were given on various aspects of the Church community. At the meeting in June a proposal was

presented at Synod for the reorganisation of the Deanery Parishes. This was discussed again at the November meeting. A report on the contents of the meeting was given at our PCC meeting offering the chance for any aspects of the Rugby Deanery to be discussed.

***Douglas Hutchinson, Deanery Synod Representative***

### **SATURDAY PRAYERS**

2020 has been a difficult year for pray-ers to meet together, however, a small group of people have committed to praying for half-an-hour on Saturday mornings. During the pandemic when we have been unable to meet in church these few committed people have prayed at home. When things return to normal it will be an opportunity to meet again in church at 9.00am until 9.30am to spend a short time in worship, meditation and prayer. Everyone is most welcome.

### **PRAYER CHAIN**

There are a number of committed pray-ers across our Benefice who pray regularly for people who are in need e.g. sick, both physically and mentally, those who are recently bereaved, those with long-term illnesses like dementia and physical or mental disabilities, mission etc. It is also important, at this time, for us all to pray for our way forward both within the pandemic and for our future leadership. Prayer requests are kept very confidential and requests can be sent to Thelma Cain 024 7654 3256 or [thelmacaian64@gmail.com](mailto:thelmacaian64@gmail.com). Anyone can pass on prayer requests. There is also a corner in All Saints' church set aside for quiet reflection and prayer as well as a prayer board for requests.

***Thelma Cain***

### **THE ELECTORAL ROLL**

As of 30<sup>th</sup> January 2020, there were 84 names on the Electoral Roll.

***John Simmonds, Electoral Roll Officer***

### **GIFT AID REPORT 2020**

The Covid 19 Pandemic has had a massive effect on the British economy, which includes the Church income.

The closure of the Church, has meant that our income is down, especially from the single Gift Aided (plate) donations, and cash (plate) collections.

Consequently, the amount of Gift Aid support from the Government has fallen. Our 'regular' Standing Orders' have continued for which we are very thankful. We have also encouraged people to 'sign up' to the standing order system, providing the necessary forms both at the back of the Church, and in the Pendulum.

The figures shown on the Balance Sheet of 2020, reflect the Gift Aid on the 2019 receipts. Therefore the 2020 year's receipts will not show the reduced Gift Aid received from HMRC until next year's accounts. I have already submitted this claim and can say that it will be down by more than £1000.

It is obvious that the 2021 income will also have been affected, due to the continued closure of the Church from January. However, the Churchwardens are hoping to be allowed to re-open with limited services from April.

We therefore urge everyone to look at their contributions, whether they be using the envelope scheme, or regular Standing Orders.

Any other 'one off' donations given to the Churchwardens, can be 'Gift Aided'. The simple form, or a 'blue envelope' will be found in the Church or obtained from a Churchwarden, or me.

**Barbara Lewis**

### **BELLRINGERS REPORT**

At the beginning of March 2020, The Coronavirus pandemic struck the country, sadly preventing close contact of ringers, so bell ringing practices were halted. Little did they know that it would be more than a year before they were able to meet again.

The group were keen to continue under the guidance of Lyndsey Brett and family, the ringing tutors.

I would like you to read in her words the report below: -

*"The world of bell ringing has more than its fair share of very clever IT people who got together and created a virtual tower on the internet. Available to all, but each 'tower' would have its own log in codes so only people you know will be able to access your practice*

*We set up a log in for Stretton ringers and everyone signed on! The page opens to show a circle of ropes, we can assign ourselves to a bell (one person per rope, just like a real tower) and our name appears by the side of the rope. By pressing the space bar, we can make our assigned rope move up and down and a corresponding 'Ding' is heard.*

*In this way we have been able to practice, keeping in time with one another, swapping places with one another in an orderly fashion, and creating the ringing patterns and changes we would normally do in a real tower.*

*We soon realised that it was had to communicate using the chat box on the screen, so we opted instead to use Zoom on a separate device, so we can both see and hear each other whilst ringing.*

*The ringers at Stretton have been supported by some very experienced ringers and have developed their understanding of ringing far beyond anything we can currently do with a real rope. We are now all very keen to get back to the real tower and put our new knowledge to practical use.*

*Thanks to Peter Lewis for keeping an eye on the bells and making sure all is well during the lockdown.*

*To Jane Kennedy for setting up and running the Zoom meetings each week. To Natalie Brett for signing us up to the Virtual room, and to Mark Chapman, Simon Head and the Brett family for joining us each week and supporting the learning".*

Lyndsey Brett

**Peter Lewis**

## **CHURCH CLEANING 2021**

Since the last APCM we have had to contend with this awful pandemic, consequently we felt it was unsafe for our super band of volunteer villagers to come into Church to do the cleaning. But the Church still needed cleaning – even though it was being used a great deal less than usual – so my husband and I have carried on doing the cleaning once a month. I would like to express my thanks to David for his help and support in this role alongside me for over one year now.

I will be reinstating the Church Cleaning Rota as soon as it is safe to do so – in conversation with the PCC.

In March 2021 Amanda Ross organised a huge clean-up of our Church after the builders had left - once they had completed the challenging and marvellous repair work they had successfully carried out to a significant amount of the ceiling due to a leak – thanks go to her! Huge thanks also to the following people who gave our Church the wonderful clean and tidy out - it was a demanding task!: Amanda and Alec Ross, Zena and Douglas Hutchinson, David Hinton, Vicky Deasley, Mel Williams, Sue Mayneord and me.

I look forward to a much-improved Covid19 situation for the remainder of 2021 and into the future! Thank you.

***Maureen Hinton***

## **CHURCHYARD REPORT**

The Churchyard has remained a focal point over the last 12 months, especially during the Coronavirus pandemic, when the Church Building was closed.

The maintenance has been kept to a high standard, giving peace and tranquillity to visitors of the bereaved and a place to sit and remember.

A number of the mature trees have received attention over the period, to maintain safety standards.

Our thanks go to the Parish Council for their continued financial support, and to Bernie for the high standard of care.

***Peter Lewis***

## **CRADLE ROLL REPORT**

Three baptisms were booked for 2020 but were unable to take place because of the pandemic. We hope that we will be able to hold these ceremonies in 2021.

## **FLOWERS AND BRASSES**

Mel Williams stepped up when Kath Bellis was indisposed this year and has provided wonderful flowers for the rare occasions we've been able to worship in church. We wish Kath well and hope that she will be able to take on this duty again and that our team will once again be able to share their skills.

## **GOOD NEIGHBOUR SCHEME REPORT 2020**

The Good Neighbour scheme continued throughout 2000, as new people continued to move to the village, despite the pandemic. Some new arrivals inevitably fall through the net as it is sometimes the case that the new occupancy does not get noted. This is of course, regrettable. Where the Welcome is delivered it is met with great appreciation.

The scheme was widened during lock-down, at the instigation of Amanda Ross who wanted to reach out to address loneliness and isolation during this difficult time, and ensure people were aware that the Church, though locked, remained ever present.

***Gillian Mckenna***

## **HOSPITAL LIFTS & VISITS**

We have been unable to offer this service during 2020 due to the COVID19 pandemic.

## **HOME GROUPS REPORT**

Stretton Home Groups were unable to meet this year.

***Douglas Hutchinson***

## **HOPE 4 REPORT**

The need for donations to the food bank has been higher than ever during the pandemic and there has been continued support from villagers towards the foodbank.

As the hairdresser has been closed, I have asked villagers to drop food off at my house for me to take in to the food bank. I have put this information on the village Facebook page but it has inevitably meant that there have been a smaller number of people offering food if they do not know me or the address.

During the first lockdown I was receiving regular donations and doing weekly drop offs to the food bank which was made easier due to it being open longer hours. During this more recent lockdown there has been notably fewer donations and combined with reduced opening hours offered by the food bank and that I have a new full-time post – I have been sending the food in with less frequency.

I do feel due to my work, I am unable to give the food bank the attention it needs to increase the volume of food being sent in. So, whilst I am happy to continue to play a role, if there is another person who could drive drumming up donations, I would welcome some help.

***Louise Jackson***

## **MEN'S BREAKFAST**

Sadly, we have had to cancel these meetings due to the pandemic. This is not the only Group that has been cancelled in our village of Stretton. Hopefully we will be able to resume in September.

It would be helpful if you could indicate to Brian, Douglas, or Richard if you would be interested in joining in once again. If you have anyone who would be an interesting

speaker, please let Paulin or Zena know in order that we can contact them when planning a new programme.

Meanwhile, stay safe, and we will meet again soon.

***Paulin, Zena, Brian and Douglas***

### **THE PENDULUM MAGAZINE**

During the pandemic, Pendulum was an important tool for the Parish Council to disseminate essential information to the village. With the lack of activity in the village, it was not possible to print every month. We would like to thank the Parish Council who paid for several editions to be distributed to every household. As it was difficult to collect subscriptions, an appeal for donations was made which were generously given, making it possible to continue publication.

Sadly, Matthew Hancox, Pendulum's compiler, died in May this year. We greatly miss his skilled work on the publication. Eleanor took over the role temporarily whilst working from home.

We would like to thank Paulin Clay who resigned from her role after many years of overseeing the copy and advertising. As a result of the gaps in publication, advertisers were given some months free of charge. We are grateful to Mel Williams for taking over management of the advertising. Following a successful appeal at the end of the year for a new Pendulum editor, Pauline Vickers took on the role. We are extremely grateful to her and are confident that it will prosper in her capable hands.

### **SAFEGUARDING OF CHILDREN & VULNERABLE ADULTS**

The PCC is wholly committed to the safeguarding of all parishioners, and follows procedures approved by Diocesan Synod on 17 March 2018. The PCC has complied with the duty under Section 5 of the Safeguarding and Clergy Discipline Measure 2016, namely the duty to have due regard to the House of Bishops' guidance on safeguarding children and vulnerable adults.

I confirm that All Saints' PCC has adopted all relevant and appropriate Church of England and diocesan policies regarding Safeguarding. At the next PCC meeting, the policies will be reviewed and re-adopted for 2021. These policies are:

- The Church of England's Parish Safeguarding Policy: Promoting a Safer Church
- Responding to a Concern or Allegation
- Safer Recruitment
- Recruitment of Ex-Offenders
- The Use of Social Media

Copies of our parish commitment to safeguarding and details of the Benefice Safeguarding Officer, presently Janice Robinson, are displayed in church, on the benefice website ([www.draycotegroup.org](http://www.draycotegroup.org)) and on benefice church notice boards.

The PCC remains committed to ensuring that all appropriate roles are filled by those who have been DBS checked. All PCC members have completed a basic level of safeguarding training, which must be repeated every three years; the church wardens and Benefice

Safeguarding officer have all completed the appropriate training for their roles. PCC members will be invited to update their Safeguarding training when necessary.

The PCC is committed to the use of the Diocesan Safeguarding team's Parish Dashboard; the Action plan generated from that will be presented for discussion at future PCC meetings. The Parish is presently at Level 3 of 3. Further action is required, such as the annual re-adopting of policies, and none are deemed urgent.

There were no recorded Safeguarding incidents within the Draycote Benefice during 2020. Since March and the onset of the Coronavirus pandemic, Stretton Parish Council has organised any necessary support for local residents; the church wardens and PCC have also been ready to offer help.

I am grateful to All Saints' PCC, the 3 Parish Safeguarding contacts and the other benefice PCCs in supporting Safeguarding in our communities.

***Janice Robinson,***

***Parish Safeguarding Officer***

***Benefice Safeguarding Officer from March 2020***

### **STRETTON LADIES FELLOWSHIP**

We started the year with meetings in January and February and then sadly all meetings for 2020 were cancelled when the first COVID19 lockdown commenced. Contact has been made with members to try and keep the spirit of SLF alive. Little thoughts of friendship have been given to members in the hope that they realise they have not been forgotten. Hopefully we will be able to re start our meetings again in 2021.

### **KNIGHTLOW SCHOOL FOUNDATION GOVERNORS**

2020 was a very challenging year for the school due to the coronavirus pandemic. The school has experienced different modes of operation ranging from normal operations to almost complete closure. During the first lockdown, the school was, at the outset, educating approximately 30-35 children of key workers. This number increased steadily as more key workers returned to work or took advantage of the school being open.

The pandemic has involved the Headteacher and her Senior Management Team in a lot of work on planning the deployment and separation of bubbles along with their associated risk assessments, not helped by last minute changes of policy and direction from the Department for Education. The playground, school buildings and mealtimes were all segregated to avoid contact between the different 'bubbles'.

There have been Covid cases amongst the staff as well as the children which the school have managed around as well as many instances of shielding and self-isolation which have had the potential to disrupt the smooth-running of the school.

The longer-term effects of the pandemic on the pupils are still emerging. There has been a range of impacts; some, for instance amongst those attending as the children of key workers, have thrived whilst many, including those missing the direct teaching experience or lacking parental support, have struggled. The general feeling amongst the teaching staff has been that the gulf between the higher and lower achievers has been widened and many children are struggling to catch up with what they have missed. The school is working very hard in 2021 to try and reduce this gap. There is no government yardstick for measuring performance at present due to the cancellation of SATS and other tests in

2020. However, the school has a very comprehensive internal monitoring system which is used for progress tracking all pupils individually.

Over the course of the year, from the onset of the first lockdown, the school has made steadily increasing use of technology to aid remote teaching with the use of Zoom and, to a greater extent, Microsoft Teams to provide contact. Additional equipment was acquired to support disadvantaged children. The religious teaching in the school has been maintained wherever possible although visits by Douglas Hutchinson and Karen Armbrister have, understandably, been curtailed.

Looking forward, the school is very nearly full which provides a stable financial platform. Mrs Vavasour held a successful Open Day in December 2020 for prospective new Reception children in September 2021 and it is pleasing to see that the Reception class is expected to be fully subscribed.

We all owe a big thank you to all the staff and to Mrs Vavasour for the efforts that they have made to make the best of a very challenging situation.

***Alec Ross, Foundation Governor for All Saints'***