

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

**ANNUAL REPORT
of the Parochial Church Council
for the year ended 31st December 2021
to be presented to the
ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING ON
DATE: SUNDAY 8 MAY 2022
AFTER THE 10.30AM SERVICE**

PRIEST IN CHARGE: REV PHIL PRICE

CHURCH WARDENS
Douglas Hutchinson
Amanda Ross

TREASURER
Vicky Deasley

SECRETARY
Zena Hutchinson

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER
Jo Jarman

BANKERS
HSBC
Central Board of Finance

ALL SAINTS' CHURCH, STRETTON ON DUNSMORE

with

PRINCETHORPE

to be held on

SUNDAY 8 MAY

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 2021
- 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 16 May 2021 at 11.15am held via Zoom after 10.30am
Zoom Church Service**

Present: Douglas Hutchinson, Amanda Ross, Zena Hutchinson, Thelma Cain, Vicky Deasley, Barbara and Peter Lewis, Kate Meiklejohn, Janice Robinson, Mair Shaw, Pete and Margaret Watts.

Apologies: Rona Freeman, Beverley Suffell, John and Janet Simmonds, Brian and Paulin Clay, Mel Williams, Mary Hughes, Cathy Lisztwan

VESTRY MEETING

Zena Hutchinson was elected Clerk to the Meeting, proposed by Amanda Ross seconded by Mair Shaw.

Appointment of Churchwardens:

Douglas Hutchinson and Amanda Ross were nominated by Mair Shaw and seconded by Thelma Cain and duly elected.

A vote of thanks was given to Douglas and Amanda for working tirelessly to keeping services in the church and online going and the general running of the church during the COVID pandemic. 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 and everyone was welcomed.

3. Minutes of APCM 25 October 2020

The minutes were accepted as a true record proposed by Amanda Ross and seconded by Mair Shaw.

4. Matters Arising from APCM minutes 2020 - None.

A. Churchwardens Report

1. **Services:** Amanda gave a brief report on services held since October 2020.

Since the lock down in November 2020 services have been held online via Zoom until we were allowed back in church at Easter in April. Since then, we have had 2 services in church per month and continued online. Our last online service will be held at the end of May and then we will continue to have services in Church twice a month but there will be a service every week within the Benefice.

Amanda expressed her very grateful thanks to David Shaw for all his help parochially and spiritually during lockdown.

2. New Incumbent

The advert is due to be placed imminently.

Barbara Lewis asked the question why it has taken two years for the advert to be placed.

Amanda explained the replanning and reorganisation of Parishes within Rugby and the approval of a full-time incumbent by the Diocesan and Deanery have taken some time. Our Benefice will now include Leamington Hastings, Flecknoe, Grandborough and

Willoughby. There is a link on our website showing their profile as well as ours. Ryton will join our Benefice when their present incumbent retires in approximately 18 months' time.

3. St. Cuthbert's Building

Plans for the modular building at Knightlow School were put on hold during the pandemic but Douglas has now applied for planning permission. The school are not in any rush to have the building but Douglas would like to complete the works if possible, during the summer. When the project is completed, the building will be independent from the school.

4. Church Building

Douglas report all works on the ceiling are now complete and the builders had done an excellent job. They have also replaced the cast iron pipes on the outside of the church.

The kitchen door and walls have also been renovated.

It is proposed to have the church open again during the daytime when this is possible. Peter will alter the locking system.

B. Report of Electoral Roll Officer

John Simmonds has resigned from the PCC and Electoral Roll Officer due to health reasons. A small gift and many thanks were given to John for his many years of service to the Church.

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

1. Saturday prayers - will resume in church as soon as possible without the necessity of cleaning every time.

2. Many thanks to Thelma for continuing with the Prayer Chain.

3. Gift Aid - Many thanks to Barbara Lewis for all her work involved with Gift Aid. Barbara reported the income from Gift Aid was down this year.

4. Bells and Bell Ringing - The Bell Ringers continue meeting online once a week but will be ringing live for a wedding on 17th July 2021.

5. Church Cleaning - Maureen Hinton is doing a rota starting in August for the Church to be cleaned once a month for the time being which will be reviewed in the future.

6. Flowers and Brasses - Barbara Lewis suggested we have a group brass cleaning session one morning - to be arranged.

7. Churchyard - Douglas explained that the pole on the verge outside the churchyard is an electrical pole which has been replaced to allow the rerouting of the wires going across the adjacent bungalow.

8. Pendulum - Many thanks to everyone who has made a donation towards Pendulum but we only received 94 donations from 500 copies circulated each month. Many thanks to The Parish Council who have agreed to pay for two issues of Pendulum. A review of the amount we charge for Pendulum in the future and the way we collect payment will need to take place in the future.

9. Stretton Ladies Fellowship - A small Steering Group meeting took place recently where it was agreed to have an afternoon tea inviting all members and asking them for their views on how they wished the group to go forward in the future.

D. Presentation of Financial Statements (previously circulated)

Vicky reported takings were down by £3,000 this year due to the lack of church services but how grateful the Church is to all those who continue giving. Many thanks to Vicky for all the work she does with the accounts.

E. Terrier and Log Book

Douglas showed everyone the Terrier and Log Book which he has updated for this year. Nothing has been lost or stolen.

F. Safeguarding - Janice Robinson

Janice thanked everyone for supporting her with Safeguarding. Various documents to be sent to PCC members to be passed at their next meeting 24th May.

Janice reported having just received an update of training. It is recommended that all PCC members now undertake foundation training as part of the National Safeguarding Scheme.

Douglas and Amanda were very grateful to Janice for undertaking Safeguarding and all the work involved.

G. Election of Deanery Synod Members

Douglas agreed to continue as our representative as no one else came forward.

H. Election of PCC Members

John Simmonds has resigned as a PCC member due to ill health.

Kate Meiklejohn, Cathy Lisztwan and Mel Williams have all agreed to become PCC members. All present at the meeting were in favour. We now have 8 members on the PCC plus 2 churchwardens.

I. Election of Independent Accounts Examiner

As Cathy Lisztwan is now a member of the PCC she cannot continue as our Accounts Examiner. Amanda is in the process of finding a new Accounts Examiner.

J. A.O.B.

a. Douglas is in the process of updating the lists for sides persons, readers, intercessions etc.

b. Peter reported that the clock re accuracy will be fixed shortly when it is serviced. We are very grateful to Peter for sorting out the ongoing problems with the clock.

The meeting ended with the Grace.

ALL SAINTS CHURCH ANNUAL REPORT 2021

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:

Worshiping God, Making New Disciples and Transforming Communities

During the year 2021 the following people served on the PCC:

Church Wardens: Amanda Ross

Douglas Hutchinson

Elected Members: Mair Shaw John Simmonds

Janice Robinson Vicky Deasley
Zena Hutchinson Thelma Cain
Kate Meiklejohn Cathy Lisztwan
Mel Williams

In April John Simmonds retired from the PCC after serving for many years.

The PCC held 9 meetings during the year: three on Zoom due to COVID19 situation and six in Church. Attendance was good and our meetings have focused on ways to engage with our community.

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

In September the Men's Breakfast restarted in the Oak & Black Dog and thanks go to Paulin and Zena for organising this event. Celebrate@4 again restarted during the year, the Saturday afternoon service held in the Bourton, Draycote and Frankton Village Hall.

Children's Ministry

Our Nativity in the phone box was again popular with children. Karen and Douglas continued to connect with the children at Knightlow with assemblies starting once again.

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

The increase in cases of COVID-19 at Christmas meant that 2021 began with another period of lockdown and our services moved online. With support a few more of our parishioners were able to participate and we began to vary the format of our Sunday services. Online Morning and Night prayer continued during the week at their usual times. Rev. David Shaw was still providing food for thought and discussion with his weekly reflections on the reading.

During Lent to engage our community in the Easter story, church members put up displays about aspects of Easter outside their houses. Pictures and explanations were shared on the website and village Facebook page encouraging people to walk the trail around the village. On Palm Sunday we held a short and well-attended service in the churchyard.

Easter Sunday saw a welcome return to in-person Holy Communion in church and this has continued, with numbers returning slowly increasing during the summer. Wedding and baptisms were permitted again and numbers allowed to attend funerals were increased. Frequent reviews of our risk assessments ensured that we were following the Church of England guidelines. Singing was also permitted once again.

While we were advertising for a new priest for the benefice, it was increasingly difficult to find clergy to take services of Holy Communion and we are grateful to our administrator, Eleanor, for her hard work in this.

There were signs of hope for a return to normality towards the end of 2021, with representatives of the uniformed organisations attending the Remembrance service and the choir, with a number of new recruits, preparing enthusiastically for Christmas. All our Christmas services were celebrated in church with good attendance at our Carol service, Christingle and Bethlehem Holy Communion on Christmas Eve. We looked forward with eager

anticipation to the installation of our new priest in charge in January.

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

The Church building was used for a number of services during the year but were limited 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 finally completed

The Churchyard

The churchyard remained a focal point for the village especially when the Church was closed and was kept in good order throughout the year. Thanks go to Bernard Timings for mowing and making it a pleasant and peaceful place during the year and to the Parish Council for their continued financial support.

St Cuthbert's Building / Parish Office: When permitted works finally started on the foundation work for the new building and in December the modular building was delivered. The parish office will in future be based in the St Cuthbert's building located at Knightlow School.

Conclusion

2021 continued to be a difficult and somewhat strange year due to the COVID19 situation and the benefice continuing 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

APCM Finance Report

I am pleased to present the audited accounts of All Saints and St Cuthbert's for 2021

The Church holds a savings account (CCLA) and a current account with HSBC. We have also been asked to administer the Benefice Sound System savings account. This is held in the Music System CCLA account shown.

The accounts are presented as 4 sheets.

1. The overall Balance sheet comparing 2019 and 2020 figures.
2. The workings of the specified (designated) accounts, Pendulum, Churchyard, Restoration and Bells which pertain to All Saints and St Cuthbert's. On this sheet you will also see listed the Benefice Music Account, the Princethorpe Legacy Account, the Holiday Bible Club Account (HBC) and the Celebrate @ 4 Account which we administer but do not control the spend. These have now been transferred to the Benefice account.
3. Receipts and payments on the General Fund

General Fund Our envelope giving decreased by about £1000, our standing orders (covenants) increased by £1271, plate collections were up by £86 and gift aided donations decreased by £46. Non gift aided donations were up by about £65. In total our voluntary giving is up by about £91 compared to 2020.

The fundraising activities minus the expenses of these realised about £495 more than last year.

The cost of utilities was practically the same as last year.

Repairs and Maintenance expenses were £1608 less than 2020.

Our contribution to the Diocese of £9,741 was £356 less than in 2020. No Benefice Share was paid in 2020 due to a surplus having built up in the fund. It restarts in 2022. All Churches in the Draycote Benefice pay into this account and Benefice, printing, postage and

stationery, Vicar's expenses and administration assistant wages are paid from this.

Our charity giving was £20 more than in 2020. This is 5% of our voluntary giving.

The Income Tax rebate was £1100 less than 2020, to be expected with less giving. Thanks are due to Barbara Lewis for all the paperwork involved in reclaiming this sizeable sum of money.

Thanks are also due to other bodies who have generously donated to the Church: - Stretton Parish Council, the Denchwood Trust and the War Graves Commission.

Pendulum This made a surplus but only half as much as last year, £1135 cf £2266. This was due to increased printing costs and much reduced subscriptions. Advertising increased over last year.

Churchyard The deficit recorded at the end of last year was written off from the General Fund at the start of the year. Again, all fees for funerals and weddings were no longer separated into churchyard and church, but all put into the Restoration fund. Mowing, equipment repair, and some tree surgery all led to a spend of £2770. A generous donation of £1943.23 from the Parish Council was very much welcomed to this fund.

Restoration Fund The ceiling repair was completed in 2021 at a cost of £3942 and a gutter repair and clear to ensure no repeat of such ceiling damage, at a cost of £8309. A sum of £60,000 was transferred into this account from the GF to cover future expenses.

Bells The bells were serviced and the clappers repaired in 2021. The Coventry Guild of Bell Ringers donated the service charge but all this together with a pest control visit to the tower led to a deficit of £-1178 being recorded for the Bell Fund.

Thus, if we take off Celebrate, HBC, Music System, Men's Breakfast, Benefice and Bell totals from the total asset figure we get £88,129 as our available Church assets.

V Deasley - Feb 2022

DEANERY SYNOD REPORT 2021

Deanery Synod meetings were held on three occasions in the past year, one of which was held on line. At these meetings presentations were given on various aspects of the Rugby Deanery Churches including both urban and rural communities. The proposal of reorganisation of the deanery parishes was progressed. A report on the contents of each meeting was given by our representative to the PCC meetings.

Douglas Hutchinson, Deanery Synod Representative

SATURDAY PRAYERS 2021

It was again a difficult year for pray-ers to meet, however the Saturday morning meetings started again in September and a small group of people were committed to praying at this time for both the village and for the wider community. The meetings now start at 9.30am and everyone is most welcome on a Saturday morning.

PRAYER CHAIN

A very committed group of people across the Draycote Benefice pray on a daily basis for people who are going through a difficult time. This is a huge commitment and is completely confidential, permission has to be granted but, obviously, there are situations when this is inappropriate. Sometimes we pray for a long time and sometimes prayers are answered quickly, but not always in the way we would like but, generally, people who are prayed for feel comfort from the fact that they are in our thoughts, and God's, every day.

Please contact Thelma Cain on 02476543256 or thelmacaian64@gmail.com if you or someone you know needs prayer.

Thelma Cain

THE ELECTORAL ROLL

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

PLANNED GIVING AND GIFT AID 2021

Another year of Covid restrictions has once again severely affected our Church income.

Thankfully, several people using our regular envelope giving have now made arrangements to pay a regular amount directly into our bank, but you will note from our accounts that the expenditure in keeping the Church warm, lit and welcoming to all, has once again exceeded our annual income.

But we thank EVERYONE who contributes, no matter in what way.

Because of reduced income, the Gift Aid claim will also be reduced. We urge anyone who contributes, and who is a tax payer to make sure they have made this known to me or a Churchwarden.

The Village Church is open and available to everyone, and is solely supported financially by our own parishioners.

Barbara Lewis

BELLRINGERS REPORT

THE bell ringers have had another year interrupted by Covid. There are now 9 people being taught every Tuesday evening when the virus restrictions allow. We are lucky to have the Brett family who are so enthusiastic to teach their skill.

During lockdowns the whole group continued to meet virtually on line and apart from the bells, enjoyed the social company,

With a generous grant of £125 from the Coventry guild of ringers, the bells have been inspected by Taylors of Loughborough. It is now more than 25 years since the installation. Everything was in good order but it was suggested in the report the clappers be

rebushed and reduced in weight. The cost to do the work was £850 and again the Guild made a donation of £500 towards the cost and we are very thankful for their kind donations.

The hard work by all involved means the group are now ringing at weddings and special services, also quarter peals, which is fantastic.

During the year a visiting group rang a full peal and judging by the good comments from the villagers, it was much appreciated.

Peter Lewis

CHURCH CLEANING 2022

We continue to have our band of wonderful helpers; I really appreciate this as it means our helpers on the rota only have to clean our Church once in the year; which spreads the load!

The Church Cleaning Rota was still not able to be reinstated until September 2021- due to the pandemic and me wishing to protect our helpers from any risks to their health. I again would like to thank my husband, David, with his support in cleaning our Church with me until the Rota restarted. Hopefully all will proceed smoothly from now onwards!

Several helpers did retire from doing this task after the 18-month break away from cleaning duties – after many, many years of helping in this way. The helpers were sent Thank You cards on behalf of the PCC for their hard work and commitment over the years - which was so much appreciated.

Thank you.

Maureen Hinton

CRADLE ROLL REPORT

In the summer of 2021, we were once again able to conduct baptisms and two families brought their children for baptism. There were a number of enquiries during the year and we hope that our new priest will bring more children into the church family.

FLOWER AND BRASSES

Mel Williams continues to provide wonderful flower arrangements for the church together with people on the flower rota which Kath Bellis continues to organise. Many thanks to everyone.

THE GOOD NEIGHBOUR WELCOME

This scheme continues to give pleasure to the recipients and is much appreciated by the new householders. In some cases, it is rather belated where the arrival of new residents has not been reported, but still affords pleasure. The pandemic has affected the ease of contact but hopefully this scheme will gain its former strength as Covid fears subside.

A warm greeting of welcome and friendship which is very clearly from All Saints Church but holds no pressure, sends a strong message. A brief paragraph in Pendulum to remind and re-energise the Good Neighbour representatives will appear in the April edition.

Gillian Mckenna

HOME GROUPS

Stretton Home Groups were again unable to meet during the year.

HOPE 4

I have continued to collect food from the villagers from the collection points and when the hairdresser was shut people dropped food to my house. However, there has been a fall in drop offs compared to previous years at a point when the demand is very high.

Louise Jackson

DRAYCOTE BENEFICE MENS BREAKFAST GROUP

The Group continues to function, albeit hit by the Covid pandemic. We started again and some 12 to 20+ attend each month, enjoying a full English breakfast cooked by Michelle and David, at the Oak and Black Dog.

Our Speakers have been varied, ranging from a Plastic Surgeon, a Charity Worker, a Judge, and last month our brand-new Priest, Rev Phil.

The aim of the group is to share Christian fellowship with one another, without force-feeding religion. The Group is open to all men of any persuasion and meets once a month, always the second Saturday. Sadly, we seem to have lost a few from the villages and would love to see more of you. We assemble at the Oak and Black Dog for 8.15am. Breakfast at 8.30am and then the Speaker at 9am, followed by a Q and A session. We are usually done by 10am. We welcome all men who would like to join us, the cost is £7, for Breakfast, 50p for tip, 50p for admin costs.

We ask you to book your breakfast by Wednesday in order to give numbers to David and Michelle.

Ring Paulin 76542932 or Zena 76540449.

Paulin Clay

THE PENDULUM MAGAZINE

Pendulum remains an important way of providing essential information to the village. Our new editor, Pauline Vickers brought a fresh eye to the publication and as a result it has become both clearer and neater.

After a joint January/February edition, the magazine it was printed and distributed every month. Advertisers have returned and many subscribers have been generous in their contributions to the printing costs. We would also like to thank the Parish Council who pay for two editions per year.

SAFEGUARDING OF CHILDREN AND VULNERABLE ADULTS

The PCC is wholly committed to the safeguarding of all parishioners, and has been following procedures approved by Diocesan Synod on 17 March 2018. It complies with the House of Bishops' guidance on safeguarding children and vulnerable adults.

In 2021, new safeguarding guidelines were published, with the aim of strengthening the opportunities for learning and development in safeguarding training. The Church of England believes that safeguarding is an integral part of our faith, and as a result has developed safeguarding learning pathways to support and maintain the necessary values, beliefs, knowledge and skills to safeguard and protect children, young people and vulnerable adults. This new framework is being implemented in our church as of January 2022 and will not be revised again until 2024. Everyone who participates in the life of the Church has a role to play in promoting a safer church for all.

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 2022. These policies are:

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

The Recruitment of Ex-Offenders policy is due for renewal in 2024.

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) 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. PCC members

have been updating their safeguarding training through the newly revised Basic and Foundation training pathways, with the Foundation level then repeated every three years; the church wardens and Benefice Safeguarding officer have 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 2021.

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

With some relaxation of the Lockdown, Stretton Ladies Fellowship was able to meet again in summer 2021. A tea party was held in the garden of Peter and Barbara Lewis's home. This was not restricted to members but was extended to other women in the village as an offer of support.

We were able to meet again in the Autumn and have enjoyed a mixed programme of member led activities and guest speakers. After canvassing members the Steering Committee arranged for meetings to be held in the afternoon rather than the evening. It was possible to book the Village Hall and this has proved to be popular venue. We have been pleased to welcome several new members.

Kathleen Bond

KNIGHTLOW SCHOOL FOUNDATION GOVERNOR'S REPORT FOR 2020

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