

CHRIST CHURCH PORTSDOWN



Year Book 2018

A look back at events at Christ Church

Published April 2019



Introduction

This year book gives us the opportunity to look back at the activities of our church for the year 2018. No summary like this can ever be complete, but it does provide snap shots of our life together. A companion document, the Annual Report, contains more formal information and the church accounts.

Vicar's Report

It continues to be a joy and a privilege to be the Vicar of Christ Church, but 2018 was a challenging year for Jacqui & myself. When we locked the door of the Vicarage to set off for the New Wine Leaders Conference in Harrogate at the end of February, we had no idea that we would never return to live in that house.

A burst water pipe led to ten months living in rented accommodation in Denmead, during which time I was invited to take on responsibility for the parish of Purbrook as well as Portsdown. Thus in January 2019 we were able to move into the Vicarage at Purbrook. It feels like a time of new beginnings. We are grateful to the Diocese, and in particular the Property Department, for the care shown to us throughout this process.

During the first half of the year Mark James had to step down from his position as Curate. Mark's ministry at Christ Church has been missed.

We also lost Sarah Pearce, our very capable administrator, who died in April after a short illness. In a relatively short time in the post, Sarah made a real impact in the office and in the church as a whole and her loss impacted many of us. I was pleased that, a few months later, we were able to appoint the equally capable Emma Evans to the post.

The plans that we had to develop our children's ministry had to be put on hold, but I am grateful to Jackie Quinn, who continues to teach and encourage the children who visit the Families Area during The 10.30 Service.

For the first time, a lack of volunteers meant that we were only able to appoint one churchwarden at the APCM in April. This put an unfair burden on Stephen Anderson, so we moved to appoint three Deputy Wardens. The duties carried out by Sheila Gill, Dee Humphris and Matt Doe are already having a positive impact on the life of our church.

The service pattern has remained largely unchanged during the year, thanks in no small part to our Reader, Sandra Morgan and the support of clergy Tyrone Hillary and Sandy Phillips. In November we introduced Refuel, an additional 6.00 Service led by Sheila Gill. This offers a quieter, more reflective style of worship to sit alongside our existing 6.00 Service.

Personal highlights of 2018 include leading a pilgrimage to the Holy Land with Peter Hall, the Vicar of Crookhorn. A number of people from Christ Church and CoGS came along – another step in the developing relationships with our cluster. It was also a joy to attend the ordinations of two of our former church members. In June, Richard Hutchins was ordained Priest at Portsmouth Cathedral and in September, Sarah Sharland was ordained Deacon at Exeter Cathedral. It is good that Christ Church has been able to gift these ministers to the wider church.

As always, a number of our church members died during the year, including Margery Budd, Cissie Attrill, Joy West, Gwen Marks and, as already mentioned, Sarah Pearce. They are all missed.

Thanks are due to all who give of themselves to enable the ministry and mission of Christ Church to continue. I look forward to seeing what the Lord has in store for us during the rest of 2019, as we look to an even closer relationship with St John's Purbrook, the appointment of Laura Cameron as Associate Minister (SSM), and the appointment of a half-time Associate Minister later in the year.

Revd Andy Wilson

Churchwarden's Report

The last year has been one of change, and I also think one of growth. I am not thinking of growth in terms of numbers, as the church has not to my knowledge increased in size. However, I do believe that we are developing spiritually; maturing our understanding of what Christian service means for Christ Church Portsdown and seeing the emergence (at all levels within the church) of future leaders. I hope that we are seeing God lay the foundation for a period of more tangible growth over the next few years.

You may wonder why I am starting the churchwarden's report with such a general statement. It is because those changes are for me the defining theme of my experiences as a warden over the preceding twelve months.

In the last year we have restructured the team of wardens through the creation of three new Deputy Warden posts. Dee, Sheila and Matt have written a separate report that you can read elsewhere in the Year Book, in which they provide more detail about their particular areas of focus. However, I will briefly mention in follow up to last year's report that significant maintenance and cleaning work has been undertaken to the church roof and windows, and church hall roof and floor, and Matt and the Building Committee have a schedule of tasks to ensure the facilities and grounds are kept in good condition going forward.

As a consequence of the Deputy Wardens having so brilliantly taken on responsibilities for some of the spiritual matters, organisational management of the welcoming team and maintenance of the church buildings, I have been able to focus my attention on supporting Andy and the PCC as we prepare the way to deliver the future vision for our church.

This has involved drafting an updated suite of church policies, responding to emerging issues (such as last year's data mapping exercise that prepared us for changes in data protection legislation) and restructuring the team that greets attendees at our many services (more on that in the Welcoming Team Report!)

Andy has recently taken on responsibility for St John's Church in Purbrook. That is a terrific opportunity to grow the relationships and mutual support within our Cluster, an important part of our life here at Christ Church. In due course, we will also welcome a new leader to the Church of the Good Shepherd in Crookhorn, who will be an important contributor to our church life. At this exciting time of change, growth and opportunity, we need to be very

mindful of the additional demands placed on Andy as his responsibilities increase. We must ensure we keep him constantly in our prayers.

Thank you for your support and encouragement this past year. I would particularly like to thank Dee, Sheila and Matt for their amazing contribution as Deputy Wardens.

Stephen M Anderson

Building Group

At the request of the PCC a new building group was formed towards the end of 2018 to progress church development and maintenance tasks.

Since inception of the new group we have felled trees in the hall rear car park, reduced the spoil tip, cleaned the church windows, repaired the church flooring in various places, fitted the John Deverell plaque on the north wall of the church, and repaired a telephone cable at rear of church. Under the auspices of the PCC the leaking roof gulley has been repaired and more work will continue on the internal damp in the roof at the west end of the church in the spring.

Current or future tasks are the resurfacing of the drive with lighting, an upgrade of the chancel to increase flexibility, a wooden screen round the Audio-Visual desk and the disposal of a small number of pews.

We owe thanks to all those who have supported our building work in one way or another.

Andy Minchin

Church Cleaning Team

A faithful team of three clean the church every Saturday morning from 9.00am. Jo, Sharon and Jacqui would be delighted to see others join them. Ros Molloy keeps the brass clean. Between them they ensure that our church building is ready for us to use week by week.

Revd Andy Wilson

Deanery Synod

The Deanery Synod covered a number of topics during the meetings this year:

Link to Ghana: Karina Green introduced Bishop Felix Annancy, bishop coadjutor, Koforidua diocese in Ghana, who was visiting England having attended the New Bishops Conference at Lambeth. Bishop Felix thanked everyone for their warm welcome and the hospitality he had enjoyed in the deanery. He gave a brief history of the Koforidua diocese, explaining that in 1981 when it was created from the Accra diocese, there were only six priests and numerous outstations with no ministers; now there are 51 priests, 31 parishes, and several priests in training, both in the seminary and locally. He gave an update on current activities.

As a member of Diocesan Synod, Revd Ian Snares, Vicar, Cowplain gave some background to what it does and the importance of parish representation on it, by both lay members and clergy.

Live | Pray | Serve – a report on the recent consultation amongst the deaneries

Deanery Plan Update: The Deanery Plan is put together through the Deanery Mission and Pastoral Committee, and it currently includes some of the themes discussed at the last Deanery Synod meeting and covers the deployment of clergy in the Deanery.

A Presentation entitled “Community Transformation and the Local Church”: was given by Gareth Brown, Advisors Team Manager for Cinnamon UK and Ireland. He likened our mission as Christians to that of Jesus: transforming, shaking things up and dealing with issues.

“Pastoral Reorganisation in the Diocese – What is happening next”: Victoria James (Diocesan Secretary), Gavin Collins (Archdeacon of the Meon) and Jenny Hollingsworth (Deputy Diocesan Secretary) covered the proposed changes in Gosport, Leigh Park and Isle of Wight currently in the consultation phase.

We were also briefed on clergy vacancies and new appointments.

Andy Minchin and Ruth Fowler, Deanery Synod Representatives

Deputy Churchwardens

I remember a sermon in which the main teaching was ‘Do what you can with the skills you have’. This has resonated with me for years, carrying those words in my heart.

¹⁰ Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God’s grace in its various forms. ¹¹ If anyone speaks, they should do so as one who speaks the very words of God. If anyone serves, they should do so with the strength God provides, so that in all things God may be praised through Jesus Christ. To him be the glory and the power for ever and ever. Amen. (1 Peter 4:10-11)

Without anyone coming forward to fulfil the second churchwarden role, Dee, Sheila and myself were approached in order to share the duties of the full-role warden. All three of us were pleased to be asked and agreed to fulfil the roles. Splitting the roles, we decided that Dee would be responsible for the organisational management of the Welcomers team, Sheila would be responsible for the spiritual aspect and representing the wardens on the standing committee and Matt would be responsible for the building and grounds.

Some of the Highlights in which we have been involved include:

- Consolidation of volunteers into one working team called ‘Welcomers’.
- Development of an effective rota and clearly identifying the role of a Welcomer.
- Organising and delivering Welcomers’ training.
- Supporting delivery of the new ‘Refuel’ service.
- Removal of problematic trees in the churchyard.
- Restoring the stained-glass windows to their former glory.
- Behind the scenes maintenance and organisation.

Matthew Doe, Sheila Gill and Dee Humphris

Deputy Churchwardens

Electoral Roll

At the end of 2018 the Electoral Roll stood at 104 (110 in 2017) with 53 (57 in 2017) living within the parish and 51 (53 in 2017) living outside the parish boundaries. Once more over 50% of Members live within the parish.

Graham Olway

Events – Summer Festival & Advent Fayre

These two events are the biggest showcases for our church and what it offers to the local community. We have fun days, free to enter, with a combination of live events, stalls, refreshments and kids' fun while we raise much needed funds for our church buildings. Well, 2018 certainly threw us some challenges!

Summer Festival – the number of people attending was down on previous years, but that was due to a heatwave, and there was an England football match apparently! However, as always, we worked through everything we had planned and a great time was enjoyed by all. The mobile farm and bouncy castle were a great hit and will be returning for 2019.

Advent Fayre – this was the other extreme, it was freezing cold, but people were queuing outside before opening and lots of them were happy to find refuge in the church and church hall. The Pompey Pluckers got to play in the church for the first time! A good day was enjoyed by everyone.

Events like these require support from many people to ensure all the activities take place. So if you helped, in any capacity, thank you for your support. As we plan for 2019, please think about how you can become involved or speak to one of us. Thank you.

Summer Festival @ Christ Church, Saturday 6th July, 12 noon to 4.00 pm

Sandra Farmer, Sue Hicks, Vicky Stephen

Flower Stewards

Ros Molloy and Jenny Whiteside lead a small group of experienced flower arrangers who oversee the yearly flower rota. This comprises of many parishioners providing flowers in memory of loved ones departed or to celebrate anniversaries during the year. In addition we are fortunate to have a number of loyal helpers who come and assist in arranging flowers at weddings and the Christian church festivals. We would love more helpers who would be most welcome.

Ros Molloy and Jenny Whiteside

Friday Friends

Friday friends continues to meet twice each month offering friendship, conversation, a cup of tea, with biscuits or cake and sometimes even crumpets. This year's summer tea was at Meadow Farm Nursery on Hayling Island on a lovely August afternoon.

Tracey Harvey organises everything and looks after everyone.

Revd Andy Wilson

Christ Church Portsdown Good Neighbours



Each one should use whatever gift he has received to serve others – 1 Peter 4:10

Christ Church Portsdown Good Neighbours is a group of 29 Volunteers and 4 Associate Volunteers who give neighbourly help to people, of any age in the parish and surrounding areas, who do not have friends or relatives nearby to support them. Our work involves helping people to attend hospital, GP or other health related appointments and social activities as well as providing a nutritious home cooked meal to about 45 local people each month; other core services are shopping; visiting; sitting for carers; befriending; helping with pets; minor repairs/DIY; small gardening jobs and others on request. The service is available 7 days a week from 8am-8pm and is free. Additionally we provide a Daily Call service to people who are anxious about living alone, which proved of particular value to one client who found themselves unable to get out of the bath.

The Neighbourhood Lunch has proved increasingly important over the year, along with the Daily Call service but the level of activity in relation to all other services has decreased significantly over the last two years. What matters is that those clients we are able to help experience real benefits from us doing God's work in reaching out to our community in the different ways we are able to.

The basis of our Volunteering remains that those who want to help can offer to do whatever tasks suit them and give however much time they like. Thanks to the willingness and enthusiasm of our volunteers last year we completed about 1,500 acts of kindness in responding to the needs of around 50 clients (just over half of those were Daily Calls). In the course of last year, for health reasons, two of our Coordinators retired and so the group has struggled to keep things going.

If the valued work of this group is to be sustained, then it is essential that we are able to recruit more volunteers and especially to take on a role in Coordination – answering calls for help and contacting the volunteers to do the tasks required. There has been little promotional activity over the last two years and the group are looking to address this in 2019 – we know there are more people who would welcome the kind of support this group offers.

The Good Neighbours Helpline is: 07842 367490

Email: good.neighbours@christchurchportsdown.org

www.christchurchportsdown.org

Sheila Gill – Chair CCP Good Neighbours

Hall Management

During the year we have had gas heaters repaired as well as annual servicing of all gas appliances and fire extinguishers, the taps in the main toilets replaced and a new flat roof for the rear extension at a cost of more than £4,000. The committee have again worked hard making small repairs, keeping weeds down and special thanks to Andy Golledge who

(amongst other things!) fixed the new post-box to the front wall. The hall is well-used with many regular groups (there is very little spare capacity on weekday evenings), plus one-off hires (usually children's parties). We said goodbye to some long-standing users during the year but gaps in the schedule have been filled by new groups and by existing users expanding their hours. The hall is also used as a Polling Station for all local and national elections. If church members wish to hire any of the facilities, they receive a 10% discount for being on the Electoral Roll and of course the hall is an invaluable resource for the Summer Festival, Advent Fayre and other church social events. The rental income covers all the expenses of the hall and contributes to the income of the church - to the tune of nearly £3,500 in 2018.

Jacqui Wilson, Hall Manager

Homegroups

In 2017, we started the year with 5 home groups that met on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday on the first and third weeks of each month. This changed in September 17 when the Monday evening Group (led by Dave Fowler) and Wednesday evening group (led by Pauline Letters) amalgamated. From Lent onwards the following groups met:

- Monday morning (led by Sandra Morgan during Lent at Judith Cooks and Sylvia & Keith Fisher's homes continuing after Lent led by Dave Fowler at S&K Fisher's)
- Wednesday afternoon (led by Jacqui Wilson hosted by Molly Ayling)
- Wednesday evening moving to the afternoon (led by Sandra Morgan hosted Jean Partridge and June Ames)
- Wednesday evening (Led by Pauline Letters /and Dave Fowler Hosted by Tracey Harvey)

As Lent was early (Feb 14th) the home groups only met twice in January and early February. Each group chose their own study for those weeks which included Caleb, Elijah, Elizabeth and the prophecies about Jesus.

Approximately 27 church members attended these groups although the number varies from week to week.

During Lent the groups met every week and studied Essential Jesus a study guide by Whitney T Kuniholm. There are a hundred bible readings each with a commentary in the book, one for each day of the week looking at the life of Jesus. Each group member undertook to read the section for each day and at the meeting together we shared what we had discovered and discussed the questions set by the author of the book and some of our own. During the five sessions in following topics were studied: Who is Jesus? The need for a Saviour; Trailers of a Saviour; Psalms about a Saviour; Prophecies about a Saviour; More prophecies about Jesus.

After Lent we continued with this course until July on the 1st and 3rd weeks of the month. The group leader picked out one or two of the readings from the following sections the Birth of Jesus, The beginning of Jesus Ministry, the Sermons of Jesus, the Parables of Jesus, More parables of Jesus and the Miracles of Jesus.

From September we began a study of the Psalms from a study guide by Douglas Sean O'Donnell. Each group chose the sections they wanted to study, and some groups also returned to the Essential Jesus to consider More miracles of Jesus, The Prayers of Jesus and The Hard sayings of Jesus.

Sandra Morgan

Lighthouse

Lighthouse is usually available at the 10.30 service in the family area in the south aisle and welcomes any children in church.

Working with young children we use stories and simple craft activities to introduce them to the stories of the Bible and help them to know God.

We are currently using 'Bubbles ' by Scripture Union which has colourful cartoon style story sheets and activities which the children can take home.

Jackie Quinn

Mission Support

Over £8,250 plus services, goods and produce were distributed to charities and individuals during 2018 as well as prayer and practical support, as the PCC moved closer towards its target of giving away 10% of non-restricted income. Details of the missions supported can be found in the Annual Report.

Revd Andy Wilson

Mothers' Union Portsdown Branch

Our branch has 25 members five of whom are Indoor members. During the year we had 2 church services in Christ Church and our Corporate communion services each month.

We enjoyed a variety of talks, a Summer tea party and our Christmas tea and carols with invited guests. We held a cream tea afternoon which helped raise money for M.U. projects. We join up with other branches for special church services and also for social afternoons. Pat Hatchard and myself did the reading and intercessions at the Cathedral for midday prayers in September.

We organised the Lent lunches and the money raised was sent to Tear Fund and M.U. A.F.I.A holidays. Two families from our Parish had a break on the I.O.W.

We make up wash bags for emergency admissions to Q.A. Hospital.

We send 1st baptism anniversary cards and now supply Andy with the M.U. Baptism leaflets to give to parents. We also give Wedding cards to couples marrying at Christ Church. This is a very brief summary of the last 12 months. We would welcome anyone at any of our meetings.

Ros Molloy (Branch Leader)

Music Group

The Music Group seeks to encourage and enable the sung worship that plays such an important part of our Sunday service. It is a small group that would welcome new members. Stuart Davies faithfully co-ordinates everything.

Revd Andy Wilson

Neighbourhood Lunches

The monthly Neighbourhood Lunch continues to provide a low cost, home cooked, two course meal for up to fifty people. It is held in the church hall on the fourth Friday of the month. The team of dedicated volunteers ensures that a warm welcome is extended to the guests. The majority are church members or Good Neighbours clients but we are reaching out into the local community and our guest list is becoming more diverse. We not only offer good food but also an opportunity for our guests to enjoy fellowship and an enjoyable social occasion.

Linda Hoole

Open Church

The opening of the church on a weekday basis continues to be a disappointment. We can make all the statements we want about growing our church, reaching out to the community, showcasing what our church has to offer etc but if the church is not open and available for people to visit on a regular basis then these statements are meaningless, just pretentious and hot air. However there has been an improvement, on Monday, Tuesday, Friday and sometimes Thursday the church is open for 2 hours in the morning. Also, in the spring and summer months, while the Rusty Cutters are on site, the church is open on a Wednesday morning.

There is nothing onerous about opening the church it's a case of sitting in the church and welcoming visitors, offering tea or coffee and, if wanted, showing people round the church. Some people come in to find a quiet space, perhaps to pray or just gather their thoughts before the rush of the day overtakes them, sometimes you will be there and no one comes but that is probably because opening the church is such a hit and miss affair that we can't widely advertise it.

Our church website is viewed worldwide and we have had visitors from as far as America and Australia who have seen our website and the connection to D-Day and came specifically to visit. Fortunately we were open and available at the time but it's not a good advert for our church if people arrive and find it locked. You don't have to sit around doing nothing, Ruth and I do all manner of things to help the time pass and not necessarily church related.

Once again I ask you to prayerfully consider if you can open up the church, not necessarily in the morning, as part of your service to your community. Speak to me if you want to know more.

Dave Fowler

PCC Report

The PCC met 10 times in 2018 with an average attendance of 78% (81% in 2017). The topics covered by the PCC each month are summarised in the Portsdown Post and the latest approved minutes are displayed at the rear of the church. Throughout the year, the PCC received numerous letters of thanks from various charities and beneficiaries of the goodwill and donations made by the congregation and supporters of Christ Church. With the leadership of the Vicar, the PCC has sustained the essential business of the Church while also considering the future of the church.

Graham Olway MBE, PCC Secretary

Christ Church Portsdown
Pastoral Care



Christ Church Visitors (Pastoral Care)

The pastoral visiting team have continued to offer support on an individual basis to members of our church family. We offer a listening service with prayer, if wished, when visiting. To contact us, for yourself or someone you feel may benefit, please speak to myself or any member of our clergy.

A group of six of us were invited to The Rowans Living Well Centre last year. We were very impressed with the services that they offer to our community, including support groups for carers, bereavement and reminiscence. Complementary therapies including gentle massage are also available. They also have a lovely café open to everyone.

I'd like to pass on my sincere thanks to all of the visiting team, without their support we couldn't continue this important pastoral care service.

Karina Golledge

Portsdown Post

Our church magazine is mainly financed through charging a modest 40p per copy which is distributed throughout the parish and beyond. It is also available free of charge through our church website. Recently a large print version has been reproduced for people with visual difficulties.

The printer purchased in 2017 is still going strong, it has been recently serviced to rectify an ink problem and the result has been to improve the magazines finish.

Once again, I thank everyone who delivers the magazine to the many households who have requested a copy to be delivered to their home. My thanks especially to Ros Molloy who delivers it to the people who don't themselves attend our church.

Thanks again to Matt Doe, our webmaster, who transfers the electronic version onto our church website to reach an even wider amount of readers.

Ruth Fowler, Editor of Portsdown Post

Prayer Meeting

Prayer is the engine room of the church. Without it, we will make no progress. A small group meet at 2.00pm on the first Thursday of every month to pray for the life of our church. If you would like to see God at work in our church, and are free on Thursday afternoons, then please do come and join us.

Revd Andy Wilson

Prayer Ministry

Prayer plays a very important part in our church and the life of its congregation and the prayer ministry team are integral to making it available and effective. At present the prayer ministry team are readily and openly available on the Sundays we have communion, however members are available at all the services to offer prayer should you request it. Hopefully, we hope to widen the scope of our prayer ministry team being available at all services, our numbers have increased in the past year which has helped to make wider use of the various prayer talents we have in our church.

We have room for more to join us, you don't need to be a special person or be multi-talented just someone who loves their Lord and wants to be prayerfully useful. Prayer ministry is done in pairs and should you join us you won't be thrown in the deep end, you will be partnered with a team member who has been doing it for a while. It is a rewarding and satisfying service, you will be putting into words prayers for people who find it difficult to pray or just don't feel they can personally approach our Heavenly Father with their request because of the difficulty in articulating it.

Give joining us some prayerful consideration and if you want to know more speak to Andy, myself or one of the prayer ministry team, if you join us you will be an ongoing member of a team that keeps prayer as the powerhouse of our church life.

Dave Fowler

Refuel - The 6.00 Service - "Refresh your Spirit"

This different way of worshipping was launched at Christ Church at the end of November and proved to be welcomed by many people. It is a quiet, reflective service inviting people to take a pause in their busy lives for a time of stillness; putting aside the cares of the past and preparing for the week ahead. It offers the opportunity to engage with and feel refreshed by God's presence in what might be a new way for many.

There are times of silence, quiet music, prayer, still pictures and God's word to reflect on. The service concludes with the opportunity to light a candle or to lay down a stone at the foot of the cross.

Look for more opportunities to "Refuel" this year.

Sheila J Gill

Rusty Cutters

Meet usually twice a week on a Wednesday and Friday morning between March and November, to keep the church yard and driveway looking neat and tidy.

At present 3 meet on a Wednesday, and Friday, we could do with more help especially in the grass growing season, our church yard is quite large and although the Commonwealth War Graves look after their section, there is still a lot of work to do.

Anyone who would like to join us (no qualifications needed) would be made very welcome. Coffee and biscuits are provided so please give it a try and join this happy group of workers.

Ruth Fowler

Welcomers

This year we have moved from having separate teams of Deputy Wardens and Sidespeople to a single team of Welcomers. There are currently seventeen members of the congregation who volunteer to carry out the welcoming duty. They support our regular Sunday services and the other additional services that we hold (such as during Christmas and Easter).

The duty involves welcoming the congregation and visitors as they enter the church and giving out Pew Sheets and Service Booklets as required. Our Welcomers also assist with the taking of the collection and setting up the church for each service.

One Welcomer is required at the 8am Service and three at each 10.30am Service. New volunteers are always welcome and if you are interested in joining the team please speak to one of our Deputy Wardens or me. It is a great way to get to know people!

You might ask why we needed to change the structure of pre-existing teams of Wardens, Deputy Wardens and Sidespeople. Although on the surface things appeared to be working very well, due to decreasing numbers of volunteers, and many new people lacking the experience of those that had left, we were struggling to find enough people each Sunday and some key tasks had begun to be missed. More importantly, as we work towards entering a period of renewed church growth, our focus needs to be squarely on welcoming.

We recently held a Welcoming Team Training Session and Social at which we went through all the tasks to be done each Sunday, thought about how to support each other / keep safe and considered what 'good welcoming' looked like. We also had quite a chuckle thinking about examples of bad welcoming we had experienced and noted what to avoid!

Many thanks to everyone who has volunteered as a Welcomer during the year. Your work really does make a difference as to whether visitors will decide to come back.

Stephen M. Anderson & Dee Humphris
Churchwarden & Deputy Churchwarden

'Who Let The Dads Out?'

Celebrated their 5th year here at Christ Church in January 2019 and continues to reach out to the fathers and male guardians of the parish and beyond. Currently 18 Dads and their children attend the Saturday groups with an average attendance of 8 families but on a number of occasions we have enjoyed spending time with 10+ families. In the last year we have tried expanding our social media presence by setting up a Facebook page and also posting to local parenting and community groups. A number of new families have found us through this platform and have come along to find out what we offer.

Nationwide 'Who Let The Dads Out?' has just passed its 15th year anniversary since the 1st group was started, with approx. 8,200 attendees each month across the UK.

Robin Humphris