

# Parish of Sandal Magna Annual Review 2021

The lost are found, the found grow and the lonely are enfolded



## Overview of Parish Life 2021

It has been an interesting year at Sandal Magna. Two events have overshadowed our activity; Covid and the Interregnum. Restrictions have eased although communion is still limited by having only the celebrant taking the wine. Many groups met on Zoom streaming of services has proved to be an unexpected blessing special mention has to go to Richard Hughes and his team for this. Attendance at our services is reduced but is now increasing gradually. The return of Sunday School and crèche facilities should prove to be a catalyst in reviving our 11am service and ministry with young families.

In May Rupert and Sally retired and we realised how complex, and often unseen, the work of the vicar and in our case, also his wife, was. They ensured services were offered appropriately, Church growth encouraged, other ministries maintained, the demands of the diocese met, and peace was maintained within the congregation and people encouraged in their Christian walk and helped with their difficulties. In a time of vacancy these tasks largely fall to the leadership team, the PCC and the wardens. Realising this was an eye opener for us.

In preparation for our new vicar, we have revisited all our policies that were in existence, Safeguarding, GDPR, Health and Safety etc. Ed Brindley was great encourager in this regard as was our Safeguarding Officer, Gerard Kiely Jones. GDPR is ongoing project under the direction of Julian Finn. Other policies are being reviewed by the Parish Administrator Ruth McCallum.

A great source of encouragement was our successful recruitment of a new vicar to start in September, Hannah Smith. Special mention needs to be made of our two parish representatives, Viv Buckley and Ed Brindley. Our vacancy tribulations were more short lived than those experienced by many other parishes. We are looking forward to working with Hannah as a united team.

Two prominent members of congregation passed away this year. Peter Moulding was a lay reader and a keen advocate of the Alpha Course. Janet Crossman was our church treasurer for many years and served on the Standing Committee and PCC. Others too have sadly passed away during this period and each one of them was valued and made their own unique contribution.

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We are very privileged as a parish to have so many active members and volunteers. Their roles are many and varied. It has been interesting and a source of blessing to see how many have risen to the occasion. I have seen God at work in these people and watched them grow.

Collectively all these tasks and people make our church family what it is and we give God thanks for this. We thank God also for Rupert and Sally's ministry over the years and the legacy that they have left. It has been a year full of surprises, blessings and buffetings. God is with us and we look with confidence and hope to the future as Hannah Smith joins with us and carries forward the baton.

*Brian Pratt, Churchwarden*

## Overview of St Paul's 2021

I am very happy to report that St Paul's is in very good heart as we approach Easter 2022. The last twelve months has been a time of gradual awakening from the restrictions of Covid lockdowns, but with the continuing of the enhanced depths of relationships resulting from many conversations, practical acts of kindness and much prayer. The Walton emergency prayer chain continues to offer prayer for situations of special need for anyone contacting us.

As Sunday Worship restarted on Palm Sunday 2021, and with a joyful Easter Day Holy Communion service we have continued a cautious, gradual and appropriate reopening in accordance with Parish policy, and Government and diocesan guidance. We enjoyed a wonderfully joyful Village Carol Service in December, masks on! Barnabas room lettings are gradually returning to previous levels, so we can serve the community with our beautiful and comfortable facilities. We continue to enjoy a warm relationship with our friends at the Methodist church, and much contact with a number of community groups.



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## Overview of St Paul's 2021 continued...

It is wonderful that so many church members are able to serve in leading worship, reading, leading intercessions, welcoming, and serving refreshments after the service. I would like to particularly thank our musicians, Ali Bullivent, Mark Taylor and Jonathan Woodcock (and Maggie Leyshan until the Methodist church reopened), and our preachers. We are extremely grateful to Bishop Tom Butler for his commitment in serving both churches, preaching and presiding at our communion services every month, and in addition officiating at funerals and interment services- in retirement! We were sad to say goodbye to Rupert and Sally in wonderful services they led last May, their legacy continues in so many ways, and they continue in our prayers as they enjoy retirement.

We look forward very much to welcoming Hannah in her ministry in September, and sharing in her vision as we go forward in faith together.

*Margaret Walker.*

## Rupert and Sally Martin

This 2021/22 Annual Review would not be complete without our tribute to Rupert and Sally, two amazing people whom we were blessed to have minister to us for 26 years. Good ministers and leaders have a clear vision of their destination like a ship's good captain. Rupert and Sally were very good leaders and they had a vision, which through the years they kept on navigating as to where they felt God wanted to take St. Helen's, St. Paul's and the parish. They understood what it would take to get there and to make disciples of all people. They always took on board everyone for their vision to be successful, and they recognised obstacles that could take them off track.

God is their maker and their leader. He gave them vision, wisdom, energy, compassion and most of all love – the love that Jesus teaches where everyone is equal and every ministry in the church family is equal – they had no favourites and there were no outsiders – all were insiders. They opened their home and garden for parish activities and much more than that, they welcomed others to live with them and share their home from time to time.

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## Rupert and Sally Martin continued..

Alpha, The Spring, the building of the Barnabas Rooms, the refurbishment of the Emmaus Rooms and the Portobello Community Centre, the development of the work on Portobello, the Memorial Garden, the office and staff team, the young people and children's work and every aspect of church life mattered to them – the music, the church grounds, the housekeeping, the flowers, all the many groups and anything else you can think of.

Between them they disciplined us all, through the truth of the Gospel, hard work and good fun. They had plans for all that God could bless and he did. We have learned so much from them through their teaching but what we have learned from the way they lived their lives here can never be measured.

We wish them much happiness in this new season of their lives and pray God will continue to lead them and bless them in all they do.

*Pam Payling*

## Rupert and Sally

Rupert and Sally send their love from Bristol and send many thanks for the gift which they have used for their new home and garden. This photo shows them with the ceramic memento of Sandal which the parish had made for them. They are mounting it on their outside wall.



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## Report on the Proceedings of Sandal Magna PCC 2021

Your PCC met on eight occasions during the year 2021, six regular meetings and an extraordinary meeting to agree the budget and a meeting with CPAS re the interregnum.

Due to the Covid 19 Some meetings were held by Zoom and some were held in person and by Zoom. The APCM was held on 28<sup>th</sup> April 2021 by Zoom. The business of the PCC continued where necessary through proposals and motions made online if necessary.

Every meeting began with a bible reading and meditation followed by prayers and concluded with the saying of The Grace.

This year of interregnum has been managed and led by the Church Wardens and the Transition Team overseen by the Diocese and we are especially grateful to David Gerard for his availability for advice throughout the year.

We pay tribute to the late Janet Crossman a longstanding PCC member and member of staff, she was a true servant and greatly missed by the fellowship.

Also, thank you to Ben Cutts and Ed Brindley who have stepped down from their roles on the PCC, we are very grateful to them for their service.



### **The PCC received reports from:**

Financial team, Standing Committee, St Paul's Management team, Mike Keeton -Deanery Synod representative; The Transition Team, Rupert Martin – Interregnum Action Plan, Mike Duff - CPAS regarding requirements for new vicar, Ed Brindley – Parish Profile, Ed Brindley & Viv Buckley re progress with the appointment of our new vicar, Brian Pratt- Safeguarding briefing report, Neale Clarke -report on issues with the Tree of Life.

### **The PCC authorised:**

The Re-licensing of Angela Elphick as Reader to this Parish.

The approval of named Lay Preachers and Worship Leaders.

Ed Brindley and Viv Buckley to be the PCC representatives at the interview for our new vicar.

Extension of furlough payments as they became necessary.

Neale Clarke to research tree of life issues.

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## Report on the Proceedings of Sandal Magna PCC 2021 continued..

### The PCC approved:

The audited annual accounts for 2020.

Mission giving from the Parish; That we donate £200 pcm to CAP and that this donation would be reviewed in Oct 2022. That we proceed with the proposal to upgrade our technology to improve live streaming in St Helen's. The Parish Profile, advert, job description for the new vicar. For the purpose of safeguarding the removal of the term SHYP and have Shield, Sunday School and Boogie Woogie Tots. The Budget for 2022 and The Budget for The Spring.

### The PCC oversaw:

The continued necessary changes to worship due to the national restrictions

The continued implementation of hygiene measures throughout the church buildings due to the Covid 19 pandemic

The work of the Parish in a time of interregnum and Covid restrictions

### The PCC was kept informed of:

The activities at St Paul's and the Barnabas Rooms.

The activities of the Portobello Community Forum.

The activities of the Christians Against Poverty.

The staffing of church services and children and youth work.

The work of Oasis.

The activities of the Churchyard team.

The activities of the Deanery Synod.

Changes to Safeguarding matters.



Your PCC works hard to serve the church & be responsible overseers of the parish finances and welcomes your prayers for decisions made on your behalf.

May God be with you in all your activities and give you, His blessings.

*Lynne Finn PCC Secretary*

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## Fabric Report

"The truth is our buildings are not important, the people are."

There I have said it, although those that know me will think that I am making a fabrication out of the truth. So when I think of the buildings I think of the people that have moved on to glory, the example they set, the way they generously served in our church, in time spent and monies given. It is our joint responsibility to make the best use of our resources to maximise on the legacy they have left and to realise the future that we own.

Over the last few years our buildings have been deprived of many missional opportunities to reach people in our community and it is exciting to think of the bold future we enter into with Hannah our new Vicar.



Getting our buildings ready for the task ahead is not easy and I want to make special mention to:

- Richard who has been an incredible help with many of the technical challenges we have faced,
- Neale who has led the "The tree of life" steering group and the many improvements that we can now enjoy,
- And to Will and Dave who manage the heating, Simon Ives the roofer, Ian Senior the Plumber, Rob the electrician, and Richard Shackleton who maintains our gutters.

I am always looking for good people to help with the maintenance of our buildings, so if you are interested, or you know of any good workmen please pass their names on to Ruth in the Parish Office. Godspeed,

*Craig (Churchwarden)*

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## Annual Report for the Churchyard for 2021

The team of Allan Crossman, Jeff Cunliffe, Julian Gill, Gill Heap, John Hepworth, Alex Hull, John Saville and Mike Webster have been joined by Nigel Brook and James Klumb and continued to attend on a Wednesday morning when Covid-19 circumstances permitted. John Hepworth has been putting the cones out for weekday funerals. Les Wilson has looked after the lower area near the seat, the new burial plot, and with Colin Butterfields help, has continued to look after the "Tree of Life" which is much appreciated. Allan's help has been most valuable in maintaining the equipment for the "Mowers" and our brush-cutters/strimmers.

During the summer John Hepworth and Mike, who live alone, came on other days to occupy themselves as they can work well away from each other. This enabled the team to undertake the regular work as well as removal of fallen branches and clearing up after storm damage to ash trees. As a result the Churchyard now looks tidier than in previous years. Many thanks to those parishioners who have commented positively on our work, it is much appreciated.

The snowdrops and daffodils have been glorious again this year. The primulas are coming into flower and we await the flowering of the bluebells.

*Alex Hull*



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## Safeguarding Annual Activities Report

The care and protection of children, young people and vulnerable adults involved in Church activities is the responsibility of the whole Church. Everyone who participates in the life of the Church has a role to play in promoting a Safer Church for all.

During the past year we in St. Helen's and St. Paul's have continued to develop our safeguarding processes. We have created a structured process to ensure that each ministry within each of the parishes have an identified lead with responsibility for the area of work.

Ministry leads ensure that all workers, both paid and voluntary have a signed volunteer agreement and personal declaration and where necessary have been DBS checked.

We have also developed our Safeguarding training, offering training to all workers, and have held training sessions for those needing support with IT skills.

We have re-established the SHIELD youth group who are now up and running sessions for our young people. We are well underway with re-opening our Sunday School and Boogie-Woogie Group at St. Paul's.

We will be offering workers the opportunity to be First Aid trained to ensure all our ministries have a qualified First-Aider for their sessions and work.

The Parish Safeguarding Officer is now a member of the PCC and there is a Safeguarding Team consisting of Gerard Kiely-Jones, Brian Pratt and Liz Morton.

During the coming year we will continue to develop our policies and protocols to ensure the safety and wellbeing of all members of our parish.

*Gerard Kiely-Jones, Parish  
Safeguarding Officer*

*Photo is Bishop Tom Butler with  
some of those he has just  
confirmed, January 2022*



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## Baptisms 2021

It's been a real privilege to lead the Baptism preparation this year with Laura. Our sessions involve the whole family and start with an introduction to Baptism using Godly Play. After that, the children have the chance to be creative with Laura while I chat with their parents. We have time to think about why they are bringing their children for baptism, what they are hoping for and we talk through what happens at the service. Each family receives a copy of a book about baptism which explores in more detail the service, has examples of prayers, and explores the faith journey. We give them a fun aid to help them pray for their children and finish with prayer. Laura and I try to attend all the services, so there is someone they recognise alongside the fantastic vergers who welcome them. During the service we have introduced a prayer activity to include everyone; we give out heart shaped pieces of paper and invite everyone to write or draw their prayer for the child being baptised, these are collected up, popped in a small box and given to the family to keep.



*Liz Morton*

## 20s and 30s Annual Report

At the beginning of 2019, Sally Martin helped form the 20s-30s house group which was hosted at the Vicarage alongside Ed Brindley. A hot 2 course meal with plenty of conversation was followed by a Bible study and prayer. Initially email invites were sent to 16 congregation members although over the course of the year, up to 24 young adults (20-39 years) were noted to be regularly attending a service at St Helen's. Unfortunately due to the interregnum, the pandemic, difficulty in re-establishing Sunday School and re-location of several members, these numbers have dwindled. Over the past four months, only five members in the 20s-30s group appear to be regularly attending St Helen's.

*Stephanie Rutherford*

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## St, Helen's Women's Fellowship 2021

Brighter times were on the horizon this year as we were able to (cautiously) resume our meetings in September 2021, after the enforced absence during COVID-19. And it feels good!

During the pandemic, we maintained contact with members and had reviewed the format of our future meeting times and programme. This resulted in us changing to meet on the first Monday of the month and at 10.30am (rather than holding our meetings in the evening as we used to do). We still meet in the Emmaus rooms at the rear of the church. Due to the (initial) unpredictability of the restrictions in September last year, we chose to plan on inviting speakers on a more 'flexible' basis, with some meetings being 'social' coffee and chat time (plus the all important cake !) with friends. Judging by members comments and by the increase in number of ladies attending, these changes appear to have been well received.

As time goes by, we shall hope to be able to offer a little charitable support, within the capabilities of this small group, reaching out into our local community. It seems fitting to be writing this review during the season of Lent, when our meetings ceased just after our Lenten Service in 2020, but this year with a renewed sense of hope and sunnier times ahead. Would you like to join us? You would be given a warm welcome.....just turn up and try us out!



*Photo is of activity at Portobello Community Centre (not St Helen's Women's Fellowship)*

*Gill Heap (secretary)*

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## Grass Cutting Report 2021

Our small team of Mowers have managed to keep the grass at St.Helen's and St.Paul's cut throughout the year. This was particularly problematic in the light of the Covid epidemic when particular effort was made to ensure the lawns were cut in time for all the main Christian festivals and before weddings. Thank you to everyone involved.

## Gift Aid Report 2021

Giving in the Parish has held up well considering the effect the Covid Epidemic had on the number of Church Services held in the year and the much reduced number of parishioners regularly attending Church. Plate Collections were considerably lower than in previous years as a consequence and envelope giving was also affected, particularly during the first half of the year.

The total amount given during the year was £89,966.65 on which relief of £22491.61 has been claimed. The claim is shared as below:-

	2020	2021
PCC	20897	19460
SHYP	582	593
CAP	1528	2448

On a personal note, I have been claiming the Tax Relief for the Parish for over 20 years and believed the time was right to pass the baton on. Nigel Brook has generously agreed to take over the role with immediate effect and any queries relating to Gift Aided Giving should now be addressed to him.

Thank you for all the support you have given to me over the years.

*John Saville*

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## Annual Review - Choir and Organist

2021 was a year of ups and downs for the choir, organist and church music in general. Looking back in my notebook in which I record pre and post service music together with the hymns to be 'sung', the words 'live streamed only' appear with regular monotony.

From early January until mid March the 10.00am services were held without the congregation or a choir. However, on Palm Sunday, parishioners returned to church but following 'Covid' regulations, they had to sit two pews apart, wear a mask and were not allowed to sing!

With an easing in 'Covid' restrictions, ten members of the choir returned to lead the singing on 9th May but within two weeks, regulations limited the choir to a maximum of six persons. This gave me the unenviable task of contacting some members saying their services were not required, at which time we started to use a rota!

Once church music started to return to more normal ways, we were able to resume our monthly choir practices in July. This gave the opportunity to introduce the singing of Introits, Canticles and a wider range of hymns.

It is a privilege to have choristers who lead our singing every Sunday but particularly on special occasions including Bible Sunday, All Saints' Day, St. Cecilia's Day, Remembrance Sunday and the Annual Carol Service which was probably the highlight of our year!

Thank you choir for all your faithfulness and encouragement. I cannot finish without thanking Angela Elphick and Viv Buckley for all their support - it has been much appreciated.



*John Arnold, Organist*

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# Parish of Sandal Magna Annual Review 2021

The lost are found, the found grow and the lonely are enfolded

## Bellringers Report 2021

2021 started silently! Sadly, due to Covid restrictions there was no ringing until Palm Sunday, when only one bell was allowed to ring for the first Open Service since Christmas. From Whit Sunday we were able to ring 5 bells, wearing masks, with open door and windows, and by Mothering Sunday we were finally allowed to ring all six bells - Hurrah!! This continues with those who wish to still wearing masks.

On May 17th, as part of a National Tribute to Prince Phillip, Duke of Edinburgh, Roger tolled 99 whole pulls with the bells half muffled. In August a bell was tolled for Peter Davies, a well known local Scouter and husband of Sue, as he was carried down the churchyard for the interment. After many postponed weddings we could only ring 3 bells for 15 minutes for our first wedding in May, but by October all 6 bells sounded good when Eddie, our youngest ringer, age 16, rang for the first time for a wedding.

Our other learners are all progressing well and we have welcomed Shaun Parkin, an enthusiastic new adult learner, Jack Endersby rang his first Full Peal (5036 changes in 2 hours 53 minutes) at Hemsworth. He is now practising conducting and helps to teach the learners.

We owe a big thank you to Roger Townend, our Tower Keeper and Ringing Master who also still winds the Church Clock twice weekly whilst we await its much delayed mechanisation.

*Margot Cutt*



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## The Bereavement Team 2021

This team organises two Memorial Services each year, held around April and October, to honour and remember those who have died. The last such service was held on Sunday October 31st 2021 and was well attended with 30 candles being placed on the altar. Viv Buckley led the service alongside Bishop Tom Butler who gave the sermon. Memorial Services are, by their nature, always moving occasions, and many people have found them a comfort which gives closure and a sense of greater calm and peace after losing a loved one.

Many of the original team, having served a long time, have now retired - most recently Ros Jackson and Pam Wild - and earlier Wendy Boutle, Teddy Foster and Pam Taylor. All offered time to talk with bereaved individuals and families, if requested, usually over a cup of tea! None have been professionally trained but have "come alongside@ those who have lost loved ones. Not all have been female either - currently Dr Neal Clark and Mike Keeton are on the team.

We need to recruit new members but it seems sensible to await the arrival of Hannah, our new vicar, to see how she would like to move this ministry forward. Making contact and spending some time with those who have lost someone close to them is not an onerous or hugely time-consuming task; in fact it is both enriching and a privilege! We will send out an update - and an appeal to anyone who might be able to help. So watch this space!

*Helen Gill*

*Photo of Flowers at the funeral of  
Janet Crossman, February 2022*



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**Oasis**

This year, once again we have kept in contact with over 100 members of our Oasis family in the parish and around Wakefield. We have delivered cards and seasonal treats at Harvest time, Christmas and Easter and have engaged in precious conversations as the gifts have been given to everyone in person. Thanks to those who helped with the deliveries, to Catherine and her team at The Spring for their amazing support. In spite of not being able to host big events we have been blessed by deepening friendships and relationships through doorstep contacts and phone calls.

This ministry is particularly important as we are all getting somewhat older and frailer and some of us are suffering the impact of ill health and bereavement. We are not sure at the moment how things will develop over the next few months but we look forward to working with Hannah Smith when she takes up her new post to continue and expand the church's ministry to older people. We are blessed to be part of this ministry and look forward to the next chapter!

*Janet Porritt and Anne Pratt*

## Christians Against Poverty

At the end of 2021 Sarah Cutts stepped down as Centre Manager for the Wakefield CAP Debt Centre after nearly ten years. The Wakefield Centre was established in 2012, running out of St Helen's Church and has been supported by an army of people and organisations including other churches - St George's, Lupset, New Life Christian Centre and Sandal Methodist.

In Sarah's time we saw 109 people go debt free and 56 make a response to the Gospel message. Sarah encouraged many volunteers who helped befriend our clients, visited, prayed, bought and delivered shopping, ran events, distributed hampers and clothes. Client blessings included Christmas Lunches, cream teas, pampering events, magic shows, sharing our testimonies, client holidays, white goods, school uniforms, Christmas presents, children's presents and lots more.

We look forward to welcoming a new Debt Centre Manager, Nick Drayton, who will be starting in May 2022 and working from the Parish Office at St Helen's.

*Sarah Cutts*

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## St. Paul's with St. Helen's Sandal Magna Mothers' Union

The branch hold meetings on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday of the month at 7:30pm, in the Barnabas rooms at St. Pauls' Walton. Currently there are 18 members in our branch. Due to the third coronavirus lock down we were unable to meet in person until 24<sup>th</sup> May 2021. Until then we all kept in touch by telephone, email or meeting within the coronavirus rules or connected electronically. In addition to branch meetings our branch was also represented at various Episcopal Area and Diocesan events as listed.

Meetings held at St. Pauls' :-

21<sup>st</sup> June 21, 19<sup>th</sup> July 21, 18<sup>th</sup> October 21, 15<sup>th</sup> November 21 .

13<sup>th</sup> December 21 Christmas party.

August & September meetings cancelled.

9<sup>th</sup> January 21. Wave of prayer held individually due to lockdown.

25<sup>th</sup> March 21 Lady Day service in Bradford Cathedral sent out electronically.

24<sup>th</sup> June 21 MU Episcopal Area meeting held at St. Pauls' as we were hosts.

23<sup>rd</sup> August 21. Teddy Foster hosted afternoon and evening parties as fund raising effort for the MU Summer of Hope appeal.

24<sup>th</sup> September 21. Fund raising quiz and light supper held in the Barnabas rooms.

1<sup>st</sup> October 21 Midday Prayers resumed at the Cathedral.

11<sup>th</sup> October 21 MU Episcopal Area meeting at St. Pauls'. Meeting and faith lunch with farewell and thank you service for our retiring Area president Eileen Warburton. Service Led by our Area Chaplain Father Tim, in church, with Bishop Tony in attendance.

14<sup>th</sup> October 21 Committee meeting at Teddys.

5<sup>th</sup> November 21 Midday prayers at the Cathedral.

12<sup>th</sup> November 21 Mayors' Remembrance Service at the Cathedral. 4 Branch members represented Wakefield Area MU.

18<sup>th</sup> November 21. MU Diocesan Council meeting at St. Chads' Headingley.

27<sup>th</sup> November 21. MU took part in the Global Day at the Cathedral. No more 1 in 3.

Throughout the year members have continued with regular monetary donations to MU Fund raising projects, including money to supply emergency toiletry bags for the children's ward at Pinderfields. In addition, they have donated Knitted garments, fiddle muffs and plastic toy tools for fiddle aprons and Food for the food Bank. We have also supported each other through regular contact in person or by telephone and prayer.

*Catherine Tweedle*

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## The Spring Report for 2021

A rather subdued start to the year like so many of our Church Ministries, as we started 2021 in another Lockdown . Some how this felt much heavier and deeper than the first – perhaps we were all feeling the pressure of not being “in community” such a huge part for us all here at The Spring, or was it that sense that we’d been here before not that long ago or simply was it a cry out as to whether our lives would ever be the same again. Now looking back, we see how gracious God was in our troubles – revealing the enforced closure to be a real time of **renewing** our connections with the local community through the delivery of Hampers of Hope, **refreshing** the Spring, following a complete make over and then **restoring** the staff team with new ways of working within the constraints of the government recommendations.

It felt great to be able to re-open the doors in March, albeit as a take away only, and to welcome back some familiar faces. It was good to serve one another again, to plan the lockdown lunch menu, to ponder who’d bag the bench at the end of Sandal Avenue first(I think there was an unofficial rota at one point ) so many daily



things that we no longer took for granted. In and amongst we were able to support Anne & Janet Porritt as they looked after the Oasis Ministry, TLG through the provision of food during school holidays/closures and the ongoing deliveries of meals to our Vulnerable customers . April meant we could re-open the shop and offer indoor table service seating in the Café – fabulous news all round. From then on it seems to have been business as “almost” normal.

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## The Spring Report contd...

Margaret, Jane and her team ensured the Shop looked beautiful as it finally re-opened and welcomed everyone back safely and respectfully.

We have had to say farewell to the most wonderful & faithful volunteers who decided that it was finally time to hang up their pinnies & tabards, but we thank and miss Dorothy Barraclough, June Tomlin, Aileen Bush, Hazel & Ralph Wardle and Josie Leggard. I hope that I have their energy and zest for life when I'm their age !!! I realise also that we had to say our farewells to Rupert & Sal, what a privilege it has been for me personally to work alongside them and I am not alone when I say how much they are missed – but how wonderful to bless them and all their farewell teas with our Spring Cakes and food !!

I am pleased to welcome a raft of new volunteers in both the Shop & Café, all of whom have settled in well and are enriching the Spring with their presence and we are very much looking forward with huge excitement to work with Hannah Smith when she takes up her post in September – also the month of our 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary . In September, we re-opened with a full shop and reduced tables in the café, but pretty much normal service resumed. We also began our new Spring Sunday Lunches – held on the 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of the month for all to enjoy but particularly our Church family members who may be on their own and would enjoy a home cooked Sunday Lunch – we always have space on the day at our fellowship tables for extras. Finally in December, after a two year absence we were able to offer our Advent Lunches – and what a blessing they proved to be - over 500 lunches in 12 days , a complete joy for us as a ministry and for all our customers who not only received a beautifully prepared and served lunch, but with whom we were able to share our Advent reflections, beautifully composed this year by Joyce Bloomfield.

We rounded the year off with some freshly prepared Christmas Lunches – bringing joy to 28 people on Christmas Day.

On reflection another unusual year but God has been gracious throughout and enabled us to keep a gentle presence throughout, serving and welcoming and just being and for that I am truly grateful.

*Catherine Moxham*

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## Portobello Community Forum Annual Review

Portobello Community Centre is a hive of activity for its community and surrounding areas. Sarah Cutts is employed 7 hours per week and Laura Truter 3 hours per week. The following groups meet at the centre and create a regular revenue stream:

Sewcial Sewing Club Senior Youth Club Kung Fu,

Grace Space Craft and Photography Group Fusion Youth Group

Junior Youth Club Merrie City Singers

PCF Drop In Alcoholics Anonymous

Sewcial Knitters and Modellers Strong Tower Christian Centre

In addition to the above we held a drama group up until February half term and a Holiday Drama Club in February half term. Every school holiday we run a TLG Holiday Lunch Club once a week, providing a hot meal and activities for families. This is increasing in its popularity and we are seeing families come back each holiday. A huge thank you to our volunteers who make this happen. Our biggest achievement for the year was to apply for funding from the National Lottery and Heritage Lottery Fund with the help of Edgelands Arts and Jo Jones. We were successful with both our bids. We held a Centenary Garden Party in Manygates Park in August to celebrate 100 years since Portobello Estate was built. It was an amazing day, with lots of stalls run by Portobello Community Groups. We employed local artists so there was a full programme of activities for the day. We hired a climbing tower, face painters, and balloon artists. Due to the funding all the activities were free and the park was full of local residents throughout the day. We were also successful in our Heritage Lottery bid which was to create silk flags to commemorate 100 years. These were designed by Edgelands Arts and painted by local residents. These have been completed and are to be gifted to local organisations. Local residents spent time at West Yorkshire Archive Service looking into the heritage of the estate and a Portobello Community Centre website has been built as part of the funding. Our new website can be viewed at:

<https://portobellocommunitycentre.wordpress.com/>

We also have a Facebook page which you can follow at

<https://www.facebook.com/pcfwakefield/>

We have lots of exciting plans for 2022/23. We hope to start a Toddler Group and a monthly children's disco and we have already started planning for the next Portobello Gala! We want to be the hands and feet of Jesus on the estate of Portobello and show God's love in everything we do.

*Sarah Cutts*

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