

FEBRUARY 2022

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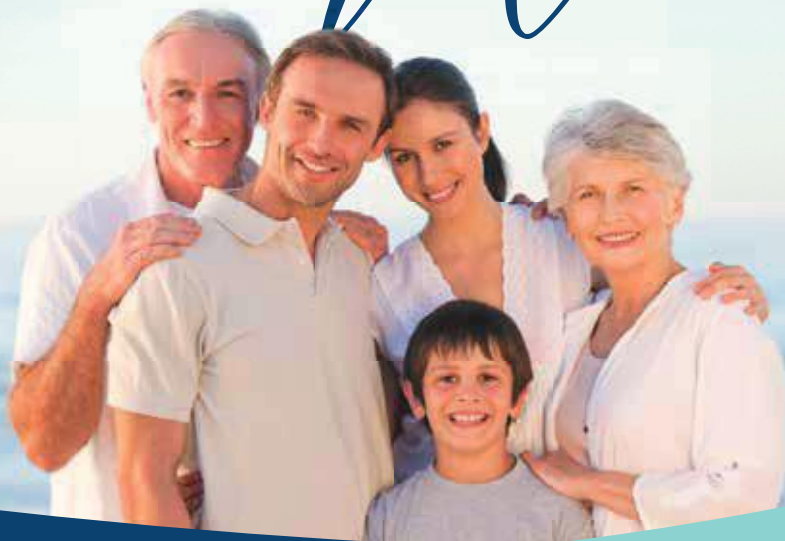


Lymington Parish News



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Lymington Parish News

St Thomas' and All Saints' Churches



St Thomas' Church
St Thomas Street
Lymington
SO41 9ND

All Saints' Church
All Saints Road
Lymington
SO41 8FD



Services

For details of Sunday and midweek services, please see the Diary inside.

Enquiries

There is a great deal of information to be found on our website:

www.lymingtonchurch.org

To enquire about weddings, baptisms, funerals, church and hall bookings please contact our **Parish Office** which is open at St Thomas' Church, Monday to Friday, 9.30a.m.—11.30a.m.

You can 'Meet the Vicar' by appointment on Tuesday evenings.

Administrator: Mrs Gill Maunder:

office@lymingtonchurch.org 01590 676194

Contacts

Vicar: The Revd Canon Peter Salisbury (day off Friday)
peter@lymingtonchurch.org 01590 673847

Churchwardens: Mr David Bridges, 01590 678732
Mrs Maureen Harris, 01590 674458

LLM Emeritus: Mr Malcolm Ward, 01590 679651

Organist & Choir Director: Mr Martin Penrose, ARCO, LTCL,
penrosemusic@aol.com 02380 864439

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helenpocklington@hotmail.co.uk 01590 673750

Tower Secretary: Mr Larry Stace, 01590 682417

Magazine

Publication date: 1st of each month. Please submit copy to the Editor by the 6th of the previous month.

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Subscriptions: Susan Canter-Visscher 01590 679666



THE VICAR'S LETTER

Dear Friends,

They say everything has its season, and you will have no doubt heard by now that Gill Maunder, our Parish Administrator, and I have both come to the conclusion that our current season is drawing to a close.

Gill will be retiring from her role at the end of March, and Sarah and I shall be saying farewell in the summer.

Thank you for your reactions to the news, which have been heart-warming and encouraging, combining three sentiments:

1. Yes, I suppose we knew this was coming;
2. Thank you for all you've done, we shall really miss you;
- and 3. We wish you well for the future, it's a good decision.

In practical terms we now as a parish have to get moving quickly to find a new Parish Administrator. Gill has very kindly offered to overlap with her successor to make sure there is a smooth hand-over, and has even said she will be happy to offer whatever help her successor may need in the future.

When we met together with the recruitment team to talk about the job specification we soon realised that the most important qualifications are more to do with character and personality than specific skills. Most people can learn quite quickly to use a different word processor, none can easily change to become patient, positive and welcoming if that is not their nature.

We are all very much aware of how much we owe to Gill for the smooth running of the parish over her sixteen years, and I do ask very sincerely for your prayers that the right person will come forward to take her place. I can't tell you how many times Gill has spotted that I've accidentally double-booked myself, most often by putting myself onto the rota to take services when I'm booked to be on holiday with Sarah. (Note to self, add "forgiving nature" to the list of requirements!)

Once we have found a new P.A. we can start to think about what is involved in finding a new Vicar. But that's another story for another day; you have me for a few more months yet!

Best wishes,

Peter

MONTHLY EVENTS

Zoom Details – Prayer (1)

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89529902640>
pwd=QVQxTGxjODdwV3ROT1gxM2NWUjN0dz09
or from a landline phone: 0203 481 5240; Meeting ID: 895 2990 2640:
Passcode: 2020

Zoom Details – Social (2)

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85117060907>
pwd=SThHqWROTGRxSVROMEvvZlprTFJvdz09
or from a landline phone: 0203 481 5240; Meeting ID: 851 1706 0907:
Passcode: coffee

St Thomas' Church is open for private prayer each day 10.00am - 4.00pm

REGULAR WEEKLY EVENTS:

Sunday:	8.00am	Early Communion
	9.15am	Choral Communion
	11.00am	Life & Soul Informal Service
Monday to Friday:	9.00am	Zoom Morning Prayer [1]
Monday:	12 noon	Monday Lunch - STH
Tuesday:	10.00am	Toddler Group - STH
	11.00am	Zoom <i>TakeTime</i> Ignatian Meditation [1]
	5.00pm	Meet the Vicar
Wednesday:	10.00am	Poetry Corner - STH (2nd Wednesday by Zoom)
	11.00am	Holy Communion
Thursday:	10.00am	Vistas Café - STH
Saturday:	9.00am	Zoom Prayer for the work of the parish [1]

FEBRUARY EVENTS

Sun 6	CANDLEMAS	Services as usual including
4.00pm		Evensong for Candlemas

FEBRUARY EVENTS

Sun 13 **3 BEFORE LENT**
Services as usual with Basic Banks speaker

Sun 20 **2 BEFORE LENT**
Services as usual including
9.00am Messy Church - STH

Sun 27 **1 BEFORE LENT**
Services as usual

MARCH EVENTS

Wed 2 **ASH WEDNESDAY**
11.00am Communion with Ashing

Sun 6 **LENT 1**
Services as usual including
4.00pm Evensong for Lent

Electoral Roll Revision and Annual Parochial Church Meeting

Our Electoral Roll needs to be revised before our Annual Parochial Church Meeting in March.

If you are not already on our Electoral Roll, please contact the Parish Office for an application form which should be completed **before the closing date of Wednesday 15 March.**

The Electoral Roll indicates parish membership and everyone on the Roll has the opportunity to take part in the proceedings of the Annual Parochial Church Meeting on Wednesday 30 March at 7.30p.m. in St Thomas Church.

If you are not sure whether or not you are already on the Electoral Roll, please check with the Parish Office.

Please help by ensuring that your name is on our list. Thank you.

Gill Maunder, Electoral Roll Officer



*We should like to wish
Happy February Birthday to...*

William Bubb + Madelynne Taylor
Isaac Butcher + Jaxon Brown + Cerys Wilson
Matthew Bull + Amy Wilshere
Thomas Monks + Ollie Lindsay

*This month's cover: **Winter sunrise at Lymington Quay.***

Photo: Polly Hughes



St Thomas' Church
Lymington

Sunday 20 February
**JUSTICE
FOR
ALL**



Join us in St Thomas Hall for breakfast from 9:00a.m.
followed by Bible stories, songs and messy fun.

Info and updates at www.lymingtonchurch.org/messy-church

Annual subscriptions for the ten issues of *Lymington Parish News* in 2022 are now due. For those readers who have their magazines delivered, your regular distributor will collect subscriptions for 2022.

For others, please pass payments to the Office, Susan Canter-Visscher or the Editor; cash or cheques (payable to "Lymington PCC").

The cover price will remain at 60p per copy (£6.00 per year) but donations of £1.00 per copy (£10.00 per year) instead are invited to help offset the actual cost of printing which is £1.80 per copy!

Copies to be sent by post are now £15.00 for the year.

Churchwardens' Notes

I looked back to the Churchwardens' Notes of February last year to see that we were in our third lockdown with Covid-19 accounting for 82,000 deaths with a death rate at 1,000 a day. We were not having services in person but relying on the joint on-line service with St Mark's. The Isle of Wight had just gone from being in Tier 1 to Tier 3 with an infection rate of one in fifty people. Here we are a year later and Covid has now accounted for over 150,000 deaths, each a tragedy or sadness to someone. Mercifully, the rate of new infections appears to have peaked but with hospitalisations and deaths rising. The Omicron variant, although much more transmissible than earlier variants, appears to have less severe symptoms and the vaccine rollout and booster doses have ameliorated the effects of the disease. However, as I write the death rate is still around 400 a day with an infection rate as high as one in fifteen in parts of England and one in twenty-five in the Forest.

What are the implications for us and our worship? Statistically this means that there are possibly one or two people with Covid at every Choral Communion and at every Life and Soul Service. This may not be the case of course, but it is worth adopting as a guiding principle and to act accordingly. We continue to insist on mask wearing in church and for the air exchange to be maintained, although this is difficult when the weather is cold. Many are, of course, choosing to watch the streamed service while the daily Morning Prayer, the house groups and meetings take place in two dimensions on Zoom. The pandemic should eventually become endemic and we will learn to cope with its permanent presence and match our worship to what will be by then the 'new normal'.

Every five years the Church of England requires every parish to survey its buildings and fabric. Our Quinquennial Inspection is carried out by the diocesan approved architect and the report provides recommendations in sections according to priority. These are: 'Items needing immediate attention'; 'Items which require attention within the next 18 months'; 'Items needing attention before the next inspection or which need monitoring' and 'Desirable'. 'Priority' means we have to do the urgent things and leave things that might be nice to do aside. In St Thomas' case we have to address the structural flaws to the east end where one gable is slowly collapsing inwards whilst on another the coping stones are slipping down the gable. In addition, the rainwater goods need attention and the stone-work needs variously repointing, repairing and refacing (these last two items contributing to the damp in the walls). Such work is inevitably expensive but unavoidable and the Vicar and Churchwardens, the Fabric Committee and the PCC have embarked on the process of repair and restoration. More information will be forthcoming as the project progresses.

Wishing us all a happy and safe 2022.

David Bridges



THE ORGANIST PIPES UP!

I was recently asked to find a soloist for a memorial service at St Thomas' to sing the beautiful aria 'When I am laid in earth' from Henry Purcell's opera 'Dido and Aeneas'.

Purcell wrote the opera (his only composition in this form) for Josiah Priest's girls' school in London sometime around 1689, and the haunting Lament is the best known piece from the work.

Having made one or two enquiries about a soloist locally without any result, I contacted my daughter Katherine, who lives in Surrey. As a young girl, Kathy sang in the cathedral choir at Exeter and ended her time there as head girl chorister.

She knows the piece very well and kindly agreed to take a day off work and come and sing for me.

However, she doesn't have a piano or keyboard and so we tried rehearsing over the phone – something my late brother Tim and I had done very successfully years ago to prepare for a concert in Norfolk.

Sadly, the time lag on mobile phones (like many younger people she doesn't have a landline) meant this was far from satisfactory. So, instead, I recorded the accompaniment into my phone and sent it to her via 'What's app'.

Amusingly, when I added the title 'Dido's Lament' to the recording, predictive text translated this as 'Dude's Lament': not quite the same thing at all!

Martin Penrose

CHRISTMAS TREE FESTIVAL

3-7 December 2021



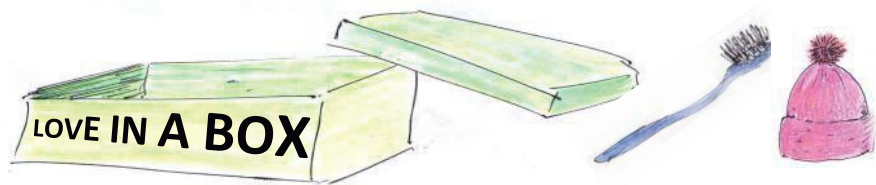
Sixty-three trees were decorated this year and musical interludes provided each day. A concert 'Spirit of Christmas' with Colin Judson was held on the Saturday night to the acclaim of all.

*Photos by Lynne Bennett
and Nigel Mussett.*





The Friends of St Thomas Church laid on refreshments and a gift stall, both of which were well patronised.



Christmas 2021

In spite of the coronavirus pandemic, we were able to continue in our support of the Mustard Seed Mission which sends out a large lorry full of wrapped shoe boxes to underprivileged children in Moldova. The boxes are filled with a number of items which include a warm hat, a scarf, gloves, a flannel, soap, a tooth brush and toothpaste, writing paper and a colouring book, stationery, games, sweets and a cuddly toy. The cost of transport for each box is £4.00.

This year we filled 83 boxes, which exceeded our expectations and was due entirely to the generosity of all of those who donated items and money. Whenever we saw that an item or money was running low, someone always seemed to turn up with exactly what we needed: our prayers were definitely being answered.



We would especially like to thank our knitters who work throughout the year to provide us with hats, gloves, scarves and even cuddly toys. We also received a most unexpected carload of wrapped boxes and assorted items from Lymington Infants' School. Under normal circumstances, the school undertakes its own shoe box project, but this year they very kindly helped to support us. The boxes were collected by Richard from the Mustard

Seed Mission on the morning of 16 November. Richard had been collecting boxes from Cornwall, Devon and Dorset during the previous day and had a few more collections to make after us on his journey back to Eastbourne.

We are awaiting Mustard Seed Mission's newsletter which always includes images of the children excitedly receiving their boxes and tells the stories of how vital the contents of them are to those who have nothing. We hope that through our work, supported by the generous members of our community, these children will feel the love and joy of Christmas this year and for many years to come.

Many thanks and warmest wishes,

Helen, Denise and Andy

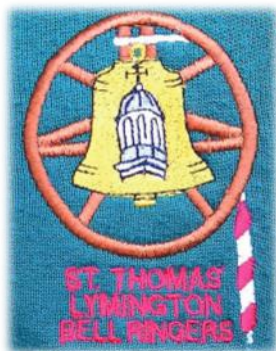


*Left: 28 November, Advent Sunday. Town Crib outside St Thomas' Church.
Michael Standage*

Right: 10 December. Official opening of Tops Lymington All Saints' Nursery by the Mayor of Lymington, Cllr James Hoare (centre) with Cheryl Hadland, Managing Director of Tops Day Nurseries (left), and the Vicar. William Bonnett



Above: 16 December. Christmas 'Get Together' for the magazine distributors and their guests at Vistas. Nigel Mussett



RINGING TIMES

Once the Government had started to relax the Covid restrictions and our Church services were resuming we were also given a green light to start ringing again. We had to follow the distancing rules and so with our ringing positions being close together we could only ring on four bells. We are fortunate in having a large high opening window which draws air from below and ventilates the whole ringing chamber. Now, with further lifting of restrictions, we are able to ring all eight bells taking all sensible precautions.

Although we currently have nine ringers, we only manage to ring six bells most Sundays because of people's other commitments and availability. We are very fortunate to have some very experienced ringers in our band.

We managed to ring the number six bell half muffled to commemorate the passing and then the funeral of Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh, in April 2021. More recently, we rang all eight bells half muffled for Remembrance Sunday on 14 November and then on the following day we had the sad duty of ringing the eight half muffled for Max, a local young man who had lost his life recently in a late night incident in the High Street.

Muffled bells are rung for special national and civic occasions of mourning. A few years ago, we would ring the bells at St Thomas' muffled on New Year's Eve up to 11.30p.m. and then take the muffles off ready to ring again at midnight to welcome in the New Year. A joyous occasion!

To explain half-muffled bells:



**Clapper
unmuffled**

**Clapper
half-muffled**

A leather muff is put on one side of each clapper ball. When we start ringing, the clapper hits the bell as usual on the hand stroke and the other side of the clapper with the muff hits the bell on the back stroke. Listening to the bells you hear eight clear rings as normal - a space and then eight dull rings or 'dungs'. This sounds like an echo and produces a very slow sombre tone.

Andy Dibb



Looking back, looking forward

As we look back at our Eco Church journey, and achieving Gold last year, we have created a four-minute presentation to showcase our Eco Journey. The YouTube video is now available on the Eco Church page of the church website. We hope that as well as giving church members an insight into some of the things we have done, it will also

inspire other churches which are just starting their Eco journey.

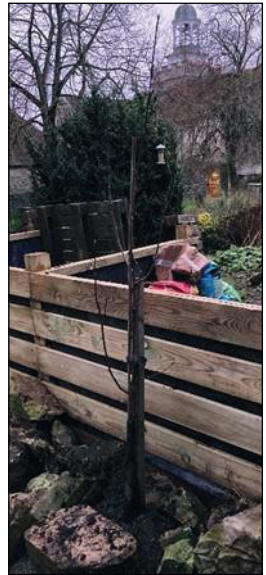
Looking ahead, we can't afford to rest on our laurels! The Church of England is encouraging all churches to create a route map to net zero carbon by 2030. At St Thomas' we have a long way to go to achieve this, but rising gas prices ought to give us an incentive! And following COP26, there is much to be done as we face the challenges of climate change and try to reduce our carbon emissions.

New tree for the churchyard

As you may have noticed, the composting area has been refurbished, with a new set of bays. In the course of the work an overgrown *Griselinia* was removed. This left the



area rather bare, and we thought about putting in a small tree which would have berries that the birds would enjoy. So we were delighted when David Legg offered to buy a tree in memory of his father John Legg; a Vilmorin's Rowan (left) was selected and has recently been planted. We can look forward to berries like these! And Andrew, one of our volunteers, has kindly planted some *Euonymus* (Spindle) which should make a colourful



screen in due course.

Rosie Ward



OYEZ! OYEZ! OYEZ!

Gordon Wynne begins a new series of Christian essays inspired by the New Forest

The Vert and the Venison

We have begun with a little Norman French. The Forest long predates the coming of William Duke of Normandy to rule this land but it is in William's language that many familiar things begin in legal and administrative life. The Forest is no exception. The Court of Verderers, that most ancient institution, takes much from Norman tradition and has passed it into Forest life. Revitalised though the Court was in 1877, its origin is much older.

The Vert is the greenness, the growth of the trees on which the animals browse. The Venison is the deer, for the royal hunting of which the Forest was brought to life in its historic and present form. That is the great axis of trouble and tension in the Forest. The Crown needed the Vert for the life of the Venison. The Commoners needed the Vert for their livestock. Interests may conflict. Without cooperation and understanding the whole delicate, intricate web of life which is the Forest could not exist at all. The tides of history have ebbed and flowed, sometimes the way of one party and sometimes the way of the other.



There could be neither Vert nor Venison without the basic geology and climate of the place. Everything depends on the gifts of God. Yet there must be responsible human stewardship too, or all is in danger.

The Little Lizard

One summer day I was sitting quietly in the Open Forest. Nobody was about, just a distant buzzard and the homely sound of bees and flies. There was a tiny movement in the bramble, bracken and heather in front of me. A little lizard peeped out. Then she stopped to look at me. She – it was a she – stood up on her forelegs and considered the situation. She was neither afraid nor was she in a hurry. She simply looked at me, calmly and quietly. Without staring, I looked back at her. We came to an understanding. For her it was a question of regarding this big creature as something strange but harmless, a peaceful giant.

For me it was one of those moments when much is revealed, a true communication with the world of nature in the Forest, a request from that nature to sympathise, to come alongside in word and deed and to pass on the sympathy to others, within the will of God. Then both of us quietly went our ways. The last I knew of my little friend was a small rustle, a barely visible disturbance of the grass and bracken fronds.

It is a rare and golden moment when you can relate to animals in the Forest and not find fear. When it happens it must be treasured and, more important, acted upon. Hence these notes.



Gordon Wynne

The Ten Commandments

Canon William Cummings begins his new series on The Ten Commandments

1: Introduction

In this Instagram and Facebook generation, there are few people who ask themselves, “What is the most important book in the Old Testament?”. Nevertheless, among those who do, the general consensus is that the most important is the second one, the book Exodus.

Exodus begins with the birth of Moses and goes on to his call, at the Burning Bush, to lead the people of Israel out of slavery in Egypt to the Promised Land. His efforts to persuade the Egyptian Pharaoh are humanly unsuccessful, but divinely facilitated by the Plagues of Egypt. Dramatically, Pharaoh and his army pursue Moses and his fleeing companies toward the Red Sea and then, injudiciously plunging into the waters, they are drowned in its depths, while Moses and the Israelites escape to the Sinai peninsula on the eastern side.

Circumstantial evidence suggests the possibility that these events happened in about 1280 B.C., in the reign of the Pharaoh Rameses II, but if not then, certainly within that century, when the whole Late Bronze Age was beginning to crumble.

The Israelites journey through the Sinai peninsula for a few days and then God, through the agency of Moses, in Exodus chapter 20, gives the people the Ten Commandments.

No continuous passage of the Old Testament has had such lasting influence upon human society and civilisation as the Ten Commandments (Exodus 20.1-17). A second version of them occurs in Deuteronomy 5.6-21. They are quoted and commended by Jesus and St Paul. They have been painted either directly upon church walls or upon boards which have then been affixed to such walls; they appear at the beginning of the Prayer Book Holy Communion and in Lent and Advent many churches still rehearse them today.

The Ten Commandments are not the only Commandments that God, through Moses, gave to the Chosen People in the wilderness. Throughout Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers and Deuteronomy others keep coming and coming. But while the agricultural community of the early Old Testament began to settle down into a more urban economy and inappropriate commandments slipped into the background, these particular Ten Commandments came steadily more to the fore.

William Cummings

**ST THOMAS' CHURCHYARD
MEMORIALS PROJECT**

WANTED!

15 PEOPLE WHO CAN READ!



**AN INVITATION IS EXTENDED TO ANYONE INTERESTED IN
RECORDING THE INSCRIPTIONS ON THE MEMORIALS AT THE TOP
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**RECORDING TO BE UNDERTAKEN BETWEEN JANUARY AND MAY BEFORE THE
GRASS GROWS TOO TALL. CHOOSE ONE OF THE 15 WELL-DEFINED AREAS. MOST
MEMORIALS ARE FROM THE 19TH CENTURY AND ARE EASY TO READ.**

FULL ASSISTANCE WILL BE GIVEN. PLANS ARE AVAILABLE FOR EACH AREA.

CONTRIBUTE TO THE RECORDING OF LYMINGTON'S HISTORY!

DETAILS FROM THE PROJECT COORDINATOR NIGEL MUSSETT

nigelmussett@gmail.com or 07531 179544

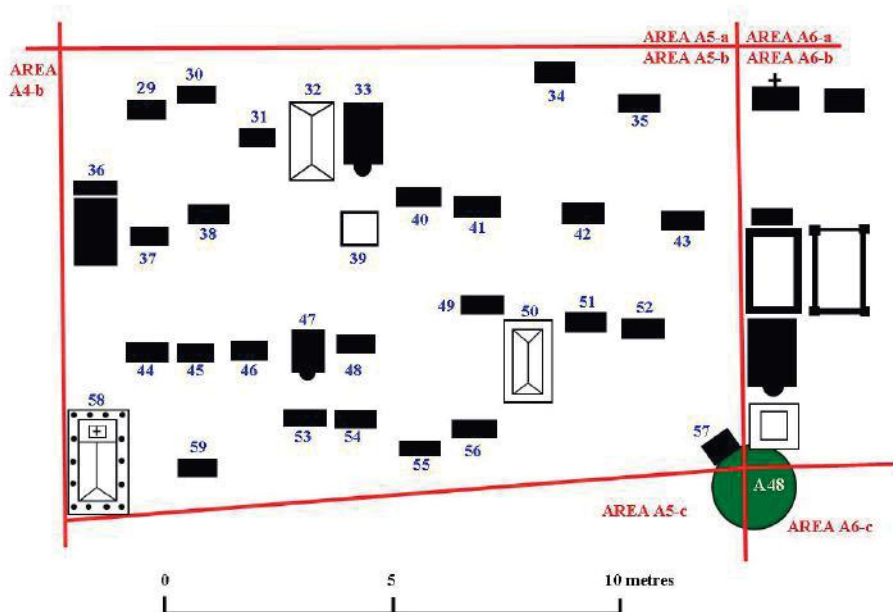
St Thomas' Churchyard: AREA A - Divisions



To facilitate the recording of individual memorials, Area A has been sub-divided into fifteen identifiable smaller areas as shown above.
Aerial image courtesy of Stuart Ward



AREA A5-b



Working plan of one of the sub-divisions of Area A by way of example

Nigel Mussett

- - - 0 - - -

Technically, Moses was the first person to download files from the cloud using a tablet.



PRAYER THOUGHTS



Church People

I simply argue that the Cross be raised again at the centre of the market place, as well as on the steeple of the church.

I am recovering the claim that Jesus was not crucified in a cathedral between two candles.

But on a Cross between two thieves, on a town garbage heap, on a crossroads so cosmopolitan that they had to write his title in Hebrew and Latin and Greek.

At the kind of place where cynics talk smut, and thieves curse, and soldiers gamble.

Because that is where he died, and that is what he died about.

And that is where church people should be, and what church people should be about.

*Anon.
Found on the internet.*

Malcolm Ward

Marvellous Moments with Lymington Choral Society

'Requiem': Lymington Choral Society, The Nova Foresta Classical Players,
St Thomas' Church Lymington

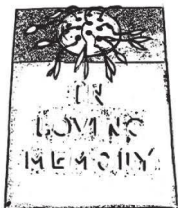
Musical memories are often made up of marvelous moments experienced communally. This was certainly the case on 13 November last in a concert packed with a mixture of moments, sometimes thrilling, sometimes spine-tingling, sometimes warming, but always committed. All the performers were committed to their roles, be it soloist, instrumentalist or choir member, and this togetherness really added to the sense of poignancy of the occasion: a concert of remembrance, perhaps made even more moving by the sights and sounds of massed musicians coming together to make music after a forced international disruption to this most human and communicative of activities.

The packed church (almost standing-room only!) enjoyed a selection of popular musical favourites, all performed with a sense of excitement and care, not least from newly-appointed conductor Phil Daish-Handy, whose deft and subtle nuanced direction helped elicit keenly-felt interpretation all round. Beginning with John Rutter's now-classic choral anthems *The Lord Bless You and Keep You* (assuring and strong) and *A Clare Benediction* (peaceful and meditative), we knew we were in safe hands with a well-balanced, well-pitched choir and first class band and organist. Thomas Tallis' *a capella If Ye Love Me* followed, with solid part-singing lending itself encouragingly to the 'spirit of truth' of the famous Gospel verse.

The Nova Foresta Classical Players came into their own for Jules Massenet's *Meditation* from his opera *Thaïs*, with a captivating solo from Oxana Tahmasaby. At times sweet and plaintive, at other times deep and soulful, we heard a huge range of expressive and emotive phrases - simply beautiful. The 'meatiest' part of the concert (as Mr Daish-Handy put it) came with Faure's *Requiem*. Assured and sympathetic accompaniment was provided by Timothy Rice on a chamber organ, with the string quartet adding further depth throughout. Baritone soloist James Atkinson gave a simply magnificent performance in his solo movements - his rich tone lending dignity and class. Emily Garland's soprano in the 'Pie Jesu' was similarly rich, and matched perfectly with the accompaniment - a smooth, sumptuous performance. The choir sounded fabulous; with well-supported singing and careful management of some of the trickier parts of the piece, we were left with a true opportunity for reflection at this most difficult of times.

Now to those moments: from a pick of many (some of which are noted above), I'll plump for three: firstly some 'thrilling' dynamics in Faure's 'Requiem Aeternam' movement; secondly, the heavenly, sunlight-strewn 'Amen' at the end of his 'Offertorium', and finally the opportunity to hear people coming together to sing and play - the most wonderful moment of all! Congratulations to all involved.

Rob Dishington



- Memorial Stone Restoration -

Are the words on your loved one's memorial stone clear to see? If not, call me for a quote for restoration in situ with a 40% discount for Parish News readers.

Simon: 0800 112 3026 / 07776231392



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'Thank you Oakhaven staff and volunteers,
you are simply the best.'

For Mark, who is a regular day hospice attendee, Oakhaven Hospice has been a real haven to him, 'It's never a dull place and all the staff and volunteers are truly dedicated and professional, they also genuinely care about you. Without the ongoing support of Oakhaven, life for me would be very dull indeed. I am lucky to have them as part of my life and I am eternally grateful for everything they've done for me.'

We are able to care for one in four people like Mark thanks to gifts left in Wills.

Leaving a lasting legacy to Oakhaven in this way ensures we will be able to continue caring for those in our community when they need us most, helping us to make every moment matter.

Could you help us with a gift in your Will?

A pledge of any size really will make a difference to our future.

Visit oakhavenhospice.co.uk/legacy for more information.

We also offer a free and confidential online Will writing service in partnership with Guardian Angel.



As a friend of Mark's from
Oakhaven once said to him,

'I didn't come to
Oakhaven to die,
I came here to live.'



making every moment matter

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