

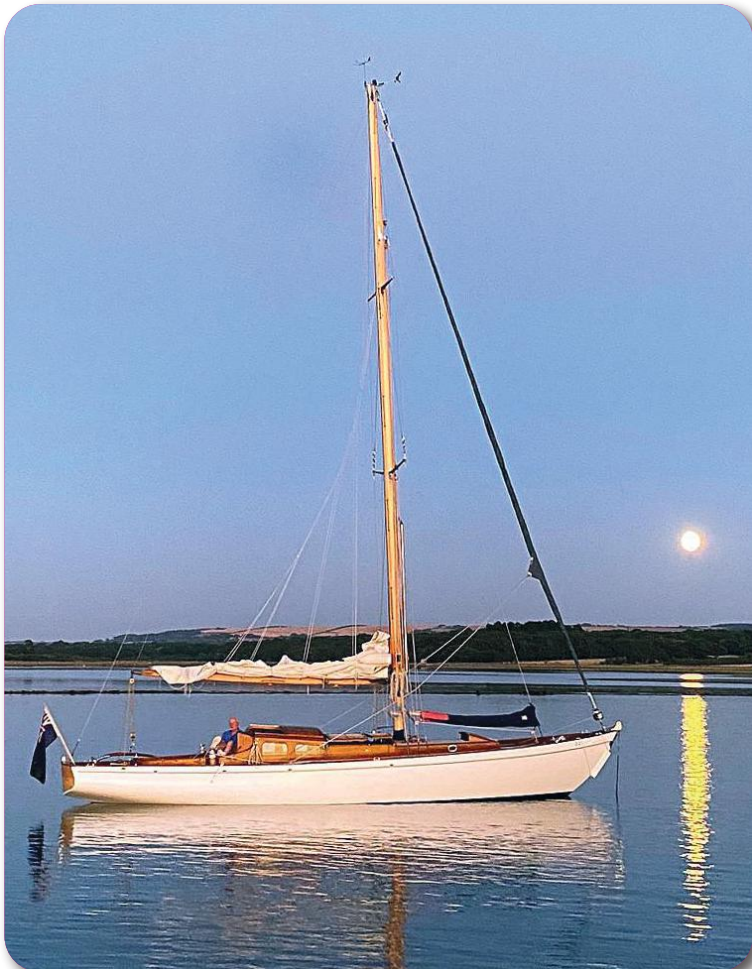
SEPTEMBER 2022

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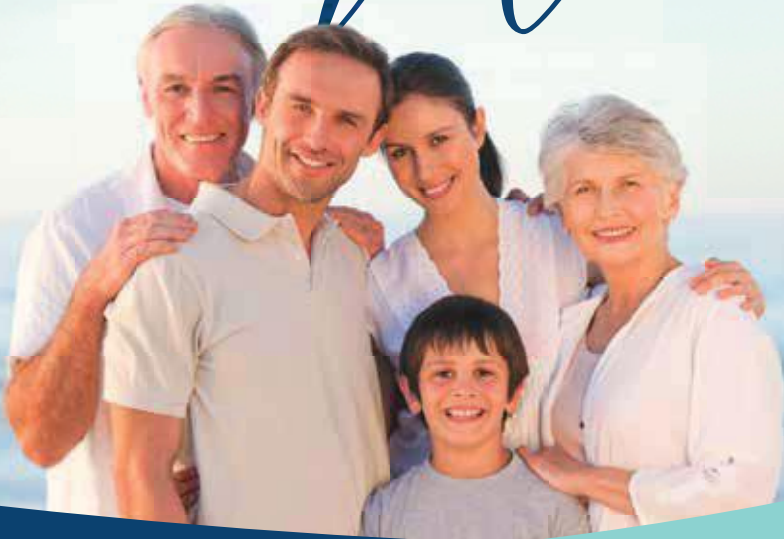


Lymington Parish News



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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 Churchwardens' by appointment on Friday evenings.

Administrator: Mrs Suzie Napleton

office@lymingtonchurch.org 01590 676194

Contacts

Vicar:	<i>Vacancy</i>
Churchwardens:	Mrs Maureen ('Mo') Penrose, grannymo17@aol.com 07954 908374 Mr Chris Stroud, c.m.stroud@btinternet.com 01590 674677
LLM Emeritus:	Mr Malcolm Ward, 01590 679651
Organist & Choir Director:	Mr Martin Penrose, ARCO, LTCL, penrosemusic@aol.com 02380 864439
Verger:	Ms Helen Pocklington, 01590 673750 helenpocklington@hotmail.co.uk
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; for regular columnists, the date is the 13th.

Editor and Advertising:

Nigel Mussett, nigelmussett@gmail.com 07531 179544

Subscriptions: Susan Canter-Visscher 01590 679666

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:

+ St Thomas' Church is open daily for visitors and private prayer +

REGULAR WEEKLY EVENTS:

Sunday:	8.00am	Early Communion
	9.15am	Choral Communion
	11.00am	Life & Soul Informal Service
	Streamed from our shared YouTube channel: www.youtube.com/channel/UCKRF11-cpB5-m1o5tUNWUw	
	or from a landline phone: 0203 695 0088 Meeting ID: 971 631 0618# Passcode: 1839#	
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]
Wednesday:	10.00am	Poetry Corner (not 2nd Wednesday of the month)
	11.00am	Wednesday Communion
Thursday:	10.00am	Vistas Café - STH
Saturday:	9.00am	Prayer for the work of the parish - STC

SEPTEMBER EVENTS

Sun 4		TRINITY 12: Services as usual including
	4.00pm	Evensong - The Blessed Virgin Mary
Mon 5	12 noon	Monday Lunch restarts - STH
Tue 6	10.00am	Toddler Group restarts - STH
	11.00am	<i>Taketime</i> Ignatian Meditation [1]
Wed 7	10.00am	Poetry Corner restarts - STH
	11.00am	Wednesday Communion
Thu 8	10.00am	Vistas Café restarts - STH
Fri 9	6.00pm	Meet the Churchwardens (by appointment)

SEPTEMBER EVENTS

Sun 11		TRINITY 13: Services as usual
Mon 12	12 noon	Monday Lunch - STH
Tue 13	10.00am	Toddler Group - STH
	11.00am	<i>Taketime</i> Ignatian Meditation [1]
Wed 14	11.00am	Wednesday Communion
Thu 15	10.00am	Vistas Café - STH
Fri 16	6.00pm	Meet the Churchwardens (by appointment)
Sun 18		TRINITY 14: Services as usual including
	9.00am	Messy Church - STH
Mon 19	12 noon	Monday Lunch - STH
	7.30pm	Solent Music Festival Concert - STC
Tue 20	10.00am	Toddler Group - STH
	11.00am	<i>Taketime</i> Ignatian Meditation [1]
	7.30pm	Solent Music Festival Concert - STC
Wed 21	10.00am	Poetry Corner - STH
	11.00am	Wednesday Communion
	7.30pm	Solent Music Festival Concert - STC
Thu 22	10.00am	Vistas Café - STH
Fri 23		No Meet the Churchwardens
	7.30pm	Solent Music Festival Concert - STC
Sat 24	9.00 - 12 noon	Bellringers' Open Day - STC Tower
	7.30pm	Solent Music Festival Concert - STC
Sun 25		TRINITY 15: Services as usual
	4.00pm	Solent Music Festival - STC
Mon 26	12 noon	Monday Lunch - STH
Tue 27	10.00am	Toddler Group - STH
	11.00am	<i>Taketime</i> Ignatian Meditation [1]
Wed 28	10.00am	Poetry Corner - STH
	11.00am	Wednesday Communion
Thu 29	10.00am	Vistas Café - STH
Fri 30	6.00pm	Meet the Churchwardens (by appointment)

OCTOBER EVENTS

Sun 2 **HARVEST: Services as usual**



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



Harrison Parkhouse
Noah Walker-Ralph + Grace Townsend
Fleur Mudhar + Raven Corbin
Autumn Sings

Cover picture: Moored up for the night at Newtown Harbour,
Isle of Wight. *Photo: Christa Luterbacher.*



St Thomas' Church
Lymington

Sunday 18 September



Are you a sheep or a goat?

*Join us for breakfast from 9.00am followed by
Bible stories, songs and messy fun.*

EVERYONE IS WELCOME!

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

Churchwardens' Notes

Onwards and Upwards

On 22 June Mo and I attended our Induction service at Christchurch Priory. The presiding minister was not Gary Philbrick, the Assistant Archdeacon, as unfortunately he had Covid! The service was indeed a joyous occasion with wonderful music. A Diocesan lawyer made a presentation which was interesting and actually rather humorous. We left feeling suitably invigorated and perhaps a little apprehensive.

The service on 3 July celebrated Peter and Sarah's retirement from Lymington and on to a new life in Bicester. The service combined our traditional Communion service with elements of our Life & Soul service and the church was full to capacity. The post-worship celebration went exceptionally well and everyone enjoyed the drinks, canapés and the gracious and heartfelt presentation. A massive thanks to all who contributed in any way to the organisation and execution of the event and to all who attended and made it such a fitting and happy occasion.

A slight sinking feeling ensued following the Salisbury celebrations as I realised that we were entering the Vacancy period. I do believe we have used the time constructively so far. The Vacancy Team has already convened several times. The recruitment process does not formally start until Bishop Debbie visits us on 20 September and the Vacancy Team has looked at aspects of the Parish Profile that might be updated in advance. Specifically, we have worked on the role profile of our new incumbent and have reflected on the qualities that person needs to be the Vicar of St Thomas', particularly in a changing world.

I hope you are all aware that at the last meeting of the PCC a large majority voted to explore collaboration possibilities with St Mark's Pennington. The previous PCC meeting decided that we did not want to formally start any process until our new Vicar is in place. Accordingly, we can focus on recruitment without additional distractions. Mo and I meet with the Area Dean every month. Given the fact that St Mark's is also entering a Vacancy and there is a desire on both sides to explore collaboration options, joint meetings with the Churchwardens from St Mark's will be conducted for the foreseeable future.

A great deal to do going forward! Mo and I would particularly like to thank our retired clergy who have shown an extraordinary willingness and desire to help during this time. Retirement is imagined to be a time of relaxation and yet we all wonder how we had time to do everything when we used to go to work. Mo is not retired and yet still finds time to fulfil all the duties necessary to be a Churchwarden at St Thomas'. I believe that rather over-used word is appropriate in this context: AWESOME!

Chris Stroud



THE ORGANIST PIPES UP!

A former Dean of St Paul's Cathedral is said to have likened organists to jaded cab horses – always after one more stop!

This old joke came into my mind while I was preparing for my Saturday morning organ recital to re-launch the promenade concert series at St Thomas' last month.

The Dean – sadly I haven't so far been able to find out his name – had a point, I think. Over the years I have played a number of instruments that have had extra stops added at great expense without dealing with basic faults that made the organ very unreliable and difficult to play. It is also easy to overlook all sorts of effects that can be achieved with the organ's original stop list.

Back to my recital. I decided to play a couple of pieces on the little chamber organ we obtained ten years or so ago when the church was re-ordered, and looking through some books someone kindly gave me a couple of years ago I found an arrangement of an Adagio Mozart wrote in 1791 for a rather unusual instrument – the glass harmonica.

The glass harmonica uses a series of graduated glass bowl-shaped discs on a rotating cylinder operated by a treadle mechanism. The player uses a water moistened finger on the edge of the bowls to produce the rather ethereal sound. It fell out of popularity after the 18th century as the instruments of the orchestra gained in power – and also because of a misguided belief that playing it could cause depression. Indeed, it was banned in one German town because it was considered a 'danger to health'!

Anyway, while trying the piece out on the chamber organ I spotted that it didn't go below 'middle C', and so I was able to play it very effectively two octaves down on the 2 foot diapason rank – a sound I had never tried out before.

Martin Penrose

THE IMPORTANCE OF EVENSONG

Our Choral Evensong is a tiny fragment of something else. It is a part of the worship which is offered to God by Christian people every hour of the day and night in every part of the world.

When you are here for Evensong, it is as if you were dropping in on a conversation already in progress – a conversation between God and God's people which began long before you were born and which will continue long after your death. So do not be surprised or disturbed if there are some things which you do not understand straight away. For a moment, you step into the continued stream of worship and praise which is being offered and to the end of time. You are one with those who worship here on earth and in heaven.

Evensong is drawn almost entirely from the Bible. Its primary purpose is to proclaim the wonderful works of God in history and in the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ. Its secondary purpose is to evoke from the worshipper a response of praise, penitence, prayer, and obedience.

Much of the language of the service is the language spoken and written by our ancestors more than four hundred years ago. It may sound old fashioned, but its meaning is not out of date.

Please enjoy this service and allow the music and words to speak to you in the peace of this place.

(Variously attributed to St Paul's Cathedral, Inverness Cathedral, and others)

**The next Choral Evensong at St Thomas' is on Sunday 4 September.
Let the music wash over you, leaving you to get closer to God.**

Submitted by Mo Penrose



Saturday 10 September

An opportunity to get out and about and explore the churches of Hampshire and the Isle of Wight.

For details of participating churches, sponsorship forms and how to make payments see the website:

<https://hihct.org.uk/ride-and-stride/>

St Thomas' Church Lympington has registered to participate and will be open to visitors in support of this annual event



The 10th Solent Music Festival

19-25 **20**
SEPT **22**

- 19 Red Priest** Truly, Madly Baroque
- 20 Half & Half** Guitar & Accordion Recital
- 21 The Queen's Six** From Windsor with Love
- 23 Sam and Friends** Haydn, Dvořák, Vaughan-Williams
- 24 Family Concert** @ St Barbe Museum & Art Gallery
- 24 Beethoven** Emperor Concerto, Symphony No 7
- 25 NYJO & Mark Armstrong:** Dizzie Gillespie



St Thomas Church
Lympington

ticketsource.co.uk/solentmusicfestival.com
solentmusicfestival.com

Rathbones
Look forward



Woolly Hat Day

Thursday 27 October

Another year, another Woolly Hat Day!

Once again Vistas Café in St Thomas' Church Hall has kindly agreed to host this event in support of the Mission to Seafarers in Southampton. We look forward to seeing as many people as possible, coming to enjoy the company as well as delicious drinks and home-made cakes.

In the meantime, please get knitting: hats, balaclavas, neck warmers and fingerless mittens or even scarves - the brighter the better! These will be taken aboard the ships which dock in Southampton by volunteer ship-visitors. The items are particularly well received by the seafarers who are amazed and touched by the fact that so many people care about them. There will be a prize for the most outstanding example.

If you need help, you could join the Stitch and Knit sessions which are held at Vistas on Thursday mornings between 10.00 and 12 noon. Alternatively, I can provide patterns and wool. This was a great event in 2021 but it would be lovely if we could make it bigger and better now that things have opened up a bit more this year following the Covid pandemic.

I understand that small knitted teddy bears have also hit the spot, and so I will research a pattern for anyone who wishes to undertake to knit one this year.

Peta Walmisley

Tel: 01590 670247

Email: peta_walmisley@btinternet.com



THE FEAST OF ST MATTHEW—21 SEPTEMBER

“Follow me”, says Jesus, and at once Matthew walks out of his office, without even waiting to switch off his computer. At the same word of command Peter had earlier left his nets to follow Jesus.

Matthew was a ‘publican’. Publicans were cogs in the wheels of government, locally employed functionaries, contracted by the Roman authorities to oversee public works and other pen-pushing posts needed to keep the vast imperial machine ticking over, and tax-collecting was farmed out to them. They had for the right to collect taxes from a given area, paid upfront what was owed and recouped their outlay by raking back cash from the local people. Manifestly the system was open to abuse and any tax-collector you met was almost certainly on the make.

Matthew also had a desk-job which might well have rankled with Peter who had to stay up all night fishing and who might have shared the irritated feelings of many of our own contemporaries (teachers, doctors, nurses, for example) at the plethora of managers that crowd them. But Peter had to accept Matthew. The hardened fisherman, with no time to sit down, had to embrace as his brother the flabby taxman who until Jesus came his way rarely stirred from his cushions. It takes all sorts to make a church!! At all events, Matthew’s house, according to the Gospels, seems to be where they all ate together.

The lurking clergy protested. They objected to Jesus’s consorting with Matthew and other disreputable characters. “Those who are well have no need of a physician” replies Jesus, “but those who are sick.” Jesus has his own views about who are ill and who are healthy and his remarks are often full of irony. The irony may escape us – but that does not mean we are in any better health than those others whom the irony passed by! Presumption is all too subtle a sin!

Matthew left his desk to follow Jesus. Did he one day return to it and sit down to write the story that now bears his name? It is unlikely. The Gospel itself is anonymous. The traditional ascription to Matthew was tacked on later and the work is clearly reliant on earlier accounts of the words and deeds of Jesus, notably those of St Mark.

But that doesn’t mean we could manage without the Gospel credited to Matthew. Matthew’s story – whoever Matthew the Evangelist was – is HIS story of Jesus, providing a perspective on Jesus that is his own. Above all, for this Gospel writer, the story of Jesus is ‘an old, old story’. Hence the Old Testament texts with which the Gospel teems. One text seems to have been especially dear to our ‘Matthew’, for he quotes it twice, telling his carping critics, “Go and learn what this means: I desire mercy, not sacrifice.”

He wants us to get the message too!

Ron Swan

Farewell to Peter and Sarah Salisbury



On St Thomas' Day, Sunday 3 July, a combined congregation gathered in St Thomas' Church for the final Communion Service to be taken by Peter our retiring Vicar and for a Reception to celebrate the 17 years of ministry which he and his wife Sarah have rendered tirelessly here in Lymington.

How to say "Thank you", with sincerity, style and dignity to a couple who prefer to have no fuss? Some months ago a small working party made up of members of the Social Committee and others gathered to begin the planning for this important event. We knew that we must reach out to all our congregations as well as to the many organisations, clubs and businesses that Peter has been involved with over the years. Information appeared in the *Weekly News Sheet* and a printed invitation was sent to as many contacts as we could trace.

Peter gave us the details of the worship he had planned. This would include elements of all of the regular Sunday services, including many favourite prayers, hymns and anthems. Peter planned to begin the service fully robed and end it by symbolically hanging up his robes and settling in to his casual pullover. Music was to be provided by the Choir, the organ and the Worship Band.

Plans for the party began to take shape once we had chosen Lanes Restaurant to supply the canapés and The Solent Cellar to supply the drinks and glasses.

Several members of the organising committee had previously witnessed how successful the space of the nave could be if the majority of chairs were removed. And so after the service, a chair team began to stack the chairs row by row as the refreshment team moved in with canapés and the drinks team offered Prosecco or a soft drink.

Daphne Johnston gave the congregation instructions about what would happen and when it would happen. The church changed from a place of worship to a party venue within a very short time.

Jonathan Cook was invited to give an address and he produced an inspired, illustrated account of Peter's career from Ordination to the present day. He had obtained video messages from several significant people and made references to



the many varied activities and organisations that Peter had embraced during his time in Lymington: sailing instruction, The Royal British Legion, festivals, fund raising and building projects, as well as the important prayer ministry which both Peter and Sarah have inspired, to name but a few.

Peter and Sarah had informed us that they were significantly down-sizing their home once they moved away. They did not want more objects, but they had chosen a piece of garden sculpture by Ashley Basil, a local artist from Boldre. This consisted of three spheres: the number 'Three' held particular significance for Peter - the Holy Trinity and three decades of ministry.

We did not want Peter and Sarah to leave the party empty handed so a hamper of favourite consumables was gathered together and presented to them. They also received a card indicating the sum of money collected for the leaving gift and a second card crammed with signatures and messages of love and thanks.

As a member of the original planning team I would like to thank the multitude of people who contributed time and effort to ensure the success of this memorable occasion. Peter and Sarah were clearly delighted with the event and they leave with our prayers and best wishes for the years ahead.

Daphne Johnston



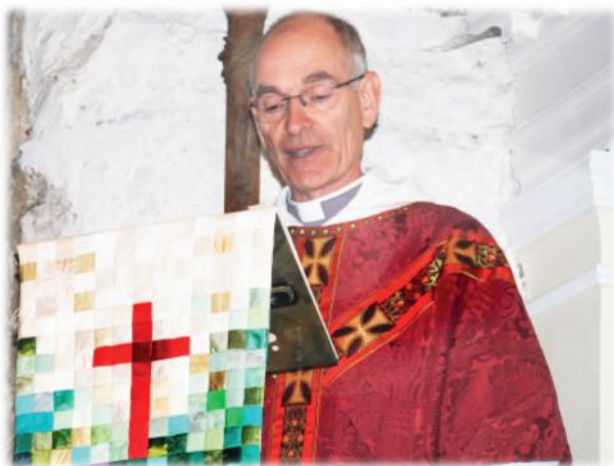
Organist Martin Penrose and the Choir.



The Worship Band.



Sarah in conversation at the Reception.



During his farewell service, Peter held up the rug which is to be found on the floor of the pulpit and it has two feet stitched on it as a design. I have seen him do this once or twice before. This stitched canvas work rug was made by Elizabeth Reddrop a good long time ago. Liz taught canvas work rug-making for many years at the Lymington Community Centre and was a leading light in the Womens' Institute, both here and in Winchester. I worked with her for many years and this small rug was about the last thing she made before her eyesight gave up. She is now a resident at Court Lodge but did a lot for the church when she was able.

Sue Sterndale



Photo credits: Joanna Oswin and Nigel Mussett

Sarah and Peter: a personal farewell

by David Bridges, Churchwarden 2018-2022

Seventeen years are impossible to sum up and pay full justice to in a few words. The following is a personal impression of Sarah and Peter's contribution to the parish and to the town of Lymington.

Sarah and Peter arrived following an Interregnum and immediately made a good impression with their warmth, enthusiasm, love and deep faith. Peter made no secret of his and Sarah's love of Lymington as a place and particularly its proximity to the sea. Their commitment to the town and its people was clear from the start.

No church or organisation is without problems, however, and Peter has worked hard during his incumbency to fundamentally address some of these. This has inevitably involved change but, in my opinion, all changes made under Peter's leadership have been with the aim of enabling the church to grow in her mission of welcome, prayer and community service. Peter has shown true leadership and vision as he has sought change prayerfully, lovingly and courageously.

It has been a privilege to serve on the PCC during Peter's leadership and to be included in the vision for St Thomas', based on a set of core values initiated by Peter and, as stated, 'guided and empowered by the Holy Spirit'.

In addition to church leadership, Peter has been enthusiastically involved with the wider community in Lymington. This has been as a school governor of Lymington Infants' School, volunteering at the Royal Lymington Yacht Club on Wednesday afternoons teaching sailing to young people, work with the Royal British Legion, advocating for environmental justice and working with Churches Together, among other things. These activities are for others to comment on.

Peter could have achieved so much less without the strong, loyal and loving support of Sarah. Sarah has worked incredibly hard in many roles in the parish, noticed and unnoticed. We have to thank her for her wonderful leadership and contribution to the prayer ministry, the Life & Soul music group and leadership of house groups. Her kindness, love, deep faith and sense of fun have all been a great blessing to us all.

Sarah and Peter have both been true and dear friends during their time in Lymington, and I cannot really express how much they will be missed. After so long and such enormous effort, they deserve some rest and time for themselves and their family. I know that, because of their very active minds and the love and interest they always have for others, they will not be idle. I trust that whatever the years ahead hold for them, God will be their pilot.

Peter

It takes a special person to be a parish priest
A person at God's service to say the very least.

Let this poem remind you that you're special through and through
And thought about so warmly and so very often too.

You're helpful and supportive in a way that warms the heart
Whatever happens you are there to play your thoughtful part.

You lead folk who are struggling or need a helping hand
We wish you well in all you do and all that you have planned.

Your holy service to the Lord has touched so many hearts
Inspiration to our children in oh! so many parts.

Peter, there was a reason that it was you that God did choose
Not your good looks, or perfect hair or even stylish shoes.

It was for your humanity, which can never be repaid
And for your understanding and the difference you have made.

Our children are indebted to you and so the staff indeed
You've made our school a better place just by the life you lead.

Your humour, pledge and passion are qualities we know
A special gift from God, we've appreciated you so.

*Veronica Crowley
Chair of Governors
Lymington Infants' C. of E. School*



Choir End-of-Term Party

In July, members of the Choir, minus some choristers who were unfortunately absent due to illness or were away on holiday, enjoyed an end-of-term party. Food, drink and good company led to a fantastic evening together. Our thanks go to Daphne Johnston for lending her garden for such a convivial occasion.



Mo Penrose

Members of the congregation will, I am sure, wish to join me in taking this opportunity of thanking our organist Martin and all members of the Choir for the outstanding contribution that they make to our worship week by week throughout the year. They never get much of a break but their efforts are very much appreciated and we wish them an enjoyable and refreshing summer.

The Editor

St Thomas' Hall Deep Clean



Left to right: Anne Keir, Helen Pocklington, Andy Dibb, Derek Lee, Anthea MacAlister, Sylvia Pepin and Denise Dibb.

A group of hard-working parishioners gathered to give the hall and kitchen a thorough clean one hot day in August. They were captured on camera by Sarah Bunce, one of their number, taking a well-earned rest in the Courtyard.

Sarah Bunce

Prayer for the Parish during the Vacancy

Loving God, as we journey together through this period of Vacancy we thank you for your everlasting faithfulness to us. At this time of uncertainty and change we ask that you send us your Holy Spirit to fill us with your vision, energy, and faithfulness in prayer.

We ask that you will help us to share responsibility, to grow in faith, and to love one another. Help us always to care for those in need, to have the courage to face our future and to embrace the unknown. May we have nothing but praise for you in our hearts and the desire to serve one another in loving obedience to you. We ask that our new incumbent will be the person of your calling and with the gifts of faith that we in this parish need to lead us forward.

We pray in Jesus' name, Amen.

Tina's Baptism and Confirmation

On the morning of 24 July I accompanied Tina to St Peter's Church in Bournemouth. We joined a group of approximately twenty candidates, all for Confirmation and three (including Tina) for Baptism, and a large congregation of friends and relatives. Bishop Debbie of Southampton was officiating.

This had been arranged some time beforehand by our Vicar Peter Salisbury who had been guiding her about Christianity with a view towards Baptism and Confirmation.

The service was joyful and uplifting for us all and afterwards Bishop Debbie spent time with each of the candidates and stood for photographs with them after the service.



Tina (right) with Bishop Debbie at St Peter's Church, Bournemouth.

It was an honour to be present and the occasion will remain a happy memory for many days to come.

Anthea MacAlister



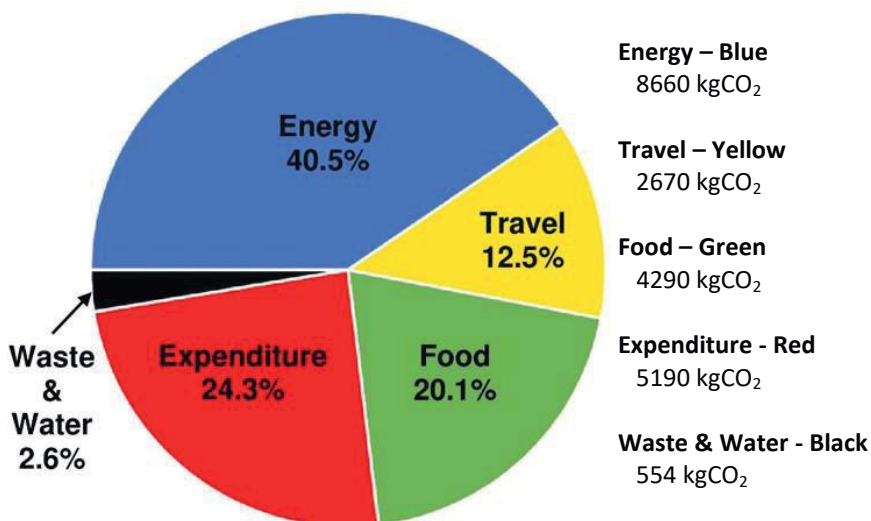
Over the last few weeks and months I have been collecting data for the

360°carbon
by Climate Stewards

This is a tool for evaluating the carbon footprint for St Thomas' Church as a whole community, looking at energy use, travel, food, waste and water. Thank you to Gill and Suzie in the Church office who have provided a lot of the background information on the numbers of people using the Church and hall for a variety of purposes throughout the year. The Monday Lunch Club and the Vistas Café teams have provided details of the food and drink consumed. The travel survey I recently asked you to fill out is part of this process and a huge 'thank you' to the **94 people** who responded!

So what have we discovered?

- * **Our total carbon emissions for 2021 were 21350 kgCO₂.**
- * **28,350 people visited our Church in 2021,**
giving an average carbon footprint of **0.75 kgCO₂ per person.**



Energy

40.5% of our total carbon emissions are related to electricity and gas usage.

Although 50% of this is supplied from renewable sources we still need to look carefully at where we can make further reductions in the future, particularly with energy prices rising substantially recently.

Travel

12.5% of our total carbon emissions.

This would have been much higher but for the:

53 people who walk or cycle to Church, a total of 5628 miles per year with zero CO₂ emissions;

31 people travelling by petrol car, a total of 3432 miles per year – 1230 kgCO₂;

6 people travelling by diesel car, a total of 3456 miles per year – 1170 kgCO₂;

3 people travelling by a hybrid car, a total of 288 miles per year – 70 kgCO₂;

1 person travelling by electric car, a total of 1080 miles per year – 120 kgCO₂;

further 288 miles travelled on public transport – 42 kgCO₂.

Food

20.1% of our total carbon emissions.

Sharing food and drink and serving our local community are an important part of our life together at St Thomas'.

Through the Monday Lunch Club, Vistas Café and groups like Toddlers, as well as our Sunday morning refreshments, we served:

- 2400 main meals of which 1560 were meat, 600 fish and 240 vegetarian;

- 960 cups of tea, 3360 cups of coffee and 480 slices of cake.

Expenditure

24.3% of our total carbon emissions.

This section covers emissions from the supply chain over which we have no direct control beyond the decision whether or not to purchase goods and services. It includes upkeep of buildings and grounds, stationery and printing, accountancy, auditing and insurance.

Waste and Water

2.6% of our total carbon emissions.

This includes waste to landfill, waste for recycling and food waste to compost.

*Annette Cox
Eco Church Team*



The Mission to Seafarers
Caring for seafarers around the world

God bless, John Attenborough

John Attenborough has been the Mission to Seafarers' Port Chaplain in Southampton for eight years. During this time he has been actively engaged in an effective ministry with his ship visiting, his relations with the port authorities as well as maintaining links to some of the parishes in the Winchester Diocese, including Lymington. Many will remember his speeches at the Sea Sunday service on 17 July where he showed his passion for his role in supporting the seafarers. He has also been unique in the Mission by setting a target for fundraising which has provided sufficient funds to finance his work here.

John began his career with the Mission in Kenya where he was an apprentice in Mombasa. He was then transferred to Antwerp before moving to Tilbury and then to Southampton. Unusually, in all that time he had not been ordained, which is now a criterion for all Mission Chaplains. He followed this through while in Southampton and was ordained as a Deacon in July 2021 and priested in July 2022. With the closing of the Seafarers' Centre in Southampton, John arranged for the Mission to be housed for a short time at St Michael's Church before finding its present home at All Saints' Church, Redbridge, where he has also been the Curate.

John has been appointed Regional Director for the Middle East and South Asia and will be based at Limassol in Cyprus and will be joined by his wife Yara and son John. One of his tasks will be to set up the first Flying Angel Centre in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia, which is expanding as an international port and therefore needs non-denominational support for the seafarers who will come to it.

Seafarers come in many guises — racially, religiously or none, gender and age. He has already established a great rapport with the local Anglican Vicar and will be able to provide backup for the community in addition to his work throughout the region.



Left: John Attenborough with his son John and wife Yara.

We shall miss John's enthusiasm and 'can do' spirit, his friendliness and commitment to the work of the Mission to Seafarers among some of the most under-appreciated people on the planet. As John would say, '90 per cent of our goods come by sea, but we don't notice or appreciate the contribution made by those who bring them'. We should recognise the difficulties they experience, especially like those imposed during lockdown when they were not allowed off their ships. Their only contact with the outside world was a ship visitor standing at the bottom of a gangway who was able to provide SIM cards to allow them to call home, and do some shopping for them. Some ships have finally allowed their crew ashore, but many still have not.

A new Chaplain will be appointed in due course at Southampton and the Committee there hopes to be able to support the seafarers sufficiently in the meantime. Support from local churches is still required in the form of donations and knitted goods. Our own 2022 Woolly Hat Day will be held at St Thomas' on Thursday 27 October.

*Peta Walmisley
Chair, Southampton Branch,
The Mission to Seafarers
and Lymington representative*





Mission Aviation Fellowship

Imagine having to walk four days to reach a doctor over rough jungle terrain. That is the experience of a community living in the highlands of Papua New Guinea. The doctor lives in the next community, a mere five miles away and yet because of the landscape that journey takes four days. But imagine if there were a small aircraft that could pick you up from your community and fly you to that doctor, cutting the journey time from four days to ten minutes! That is possible today because of the Mission Aviation Fellowship.

Mission Aviation Fellowship (MAF) is a Christian Charity that flies light aircraft into the most isolated communities around the world taking help, hope and healing. For over 75 years the Mission has been supporting organisations in over 25 countries, flying in medical supplies, relief workers, food, spiritual care and anything else that is needed to support the hard-to-reach communities. Most recently, MAF is partnering with the World Health Organisation and others to deliver much needed Covid vaccines to remote communities as part of the worldwide COVAX vaccination scheme.

St Thomas' Church has chosen MAF this year as the mission organisation to support and we hope to hear more about this wonderful work in the months ahead.

If you would personally like to know more, please visit the MAF website* or speak to me as the Church Representative for MAF here at St Thomas'.

David Hanks

* maf-uk.org



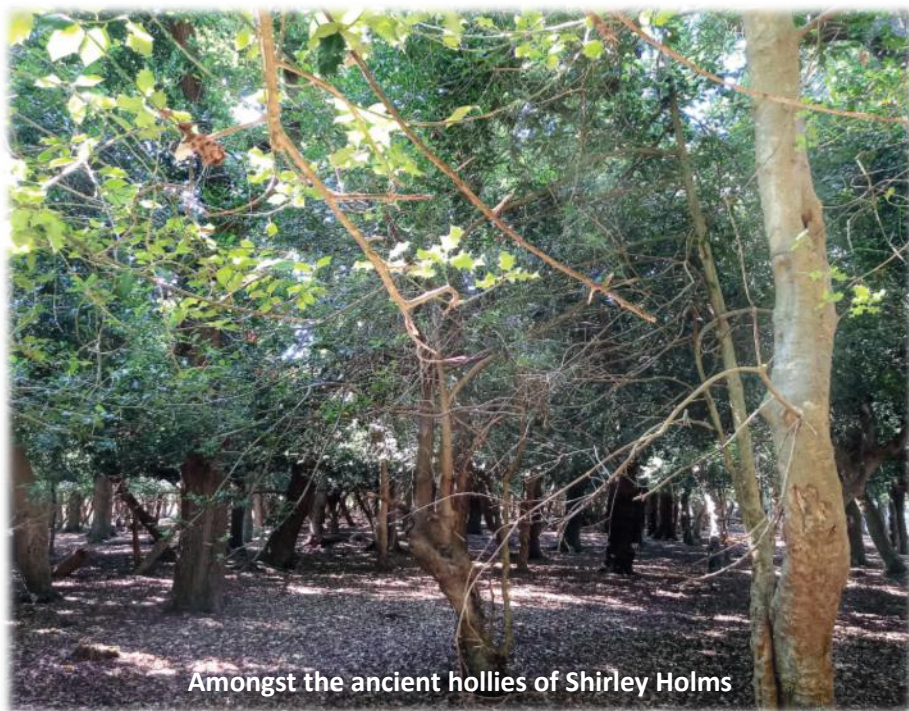


OYEZ! OYEZ! OYEZ!

Christian essays inspired by the New Forest

7. The Open Forest

This comprises the Crown land apart from the Inclosures. It is primarily the domain of the Commoners' stock but that is by no means all. It consists of heaths and plains with lawns, mires and 'bottoms' for the streams, together with what are quaintly but accurately called the Ancient and Ornamental Woods. These woods are clear up to browsing height and consist not simply of oak and beech but of many types of tree. Outstanding examples of these woods might be found at Broom Hill by East End, magnificent as an oak wood with a fine lawn for its floor. Here the colourful gypsies used to come every year and they have left many traces even still. Another is Shirley Holms, consisting mainly of venerable hollies and so most unusual. If you prefer yews and whitebeam with mistletoe, then go to Sloden as did the Roman potters of old.



Amongst the ancient hollies of Shirley Holms



Above: Lichens.



Left: Amongst the gorse and pine at Turf Hill.



Right: Open heath-land and bog at Scrape Bottom near Holmsley.

The greatest glory of the Open Forest is found in the small plants, able to survive thanks to the stock grazing the land which would otherwise be dominated by large plants and shrubs excluding light from ground level. The variety of plant life in these places is hard to believe until you actually see it. Some of the plants are widely celebrated, such as the wild gladiolus and the insect-eating sundews and butterwort. Lichens, too, are of great interest, particularly on the heathland in winter, very varied with the ultimate prize of the scarlet pinheads on the top of several specimens. But that is only a beginning of what can be a lifetime's study. Like so much in the Forest, these plants do not come out and shout at you but you have respectfully to go and search, but not destroy. That is a key to listening to the Forest. Be open-minded and quiet and the unexpected will come to you. You do not set the agenda yourself. Once, looking for orchids, as darkness drew on, I came upon a bright little glow-worm, a roding woodcock and a displaying nightjar all at once. That is the nature of the Open Forest. You never know.



- 1. Wild Gladiolus.**
- 2. Sundew.**
- 3. Pale Butterwort flower.**
- 4. Pale Butterwort leaves.**

Is that not a parable of the Christian life? We are in the hands of a bounteous God whom we must trust and whose signs we must learn to read at any time or place. It is not the slightest use trying to take short cuts or straight paths across the Open Forest. You will soon be bogged down. Rather, take note of Jeremiah the prophet where he says in his sixth chapter, "Stand by the roads and look. Ask for the ancient paths where the good way is. Walk in it and find rest for your souls."

Gordon Wynne

The Ten Commandments

“Remember the Sabbath day to keep it holy. Six days shalt thou labour and do all thy work: but the seventh day is the Sabbath of the Lord thy God: in it thou shalt not do any work.” (Exodus 20.8-10)

The father of the former Prime Minister Gordon Brown was a minister in the Church of Scotland. He refused to buy or read any Sunday papers because he believed that their printing on the Sabbath day was an offence against the fourth of the Ten Commandments. When his sons, who were better acquainted with the ways of the secular world, grew up, they took some delight in informing their father that the Sunday papers are, in fact, printed on a Saturday!

A visit on any Sunday to the overcrowded Bluewater Shopping Centre in Essex will demonstrate clamorously that we still follow the ways of the same secular world. Even so, the observance of one day in seven as a day of rest has been jealously guarded in certain distinctive Bible communities for over thirty centuries.

In the Bible, in the book of Numbers, an individual collecting firewood on the Sabbath day was put to death (Numbers 15.32-36). When in the late twentieth century Pope John Paul II visited Ireland, the Sabbath was one of the few things in common that the Reverend Ian Paisley had with him. Over the centuries, it has been a collective understanding that no human being is able to endure or work continuously, week by week, without remission, rest or relaxation.

Yet in the secular world where this happens, it has become a modern virtue to declare one's own lack of mental health. Two royal princes, William and Harry, have been prominent in founding charitable institutions dedicated to the preservation of mental health.

Would such institutions be necessary in a society where there already existed a major institution for the preservation of mental health—alignment with our Maker through the Sabbath and the fourth Commandment?

William Cummings

PRAYER THOUGHTS

COME, HEALING LORD...

Healing God,
We praise you for the Christ who, without fear,
met those with leprosy and gave them new life.
May that healing touch reach now
into the fears and the darkness of our own world.

Touch us, caring Jesus,
and take from our hearts
the fear which makes us keep our distance
from all deep agony.

Touch us, caring Jesus, and heal the fears
which bar us from understanding
mental illness and disfigurement,
and the approach of death.

Touch, caring Jesus, all those
who have been segregated, or rejected, or cast adrift
because they offend our competitive society.

And touch with hope and encouragement, healing Jesus,
those who give themselves to combat illness
and all that threatens life.

Lord Jesus,
you came that we may have life
and have it in all its fullness.
So come, Lord Jesus,
and begin your healing work
in our lives and in your world - today.
For we ask it in your name,

Amen.

Malcolm Ward



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