

## **All Saints Report for Annual Parish Meeting 2021**

During this very strange and difficult year, we are very pleased to say that we have been able to keep the church open for all who want to use the building for private prayer or just as a place where you can sit in a peaceful atmosphere to take some time for themselves. We have followed all the government and diocesan guidelines to make sure that the building is safe for all. There is a team of dedicated people opening and closing, keeping the building clean and generally making sure we support the community in all ways we can.

The churchyard is looking really good and many people visit and spend time taking in the peace remembering their loved ones. Two broken benches have been replaced by families as a memorial of family members. We are very grateful to the Parish Council for the grant that is given to help upkeep the churchyard, this goes towards the cost of the groundsmen who work so hard to keep the weeds and grass down and anything else that needs doing.

Richard Steven has produced a Pastoral Letter, sent either by e mail or personally delivered, each week. There has been a zoom service every week for all who access this and this is continuing for those who still feel they are uneasy to meet with others. Our normal Sunday morning service re-started as soon as we were able to hold this responsibly. Members of our congregation have kept in touch by telephone with people who were unable to get out. A small team have been able to keep in touch with the young people at school by weekly zoom assemblies. The Parish News has been produced and delivered by our usual volunteers, we had to suspend personal delivery for 3 months in the first lockdown and 1 month in the second due to feeling that we could not ask the volunteers to go out to deliver. During this time the magazine was available on line.

Despite the loss of income, we have managed to give our normal yearly donations to various charities and also support charities in other ways, such as supplying 55 filled shoeboxes for Eastern European children at Christmas, collecting clothes and items for Warming up the Homeless in Bexhill and knitting hats for premature babies after a plea from a hospital.

Our plans are now to continue to look forward in a good way, we are planning a summer fair in the churchyard giving people chance to meet and have fun, several music events are also planned.

The many small groups that are run under the church's umbrella have been unable to meet physically, some have been able to use zoom but not all. We hope that all groups will be able to meet as before as soon as it is possible to do so.

We are also re-looking at the future plans of the church renovations making the building more accessible for all the community and also keeping this historic building there for future generations to enjoy.