

**The Benefice of Cranborne with Boveridge, Edmondsham, Wimborne St Giles and
Woodlands
known as
THE QUINTET GROUP**

Annual Report for the year 2020

Members of the Quintet Council during 2020:

Rector	The Reverend Robert Simpson	
Churchwardens		
Cranborne	Mrs R Turner (up to October 22 nd)	Mr R Brown
Edmondsham	Mrs E Isaacs (Quintet Council Secretary)	
Wimborne St Giles	Mr M Cubitt	Mrs C Barnes
Woodlands	Mrs A Micklefield (up to October 22 nd)	

Treasurer	Mr T Cullen
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Elected members of the Council

Cranborne	Dr S Malpas	Miss A Mullens
Edmondsham	Mrs L Franklin	Mrs C House
Wimborne St Giles	Mr J Adlem	Mr J Radford (from October 22 nd)
Woodlands	Mrs E Goode	Miss P Smith
		(both up to October 22 nd)

BACKGROUND

The Benefice of Cranborne with Boveridge, Edmondsham, Wimborne St Giles and Woodlands, known as the **Quintet United Benefice**, is part of the Diocese of Salisbury in the Church of England and was formed by an Order in Council in 1980. It comprises the parishes of Cranborne with Boveridge, Edmondsham, Wimborne St Giles and Woodlands and is in the care of one full-time stipendiary priest being Rector of the benefice. The benefice consists of four churches (Boveridge church was made redundant) each of which retains parish status with its own PCC. The benefice enjoys a good working relationship with its 3 patrons: Viscount Cranborne, Mrs J Smith, and the Earl of Shaftesbury.

A joint parochial church council, known as The Quintet Council, was established in accordance with the Order in Council. It has a constitution determined by agreement between the several parochial church councils. Its membership is the rector, the churchwardens, two elected members from each parish and it may co-opt a limited number of further members. It makes decisions on matters involving the Quintet Group as a whole, including Synod, Deanery, Archdeaconry and Diocesan matters, initiatives for Mission, Outreach, the overall pattern of worship, the Christian principles on which the Group is run and central financial matters.

Each PCC controls its own finances but income arising from planned giving and donations to the Quintet Group is allocated and paid over in equal shares to each parish. The central Quintet Account is run to meet common expenses including the Diocesan Share, the Rector's expenses, payments to the organist, outreach expense and visiting preachers and expenses of visiting clergy. These costs are met by contributions from the individual parishes which each pay an agreed proportion. (Presently Cranborne 40%, Edmondsham 15%, Wimborne St Giles 30% and Woodlands 15%)

GENERAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR 2020

Annual General Meeting

The meeting, delayed by the COVID-19 pandemic, was held on the 22nd October 2020, Officers were elected to both the Quintet Council and the constituent Parochial Church Councils and the Report and Accounts for the year 2019 were approved.

Quintet Council Members

The Churchwardens and Quintet Council members (as listed above) were duly elected at the Annual Meeting. It should be noted that Woodlands is currently without a churchwarden.

Safeguarding Officer

Mrs A Cullen is the Quintet's safeguarding officer. The PCCs have complied with their duty under section 5 of the Safeguarding and Clergy Discipline Measure 2016.

Worship, Mission and Outreach in 2020

During our series of Lent Addresses we were pleased to welcome both the Bishop of Salisbury and the Bishop of Sherborne as preachers. The series was cut short though because on 17th March 2020 the Archbishops of Canterbury and York issued a notice for the suspension of public worship in the Church of England due to the outbreak of the COVID-19 coronavirus. This notice was upheld in our diocese by the Bishop of Salisbury. This suspension, in what is now called 'the first lockdown' lasted until 4th July. Until the second Sunday of Easter (19th April) the churches were required to be kept locked with no access permitted even for the clergy.

Obviously this had a dramatic impact on our usual activities for worship, mission and outreach. It is pleasing to report that apart from Mothering Sunday we have been able to offer a service of some sort every Sunday. Initially this was achieved by the Rector filming services at the Rectory (including all of Holy Week and Easter) which were then posted on to a specially created Quintet Group of Parishes Facebook page. From the 19th April until the 4th July the Rector and organist were able to re-enter the church buildings and so began a pattern of recording a Sunday service of either ante-communion or full Holy Communion around the 4 churches in turn which was posted on the Facebook page. Our first Sunday again as a physically gathered congregation was the 5th July. Detailed risk assessments were carried out and the decision taken by the Rector and churchwardens to alternate a 9.30am Parish Communion between the churches at Cranborne and Wimborne St Giles, these being the only churches big enough to contain a sizeable congregation allowing for safe distancing between worshippers of 2 metres. Given that a number of our regular congregation still found it necessary, for health reasons, to keep themselves isolated at home we continued (and still continue) to record a service and broadcast it each week.

At the beginning of November the government enforced a second lockdown with the closure of churches. The celebration of All Saints' Day on Sunday 1st November took place with an attended service but subsequently the churches were closed. This of course affected our Remembrance Day services but we were able to hold outdoor commemorations at Edmondsham, Cranborne and Wimborne St Giles. Woodlands has no outdoor war memorial but the Rector laid a wreath on the one inside church on November 11th. The second lockdown was lifted to enable us to be in church for Advent Sunday on 29th November. A reduced pattern of Christmas services took place and we have been able to hold a small number of services at Edmondsham and Woodlands reinstating the monthly 8am Holy Communion at Edmondsham and a fortnightly Wednesday communion at Woodlands. A third lockdown was imposed by the government after Christmas which at the time of writing (28th January) remains in force. On this occasion public worship has not been suspended by central authority but the Rector and churchwardens have taken the view that it is safer to close from January 17th until at least the 14th February when the position will be reviewed in conjunction with a government review of the national requirements.

Congregational singing has not been permitted since 17th March 2020 and weddings, funerals and baptisms have been subject to strict (and varying) regulations especially regarding the numbers in attendance. All but 3 of the weddings booked for 2020 were either postponed, re-arranged or even cancelled. There has been a greater number of funerals than usual but very few of these have been directly attributable to the pandemic. It is invidious to single out anyone but I would nevertheless like to place on record the passing of a good and loyal friend to the Quintet, the Venerable Geoffrey Walton who went to join his Lord and ours on the 23rd July. The Bishop of Salisbury attended the funeral service which was conducted by the Rev'd David Paskins.

Regrettably none of our regular community and fund-raising activities such as fetes and flower festivals have been able to take place through 2020 up to the present.

As Rector I have been wonderfully supported by all the churchwardens and also by John Radford who has taken a lead in tending to the Quintet Facebook page. We have also received many encouraging comments from members of the churches. Many of us have discovered new skills and talents and many of us have reached out to support those in the congregation and community who have had to keep themselves isolated. Whilst there is no doubt more that could be done we should feel proud of the way our Christian care and service has come to the fore in these times.

Charity of the Month

We have endeavoured to maintain donations to a charity of the month but these have suffered due to the lack of attended services.

Financial Review

The Quintet Council is a charity excepted from registration with the Charity Commission. Please also refer to the attached Quintet Accounts.

It is greatly to everyone's credit that our income from parishioners' giving has seen only a slight dip through this time. I am particularly grateful to our new Quintet Treasurer, Toby Cullen for not only enduring a baptism of fire in taking on the role in the midst of a global pandemic but also for applying his enthusiasm to new and creative ways of encouraging and enabling people to continue to give to the work of the parishes. It is also right that we here record our thanks and gratitude to Jenifer Simm for her years and efficient service as the previous Quintet Treasurer.

Church Schools

The Rector has continued to serve as a governor in both Church of England VA First Schools, continuing in the role of chair at Cranborne.

School life has been particularly disrupted by the course of the pandemic. Despite many children having to access their education through home and remote learning during the first and third (current) lockdown, the schools have remained open in term time throughout the pandemic especially for the children of key workers and for vulnerable children. This has placed huge demands on the Heads and all the school staff but they have risen to the challenge magnificently. One significant long term development is that after some 5 years of investigation and enquiry both the First Schools at Cranborne and Wimborne St Giles were able to proceed with joining the Diocese of Salisbury Academy Trust. From the 1st January 2021 the two formed the new 'Priory Hub' within the Trust, together with the First Schools of St James' Gaunts Common and Trinity, Verwood. It is very much the hope of both schools that this will help secure their long-term future.

Open the Book

The Open the Book team have been unable to visit the schools due to the pandemic restrictions but were active in visiting for 6 week blocks to act out Bible stories for the children in assemblies. The visits are much appreciated by staff and children.

Sudan Medical Link

Support continued throughout the year for the Sudan Medical Link, but again the COVID-19 restrictions has curtailed much of the regular activity.

Pastoral Proposal

At the Annual Meeting on the 22nd October there was a discussion and vote in favour of a proposal from the Diocesan Pastoral Committee. Information on this was first circulated by the Rector in a letter sent out on the 22nd April 2020 to all PCC members (and *de facto* all Quintet Council members), the Quintet Treasurer, Jan Brown (LLM-in-training), the Patrons and the Heads of the Church of England First Schools in the benefice. Arising from the retirement of the Rev'd Dr Michael Foster from the Chase Benefice, the proposal is that the parishes of Gussage All Saints and Gussage St Michael be joined to the current Quintet Benefice. A first round of consultation has taken place and the proposal is now waiting for the Church Commissioners to finalise the proposal and launch a second round of consultation. This needs to take place when restrictions on public meeting are lifted.



Reverend R D Simpson, Chairman 28th January 2021