

WHITSTABLE TEAM MINISTRY
Church of England)
TEAM TALK 2022
Annual Report for 2021
DIGITAL VERSION

Rev Rachel
Webbley,
Whitstable Team
Rector, writes:

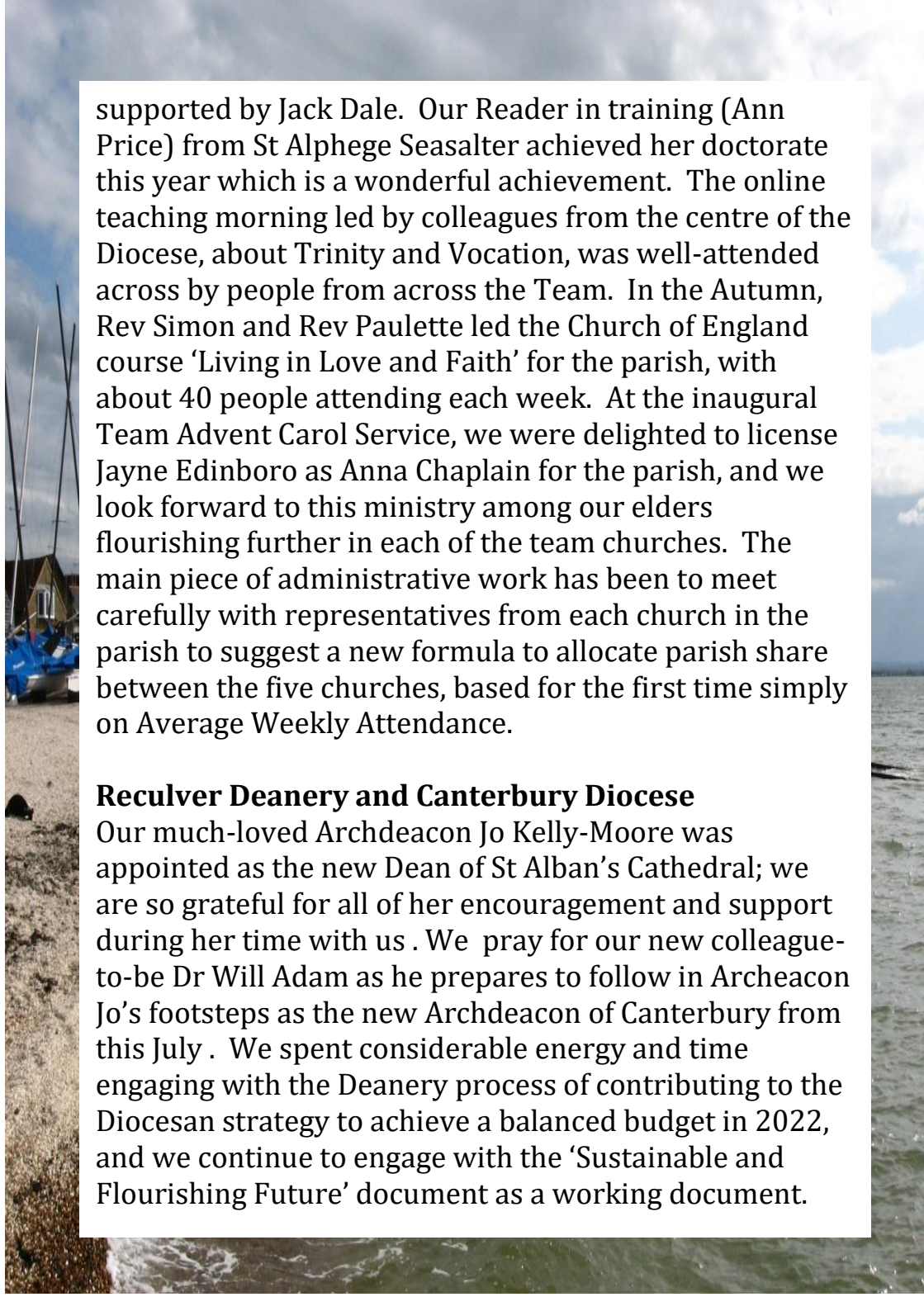


Dear Friends

2021 continued to provide both challenge and opportunities for creative responses for all the churches in the team, and I give thanks for everyone's hard work and faithful prayer. Each church has its own life and priorities and the highlights of these are recorded within this Team Talk and in more depth in each of the church's Annual Reports.

Parish

Amanda Boucherat has continued to offer excellent leadership in her role as Vice-Chair of the PCC and I'm grateful for all her generous support and guidance. We have welcomed a new PCC secretary (Julia Georgiou) which has been a huge help in the reliable administration and record keeping of the parish 'scaffolding' and we have also welcomed a new PCC Treasurer, David Kemp,



supported by Jack Dale. Our Reader in training (Ann Price) from St Alphege Seasalter achieved her doctorate this year which is a wonderful achievement. The online teaching morning led by colleagues from the centre of the Diocese, about Trinity and Vocation, was well-attended across by people from across the Team. In the Autumn, Rev Simon and Rev Paulette led the Church of England course 'Living in Love and Faith' for the parish, with about 40 people attending each week. At the inaugural Team Advent Carol Service, we were delighted to license Jayne Edinboro as Anna Chaplain for the parish, and we look forward to this ministry among our elders flourishing further in each of the team churches. The main piece of administrative work has been to meet carefully with representatives from each church in the parish to suggest a new formula to allocate parish share between the five churches, based for the first time simply on Average Weekly Attendance.

Reculver Deanery and Canterbury Diocese

Our much-loved Archdeacon Jo Kelly-Moore was appointed as the new Dean of St Alban's Cathedral; we are so grateful for all of her encouragement and support during her time with us. We pray for our new colleague-to-be Dr Will Adam as he prepares to follow in Archdeacon Jo's footsteps as the new Archdeacon of Canterbury from this July. We spent considerable energy and time engaging with the Deanery process of contributing to the Diocesan strategy to achieve a balanced budget in 2022, and we continue to engage with the 'Sustainable and Flourishing Future' document as a working document.

Our Interim Diocesan Secretary and colleagues have alerted us to the need for a £2.5m loan in July 2021 to pay salaries to the end of the year, which was a helpful truth for us all to be aware of, and continues to focus our minds on being wise stewards in all areas of our shared life.

Rev Rachel C Webbley



In 2021 we continued to take our commitment to the environment very seriously considering how we could continue to implement the aims of A Rocha UK's award scheme "Eco Church" most effectively in our different churches.

St Alphege Seasalter

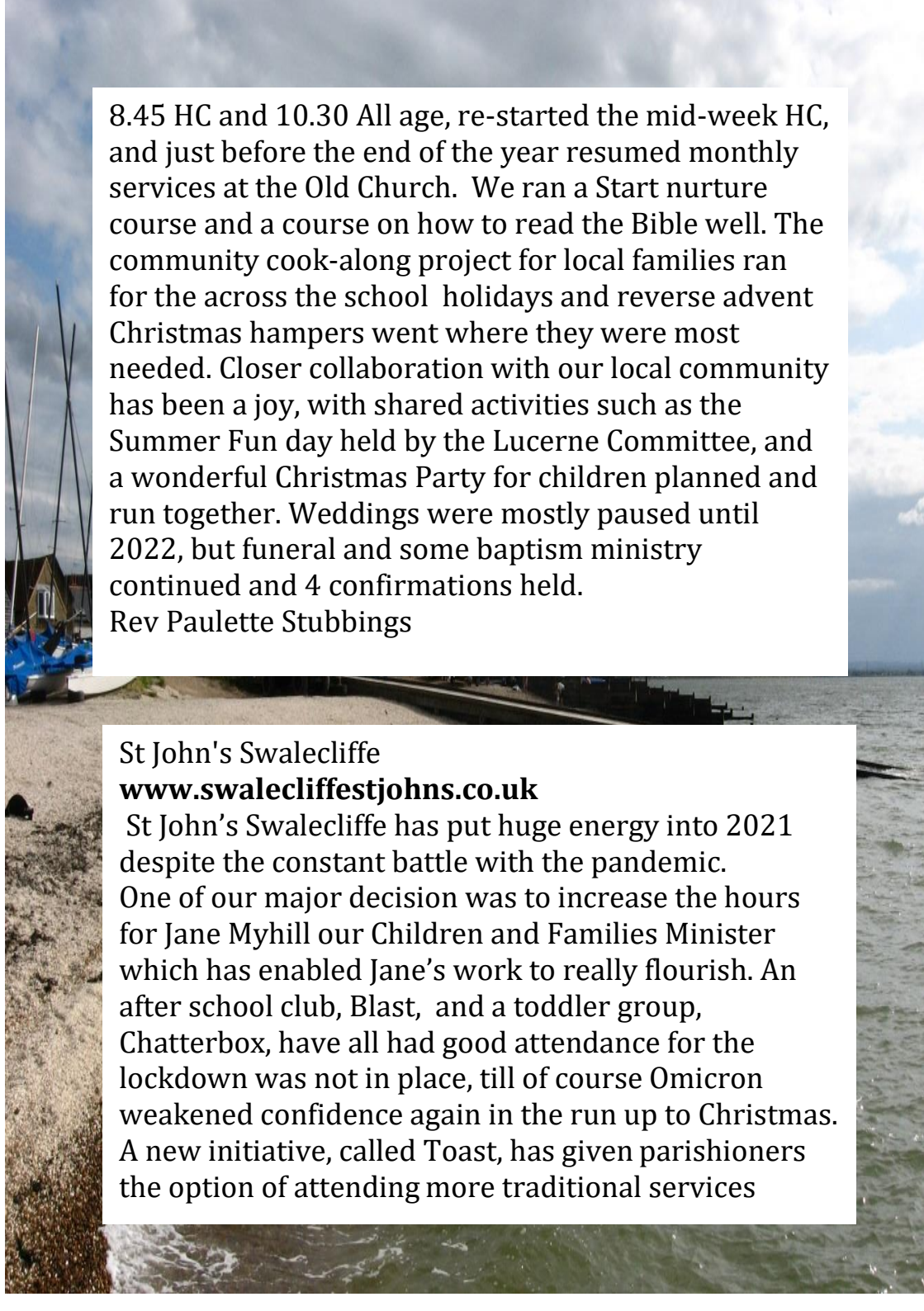
www.stalphegeseasalter.org

We have focused this year on rebuilding and renewing our connections with one another and our community and deepening our own faith journey and connection with God. Work with children and families and young people moved from online to in-person as soon as that

was possible, moves towards Eco Church certification has progressed especially spearheaded by the young people. The Open Door coffee morning was re-launched as a Community Hub and the re-vamped/re-launched toddler group (Little Salties) already has a large and regular attendance with growing relationships. We continue to be committed to releasing and encouraging lay ministry and have also benefited from supporting a Reader placement, a Mission Project group from St Augustines, and a prospective Ordinand this year.



Weekly prayer groups and Connect Groups have continued online or in person as practicable, we restructured the Sunday services to two,



8.45 HC and 10.30 All age, re-started the mid-week HC, and just before the end of the year resumed monthly services at the Old Church. We ran a Start nurture course and a course on how to read the Bible well. The community cook-along project for local families ran for the across the school holidays and reverse advent Christmas hampers went where they were most needed. Closer collaboration with our local community has been a joy, with shared activities such as the Summer Fun day held by the Lucerne Committee, and a wonderful Christmas Party for children planned and run together. Weddings were mostly paused until 2022, but funeral and some baptism ministry continued and 4 confirmations held.

Rev Paulette Stubbings

St John's Swalecliffe

www.swalecliffestjohns.co.uk

St John's Swalecliffe has put huge energy into 2021 despite the constant battle with the pandemic. One of our major decision was to increase the hours for Jane Myhill our Children and Families Minister which has enabled Jane's work to really flourish. An after school club, Blast, and a toddler group, Chatterbox, have all had good attendance for the lockdown was not in place, till of course Omicron weakened confidence again in the run up to Christmas. A new initiative, called Toast, has given parishioners the option of attending more traditional services



in the church on Sunday mornings, usually led by Rev Simon Tillotson, or an informal child friendly worship event in the St John's centre. This diverse approach to worship is key to missionary growth. Fun days and other events have been extremely well attended in school holiday time.

Rev Simon's arrival with us back in November 2020 came together with various lockdowns that followed, so we have only just recently begun to see growth in the 9.30am congregation and Wednesday congregation which is to be welcomed, even in the wake of the Omicron variant. We have also restarted many of our usual events such as our Market. Onwards and upwards!


Rev Simon Tillotson

All Saints Whitstable

www.allsaintswhitstable.com

2021 has been a difficult year for the Church of England and All Saints has been no exception. With the early part of the year spent in lockdown and with the arrival of Omicron in December, and with many waiting for their booster jabs in the intervening months before being confident to return to church activities, many of our normal groups were unable to function and some have still not restarted. For example, our Cameo drop in, our Singing for Fun and Health, and coffee after church on Sundays are still to resume. During the course of the year Elena Markova started full time teaching and this affected our midweek children's groups significantly too.





That said, there have been positives. Our worship in the Vicarage garden was successful, despite there being many wet Sundays. We have seen new people joining our congregation though numbers are of course well down on pre pandemic levels still. A very successful Summer Fete, Firework event, and Christmas Fair (the latter held just before the Omicron variant arrived), all went very well. We have also continued work on our Ecochurch plans. We are confident that 2022 will be a better year for us and seek God's help and grace moving forward. Rev Simon Tillotson

St Alphege Whitstable

www.stalphege.org.uk

From March we have been worshipping in church each week, live-streaming every Sunday service, gathering in the Nave for communion each Wednesday and sending everyone 'worship at home' material.

Earlier in the year we continued making telephone contact with those who were still unable to attend, thanks to a faithful group who rotated their calls, and who attended Diocesan training in this area.

Many of us attended Rev Rob's licensing as Team Vicar in the Pilgrims Way Benefice and we also welcomed our new Team Curate, Rev Jack Greenhalf.

Early in the year, we explored more outdoor ministry, and one example of this were three very successful trips to Cornwallis Circle playpark trips after church on occasional Sundays.



Kids Space runs every Sunday from September and we now offer weekly collective worship for both our church schools.

An important development has been acquiring a contactless card reader which is working wonderfully and is an essential part of today's 'cashless' culture.

We were able to restart the monthly Café Church at St Andrew's Church Centre in July and at Christmas gathered to sing carols at the top of the estate, outside each of the blocks of flats and nearby houses. Rev Rachel Webbley

St Peter's Whitstable

www.stpeterswhitstable.org.uk

St Peter's has continued to faithfully offer high-quality preaching and eucharistic worship every Sunday, and eucharist every Tuesday throughout 2021. We remain hugely grateful to Fr. Chris Morgan-Jones for his ministry and leadership, with valued support from our Reader & PTO colleagues. This year a Ministry Team was established, and we continued to offer pastoral ministry to the community, including the funeral of our Treasurer's Mother, and the wedding of her son. We hosted several parish meetings, restarted bookings at Church House, including regular mini-markets.



The church remains in good order, and now has an improved sound system. Our pioneer minister was appointed to a full-time role in KCC but stayed with us as a volunteer to the end of the summer term, when our families thanked Peter and Diane for 50 years of children's ministry at St Peter's. Although we lost many of the congregation during covid, we remain at 94% of pre-pandemic attendance, and the choir has doubled to 4 faithful members, with a new organist from within the congregation. We are an Inclusive Church, and were able to host the Labyrinth in December to which people from different churches came and received blessing.

Rev Rachel Webbley

OTHER NEWS

We said a sad farewell to our Team curate Rev Rob Tugwell and Nancy and the children as he completed his training.

Rob is now ministering in a group of parishes to the west of Maidstone. We were then delighted to welcome Rev Jack Greenhalf and Chrissie and their children to the parish as Jack began his curacy with us.

See photo



We continued our practice of meeting together online through our Facebook live stream of Morning and Evening Prayer. Morning Prayer continues into 2022 on weekday mornings from 9am, hosted by various churches, and you are welcome to join us.

As well as our local elections to DCC and PCC, in 2021 Mike Barnett and Malcolm Waller were elected to Diocesan Synod, and David Kemp and Rev Rachel Webbley were elected to the Church of England General Synod. Many congratulations to them!

Average Weekly Attendance (AWA)
across the Whitstable Team

					<i>Avge</i>	
		<i>2017</i>	<i>2018</i>	<i>2019</i>	<i>17-19</i>	<i>2021</i>
		<i>AWA</i>	<i>AWA</i>	<i>AWA</i>	<i>AWA</i>	<i>AWA</i>
All Saints		135.00	135.00	118.25	129	75
St Peter		24.25	29.00	26.50	27	25
St Alphege		97.00	96.00	87.00	93	64
St John		52.50	45.50	43.75	47	30
Seasalter		199.25	180.25	169.50	183	109
		508	485.75	445	480	303

St Andrew's Church Centre continues to be a key place from which St Alphege Church ministers throughout St Andrew's Estate, where many of the church are resident. Early in the year we trialled the Cookalong project, and over the summer several outdoor events were possible, led by our StArs+ Café Co-ordinator, Jane Myhill, whose role came to an end in December. We were able to restart the monthly Café Church in July and at Christmas gathered to sing carols at the top of the estate, outside each of the blocks of flats and nearby houses. We are preparing to welcome 400 new households in this part of our area, working with Churches Together in Whitstable colleagues on a shared leaflet letting all new residents know about the different churches throughout the community and our collaboration in supporting everyone, regardless of their church tradition. A few of us have begun to meet to pray about the next steps for ministry in this important part of our pastoral district.

WHITSTABLE TEAM OCCASIONAL OFFICES 2021

Church / Graveside funerals:	44
Crematorium funerals:	28
Interment of ashes:	38
Weddings:	12
Renewal of marriage vows	2
Blessing after civil marriage	1
Baptisms:	19
Confirmations:	5

CHURCHES TOGETHER IN WHITSTABLE

We continue to be actively involved in the various ministries in the town often working with other Christians from other churches as part of our commitment to Churches Together in Whitstable. The following were active in 2021:

Whitstable Beach Pastors – which has a team which goes out into Whitstable on Friday nights to Care, Listen and Help whilst the prayer team pray over the town of Whitstable

Christians Against Poverty incl Job Club – helping release people in our community from the burden of debt, poverty and their causes, to bring good news, hope and freedom

The Haven Project – which runs a drop in centre three times a week from St John's Methodist Church

The Mothers Union – aiming to promote the wellbeing of families with interesting talks and visits.

Remembrance - playing an active role in supporting the RBL in running this important service for the whole town community

Ride and Stride – raising money to help historic churches in the county

Churches Together Sacred Space – an hour of silent prayer by candlelight at which incense is often used


Happy moments,
Praise God.

Difficult moments,
Seek God.

Quiet moments,
Worship God.

Painful moments,
Trust God.

Every moment,
Thank God.

Peace
Love
Unity


Team Talk 2021
Edited and
designed by
Rev Simon
Tillotson