

## Priest-in-Charge (Team Rector Designate) Report

The year 2021 marked the proper beginning of recovery from the Pandemic. It still meant services wearing masks, without singing and receiving communion in one kind only and getting jabbed as many as three times. There was a vacancy in the Haldon Mission Community for a Team Rector and Revs Jane Frost and Sue Astbury were holding the fort ably assisted by a number of retired clergy and readers. Thank you to them for their hard and dedicated work; they kept the flames of care and love going by their thoughtfulness in the difficult days of ministering virtually and by phone. Thank you to you all too for being God's faithful and hopeful people – showing care and concern where you could and making opportunities to be hospitable like opening the church and sitting outside to welcome passers-by.

The summer lapped onto our shores and visitors returned, a lovely flower festival was arranged, and people felt a little more confident about venturing out. Thank you to Christine Vince and her helpers for arranging that and making a good fundraiser. Even a theft of takings couldn't extinguish the good humour as the generous traders of Teignmouth very kindly stumped up to cover our losses.

Mark and I moved into the Rectory at this time – the hottest time of the year and kept pinching ourselves saying "when is the holiday going to end?" At the end of July came my licensing and the great time of getting to meet people and find my way around the churches. In August we arranged a barbeque for children at the Rectory.

At St Michael's to lead worship I needed to get my hand in again with a censer, but Revd Sue, Ian and the team showed me what is the usual practice for St Michael's. We started a monthly Evensong service. Christmas 2021 was more like a "normal" Christmas and a number of organisations used the church for their special season services. With Covid anxieties still in mind the schools and RNLI sadly decided not to come back in '21 though we very much look forward to seeing them at the end of this year. Our church continues to be a place people like to come either as visitors when we keep it open during the day and also for Life Events services.

This year sees the challenge of fund-raising for urgent pinnacles repairs on the tower and raising money to pay our parish share for the cost of full-time ministry. Challenges in a practical way are finding new ways to reach out and serve the people of our lovely town working with St James to bring the good news of the Gospel to more people.

With every blessing

Carol Green