

Journeying with God



1976 - 1996



Paintings by Wendy Walkley (1994, 1996) used with permission.

Journeying with God

A short history of the church of
St John the Evangelist Southbourne, West Sussex,
from 1976 until 1996
(including the building and opening of the Church Centre)
by Jill Fudge and Pat Poil



Preface

The following pages reflect the contents of the parish magazines of St John's Church in the Diocese of Chichester from 1976-96.

Years 1976-86 have been read through and notes made by Jill Fudge, who moved away in 1985, which have enabled Pat Poil, the Vicar's widow, to write the story of how the members of the church at that time grew in faith, in the love of God and also in love for each other.

A special big thank you to Janice Collett for printing and producing this booklet and for all her enthusiasm and support for the project.

Also a word of sincere thanks here to the few people who were at St John's right from the beginning who were such a help and encouragement during the early tough days when it often seemed an impossible task. Without them we might have given up. No names will be mentioned but they know who they are and I thank God for them.

This small booklet does not pretend to tell everything that happened at St John's but we hope it will be of interest to past and present church members, church historians, and also local historians.

Copies of all the magazines are in the Chichester Records Office and may be seen there by appointment.

The Beginning

On a cold evening in December 1976 the Rev'd Ronald W Poil AKC was Instituted and Inducted as the Vicar of St John the Evangelist, Southbourne, by the then Bishop of Chichester, the Right Rev'd Eric Kemp. Ron had been the last padre on RAF Thorney Island, retiring from there after sixteen years as an RAF chaplain.

A couple of weeks before, the family had moved from the rectory on Thorney Island into the Victorian vicarage next door to St John's.

It had five bedrooms, servant's quarters, non-existent central heating, a large garden around the house, an orchard and a tennis court.

After the service the bishop reassured the family that the building of a new vicarage was a priority – seventeen years later we moved into the new vicarage, built next door to the old one on what was a Glebe Field!

St Nicholas, Thorney Island

The new Vicar was also responsible for St Nicholas which had been the Station Church for the Royal Air Force from 1938 until 1976. As well as service personnel attending services there were about twenty people from Southbourne who had worshipped regularly at the church for some time.

The care and expense of keeping the church open was going to be a considerable problem and, initially, it was difficult to find a way forward for the future of St Nicholas. The diocese recommended it be closed as the Air Ministry ceased to have any responsibility for it once the RAF left the Island. In 1980 the church was made part of the parish of Southbourne and St John's took full responsibility for it.

After the RAF left the Island in 1976 it had a number of different uses including becoming a haven for Vietnamese refugees, many supported by St John's. Eventually the Army took it over and the Vicar was the Officiating Chaplain until a full-time chaplain was appointed in November 1992.

Over the years many costly, necessary repairs have been carried out in the church ensuring its survival as a beautiful Saxon church.



The First Few Years

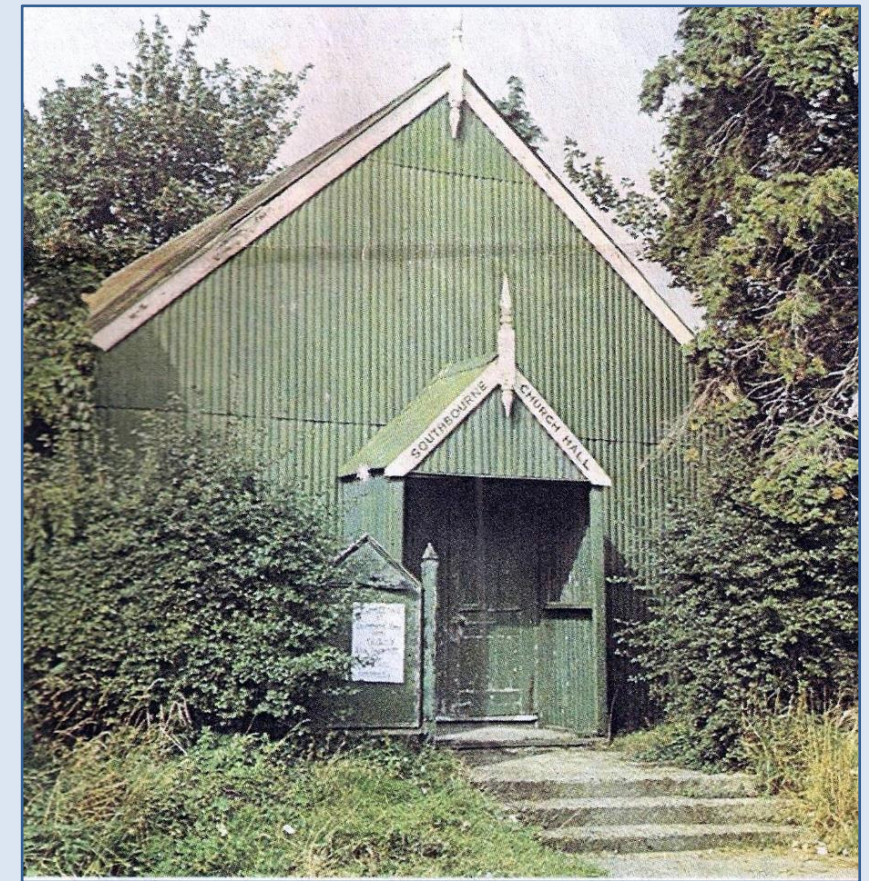
St John's was full for the Induction Service but on The First Sunday there were only six people in the Congregation for the main service.

There had been a long interregnum during which numbers had dwindled.

The annual income for the previous year had been £1,700, mainly from two fairs.

Clearly the two main priorities were

- (a) to build up the congregation and
- (b) to generate some badly needed income.



The year 1977 was an eventful one. The parish magazine was immediately used by the new Vicar to introduce himself and to set out his stall: articles about changes in service times; the church hall, an ancient building with a corrugated iron roof and rotting floor which was soon condemned and closed; the necessary felling of a number of dead sycamore trees in the vicarage grounds, locally very unpopular; suggestions to hold Sunday evening services in Glebe House, the care home situated behind the church, which still continues today; confirmation classes; a Gift Day; and coffee after the morning service.

Thrift Week

Twice yearly, in the spring and the autumn, a Thrift Week was set up. It was held in the Free Church Hall, beginning in 1978, and got bigger each time until it outgrew the size of the hall and had to close in 1982. Good quality clothes and shoes were brought in and owners received eighty per cent of the purchase price, the church twenty per cent.

They were great fun, drew in many willing volunteers, and boosted the church income. The church profit from the last week was £500. Many other fundraising events were held: a flower festival, auctions, Christmas and summer fairs, etc, and income gradually increased. In 1982 it was decided to have a stewardship campaign which eliminated the need for fundraising for the running of the church, much to everyone's relief!

Children, Young People and Meeting Places

The congregation was steadily growing with many families and young people joining. By the early 1980s there were over one hundred children and young people involved in the life of the church. This posed problems about where to have meetings. Also there was no toilet in the church but we were able to use the one in the old church hall. Fortunately the vicarage came into its own. Three of the four vicarage children went off to university which freed up bedrooms during term time and, together with all the other available rooms, and a parishioner's shop premises nearby, were all used for Sunday groups and various meetings. The Vicar experimented with many different ways of learning for the adults and the children, resulting in what was his ultimate aim – All Age Services every week in which the children regularly took part and often taught us more than the adults!

The children and young people of all ages met in their groups during the week to prepare their contribution to the Sunday service, using material from the Church Pastoral Aid Society.

During the '80s the teenage groups, with their leaders, had two weekends at the Curdridge Centre at Botley and three weekends at the Westbrook Centre on the Isle of Wight.

Venture Week

In August 1982 a Venture Week was held at the Bourne Community School for children between the ages of four and thirteen, led by John Manning, a Reader friend. Thirty-nine members of the congregation, from teenagers to senior citizens, were involved in the running of the week and between 150-170 youngsters poured into the school every day. It closed on the following Sunday with a special service and an exhibition of all the things the children had made during the week.

St John the Baptist, Westbourne

A new Rector of Westbourne was also appointed in 1976, Peter Baden and his wife Lesley. They both soon became good friends of us all at St John's. The two congregations had much in common and were soon joining together for services using the musical gifts of both churches. The relationship grew and continued until Peter Baden left Westbourne to be the Vicar of Copthorne in 1984 but the friendship between the two clergy families has continued.

Bishops and Clergy

The Right Rev'd Colin Docker was our area bishop when we arrived at Southbourne. He proved to be a great support and encouragement to us, and the growing church, until he retired in 1991. Bishop Colin and his wife Thelma enjoyed their visits to St John's for confirmation and other services and events. He was succeeded by the Right Rev'd John Hind, who was appointed Bishop of Horsham in 1991, and then by Lindsay Urwin in 1993. Bishop Lindsay was with us until we retired in 1996 and beyond. He was a constant source of help and inspiration in all that we were trying to do and his interest and concern was much appreciated by the whole church.

In the early years the Vicar was the only priest, assisted by the Reader, Bill Edwards, looking after two churches. There were no retired priests in the area to help out until the arrival in Funtington, on his retirement as the Bishop of Repton, of the Right Rev'd Warren Hunt and his wife Molly. Warren was soon invited to St John's and quickly became a firm friend to us all, coming to help out as often as he could, and enjoying being with us as much as we enjoyed his friendship and support.

Another bishop who became a good friend of St John's was the Right Rev'd Ban It Chiu, the retired Bishop of Singapore, who was a regular visitor leading training weekends, preaching and taking part in healing services. He had been visiting and encouraging fledgling churches embarking on renewal for some time. Also regular visitors and friends were the Rev'd Jack Puntis and his wife Irene. Jack was a retired Methodist minister and had been much involved with the charismatic movement in his last church in Winton. His and Irene's teaching, encouragement and support were invaluable throughout our journey into new and exciting times.

‘Home grown’ help was gradually emerging. Mary Evans, a Reader who lived in Fishbourne, joined us for a time. Jackie Birdseye trained as a Reader, was later ordained, and was with us until she left to serve her title in the Guildford Diocese. Michael Baggott was licensed as a Reader in 1989, went on to be ordained deacon in 1994, and was priested in 1995. A very gifted Bible scholar, who was awarded the Archbishop’s Diploma for Readers in 1992, Michael served as an NSM until his premature death from cancer in 2002.

David Hider was ordained deacon in July 1989, priested in 1990 and served as an NSM at St John’s until he felt called into full-time ministry and was appointed a curate at Goring Parish Church in 1991. Barbara Mosse and her husband Martin had joined St John’s earlier and she trained for ordination, was ordained deacon in 1990, and was priested the following year. Barbara left us in 1993 for a wider ministry in the Portsmouth Diocese. Also Wendy Satherley and Pat Poil had been licensed as Readers in 1986 so it was a huge help to the Vicar to have all this extra help and support. In September 1992 Jenny Whitfield and Pam Willett were accepted for training and duly licensed as Readers. In 1995 the Rev’d Margaret Corstorphine, a retired priest, was welcomed into the Ministry Team. Sandra Beavis was recommended for training for the diaconate in 1995; she was later priested and, after doing Army chaplaincy work, became the Vicar of Soberton and Newtown in the Portsmouth Diocese.

Rural Dean

In 1978 the Vicar was invited by the diocesan bishop to be the Rural Dean of Westbourne, for a five-year period, overseeing all the parishes and their clergy in the deanery. He took this very seriously and did all he could to draw the deanery together, encouraging clergy to get to know each other, exchange pulpits and take an active part in the deanery synod. This included all the clergy and their wives coming to a buffet supper at the Vicarage twice a year. The Vicar's wife started a Clergy Wives' Group meeting monthly in the different vicarages, sometimes having a speaker or a discussion on a current topic together with coffee, tea and cakes. This continued until someone was finally found to take over as Rural Dean in 1991!

Possible Building Programme and Re-ordering of the Interior

As early as 1982 there were discussions about a building programme. Should it be a new church hall or some sort of extension onto the church with all the facilities which were needed? The work began with a complete re-ordering of the interior of the church in 1985, renewing the flooring and replacing the pews with chairs, making the building more flexible and useable during the week. As was expected, this didn't please everybody, especially those who had a special fondness for pews. Discussions about building a badly-needed extension on to the church began in earnest in 1990 and continued until it came to fruition in 1995. More about that later in the story.

A Framework for the Future

Right from the beginning the Vicar embarked on an intensive programme of teaching about what it meant to be the Family of God: how important it was for individuals to be informed, committed Christians and the importance of Bible study, prayer and giving. He had many pastoral and listening gifts himself and was a great encourager and enabler. In 1990 it was a great joy for us all at St John's when the Vicar was made an Honorary Canon of the Cathedral, becoming the Prebend of Selsey.

Many group leaders were trained for the new house and cell groups. Three prayer groups were also formed and many prayer triplets. In 1988/9, after seventy newcomers were made welcome at a special evening event, it was decided to start nine new cell groups for them. The difference from the house groups was that they would split in two when they became too big and add new members to each new group. There were newcomers' welcome evenings every year.

Bereavement Training 'Living with Loss', a training course for bereavement visitors, was run in 1990 and 1992 preparing thirty-plus members of the congregation to minister to the bereaved.

The Catholic Bible School

Help was available from local clergy and friends who came to lead different teaching and faith courses. We had the privilege to be founder members of the Catholic Bible School set up in 1988 by Joan and Michael LeMorvan. It held excellent courses in Bible study, counselling, prayer, spiritual direction, pastoral work, bereavement and other subjects, from which many at St John's greatly benefitted. There is a very interesting history of the School in two parts in the July and November 1989 parish magazines.

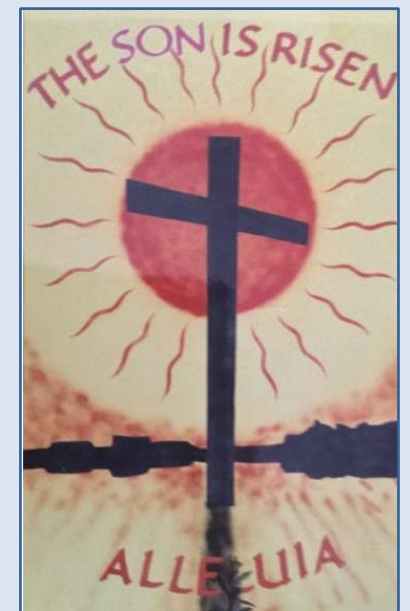
Parish Teams

A team structure was put in place: finance, worship, pastoral, education, children's and youth groups, house and cell groups, healing ministry, mission and social, all meeting regularly and accountable to the Vicar. It is appropriate here to thank sincerely all the people who so faithfully led and worked with all these groups over the years and those who filled all the other posts necessary to run the church. The life and work of the church took a significant step forward in June 1987 when a team from St Andrew's, Chorleywood was invited to come for a faith-sharing weekend in the local school. It changed many people's lives and was a memorable experience.

Banners

In the mid-80s a small team began to produce some beautiful, seasonal, large banners which were used for some time until sadly they were damaged beyond repair by a small fire in the organ loft.

New banners were made by subsequent groups over the years and are still being used.



Open House - Open House was started in 1987, every Thursday morning in the church, when free coffee and tea were served and there was an opportunity for anyone who was lonely or troubled to talk to a sympathetic listener. It continued for many years and grew into also having a monthly evening meeting for all cell group members with different speakers on various aspects of the faith. A 'Talking Point for Mums and Dads' group was set up in 1992 meeting once a week in the Vicarage with a crèche organised.

Lent Lunches From early days many came to the Lent lunches which were held weekly every year in the Vicarage. A large group of helpers took it in turn to make soup and prepare the meal. Donations were given to a different charity each year.

Library and Tape Library A flourishing parish

A library and a tape library were soon set up and proved to be a valuable part of the ministry at St John's. At one time there were over 1,000 books in the library. Both books and tapes were much used by the congregation.

Mission From the earliest days the importance of overseas mission was encouraged. Initially the church supported a family who had in 2005 been working with the then Church Missionary Society in Tanzania who, on the completion of their tour, settled in Southbourne and helped to encourage interest in mission and in the general life of the parish. Then, an African theological student training at Oxford until his ordination and taking up a post in Accra, Ghana, was supported.

Over the years we sponsored other couples, and single people, working in different parts of the world and later 'home grown' missionaries went out from the congregation. Also the elder son of members of the congregation did a gap year with Careforce in Bidston, Birkenhead, at a parish in a very poor area, where he helped with youth work and music and sent monthly letters to the magazine so we could support him in prayer. A young Tanzanian evangelist Mathayo Kasagara, visited St John's in 1990 and became a good friend. He was struggling to get training for the ordained ministry so St John's supported him financially for a year – he is now the Bishop of Lake Rukwa, a new diocese in Tanzania!

Music Ministry

In 1976 when this story begins, Mark Everson had been the organist for some years and worked tirelessly in the early years to bring some life into the church music. Initially there was a mixed, robed choir which Mark trained. Before long he and the Vicar felt the need for a music group which could play at family services but for some time there seemed to be no people who could fill this role. Eventually two young men joined us with the necessary gifts and did what they could until they both moved on. An adult singing group was formed, trained by Mark, and together with the junior musicians put on many special musical evenings. At that time there were a number of young people with obvious musical gifts who were very keen to be involved. They became the founder members of a wonderful Junior Music Group under the leadership of (the now Rev'd) Stephen Everard.

Over the years new people joined and some moved on, but they contributed so much to the worship and life of the church right up to the time of Ron and Pat's retirement and indeed to the present day. The group soon became much in demand locally and in the diocese. One of their many highlights was being asked to play at a big Rotarian Conference at the Metropole Hotel in Brighton.



The Healing Ministry

The Vicar had had an active interest in the healing ministry for some years and began to speak about it to the congregation. Many were interested and felt God was calling them to offer themselves for training. Much of this was done at the Catholic Bible School, the Acorn Healing Trust and many conferences on healing run by prominent people who were involved in the charismatic renewal.

We were encouraged by joining up with a number of local clergy and laymen, who were already involved in healing ministries in their own churches, and especially by Chichester Cathedral who were holding monthly healing services there.

Ministry was offered at St John's by trained members of the Healing Group in pairs, during the time of communion at each service, in the chapel behind the main altar. Healing Services were also held separately.



Festival of Faith A great Festival of Faith was organised by the Rev'd David Watson and his team from St Michael le Belfry, York, who held a week of services every evening in Chichester Cathedral, which was packed to the doors. This was a turning point for St John's. Many caught a glimpse of how St John's could be; it seemed as if suddenly a mighty wind had blown through the church, very sensibly and sensitively guided by the Vicar, encouraging members to recognise their particular gifts and use them for the glory of God. At this time we were much encouraged by the ministry of the Sacred Dance Group, based in Dorset, led by Paula Douthett and her husband. They were Americans, who had brought together a group of the most beautiful international dancers, and visited many churches in the area which were beginning to realise that dance was a very powerful ministry.

Visit to the Hague

A group of eight visited the English Speaking Church in the Hague where the sister of a member of the congregation was serving with the chaplain there as a deaconess. Everyone was able to share what we had learned about the healing ministry. It was a memorable week-end.

In late 1990, after much prayer and discussion, a plan was drawn up with the diocesan architect for an extension to the church, which was submitted for planning permission. It was twice refused but was granted on appeal in November 1990 both for the St John's Extension/Church Centre and a new vicarage. A team was appointed to manage the project. The original plan was modified as costs were too high and the possibility of phasing the project was discussed. The diocese needed to know that the church had the necessary funds in hand before proceeding.

An immediate and urgent new appeal for funds was launched, culminating in the first Gift Day in October 1991. This was preceded by much prayer including a whole day of prayer the previous day. £89,000 was given. In October 1992 it was agreed that the church should tithe the money that had been given and this was done right to the end of the project. Grants were given to very worthy projects known to St John's and God honoured this in eventually providing all the money needed. Another Gift Day, preceded by a Night of Prayer, was arranged in June 1993. By the end of June 1993, £230,000 had been raised towards the full cost of £355,000 for the revised scheme, making the extension a separate building attached to the church but not linked. A legacy was left to the church, and other loans came in, giving a sufficiently close amount to warrant instructing the architect to modify the drawings and to go out to tender. These formalities were completed within a year, meeting the deadline the PCC had set of July 1994 to make the final decision of whether or not the project should go ahead.

The New Vicarage

At the same time, the diocese was planning to go ahead with the building of the new vicarage on the Glebe Field, next to the old vicarage, funded by the sale of the two building plots on the site and of the old vicarage itself. This provided enough funds for work to begin in November 1993 and to be completed in May 1994. The vicarage family moved in during July 1994.

The church realised that the loss of the meeting space in the old vicarage would mean that many of the children and young peoples' groups, and all the other groups who used it, would have nowhere to meet and might have to close. In March 1994 it was also realised that the church would need the small piece of land adjoining the church for outdoor activities.



The Vicar made an appeal for £46,000 to purchase the plot, offers having to be with the diocese in fourteen days! The appeal raised the full amount which we were able to offer to the diocese but, unfortunately, a builder offered the same amount. The diocese decreed it should go to sealed bids so we prayed for an additional amount, not knowing how much would be needed. The church put in every penny it could raise and we were successful, though paying much more than the lower bid. In our naivety, we had failed to realise that the Lord had brought in enough to pay the expenses involved in the purchase as well as enough to buy the plot. So having bid the whole sum, the church had to pay for the expenses on top! However, the money came back when part of the plot, on which Lance Fitch's bungalow was built, was sold.



Extension/Church Centre

Fund raising began again in real earnest with a number of different schemes put in place – 8,000 bricks on sale at £1 each, auctions of time and talents, many small groups getting together and raising significant amounts of money in many different ways.

By July 1994 the funding gap was still £30,000 but the PCC voted to GO AHEAD.

There was some delay in beginning to build. The first turf was cut in October 1994 and building began, to be almost completed by February

This is one of the many enterprising ways which members of the congregation found to raise much-needed funds.

16- THURSDAY, September 29, 1994 Ems Valley Gazette

Duo's pedal power

By PETER HOMER

Two Southbourne men are planning to raise cash for their church by cycling to the end of the village high street ... 120 miles.

Lawrence Townsend and Nigel Brees's journey will take them the length of the A259, the main road through Southbourne, cycling from Warblington to Folkestone.

They hope to raise money towards a community building planned for the grounds of St John's Church in the village.

Parishioners have already raised and pledged enough money for the first stage of building.

Mr Townsend and Mr Brees hope to raise money for internal fittings and furnishings, as well as publicising what the church is trying to do for Southbourne.

The pair will leave Warblington at 7am on Saturday, October 1, arriving at St John's for Communion at 7.15am, before heading for Folkestone.

Anyone willing to sponsor the event should ring 0243 371970.

There will also be collection points en route.



CYCLING: Lawrence Townsend (left) and Nigel Brees



Mission Accomplished
PRAISE BE TO GOD



1995. Amazingly it had been possible to complete more than the first phase (the ground floor) and the first floor was also half completed.

It was decided to call the 'extension' the Church Centre. There was still need for more funds, which eventually all came in, and an appeal was made for articles to equip the Centre to which people very quickly responded.

Continued Life and Growth

During the time that the building of the Extension/Church Centre was going on, life and growth continued at the church. The house groups all worked through the course 'Expressing His Life' which was a life-changer for many. A big diocesan event 'Caritas' at the Ardingly Show Ground came into being, and was repeated alternate years, in which the Junior Music Group was much involved and many from St John's attended.

The first March for Jesus was held and repeated several times. The Prayer Visiting scheme began and has been repeated since. The annual house-to-house collection for Christian Aid was gathering momentum until in later years over a thousand pounds was collected every year. The Weston House Support Group for those with terminal and life-threatening illnesses was set up in 1992. This was an off-shoot from a similar group at Loseley House to which several members of St John's belonged. Myers Briggs workshops were set up for the PCC and other groups. The J Team once a month for four-to-seven-yearolds was set up and later for older age groups, and enjoyed great success. Faith in Action, an international group collecting and packaging good-quality second-hand clothes to send to countries in need, was started in 1991 and continued for many years.

The first Alpha course started in March 1994. Newcomers Evenings continued to be held every year. A drama group was set up. Parish camping weekends in the New Forest began in 1995. In September 1995 fifteen mainly young people were confirmed by Bishop Lindsay at St John's. Many distinguished speakers and preachers visited St John's during this period including Bishop Morris Maddocks; Bishop Ban It Chiu; Bishop John Hind; Bishop John Perry, Bishop of Southampton; the Rev'd Reg East; the Rev'd David Payne, Warden of Crowhurst Home of Healing; the Rev'd Clive Jenkins, Diocesan Youth Officer; the Rev'd Jack and Mrs Irene Puntis; Ishmael; Adrian and Bridget Plass.

The 'rest is history' as the fruits of that amazing time at St John's are still being felt to this day and many who were involved in it at the time are still members and continuing their ministries. We saw God at work in some amazing ways and many people were healed. One of the things we were also being called to do was to 'love people into the Kingdom' and many can testify to it being the way they found a life-changing faith at St John's.

Epilogue

On 2 June 1996 the Vicar and his wife retired and went to live in Stubbington, Hampshire, where they ministered at Crofton Parish Church for eight years and, from 2004 onwards, at St Mary's Church, Portchester Castle. Ron died in October 2009 and Bishop Lindsay preached the sermon at his thanksgiving service. Looking back over those years it was a tremendous privilege to serve with such wonderful, gifted, generous, hard-working and encouraging people and to see the way that God used everyone in the most amazing ways to put down the foundations of the thriving church St John's is today.

Excerpts from Bishop Lindsay's sermon given at the dedication of the Church Centre on 2 April 1995

‘Some words from a great Archbishop of Canterbury... ,“There is only one thing that can save this world from political chaos and that is worship.” That was William Temple, profound words and more words from him, too, “The church is the only organisation which exists for those outside of it.”’

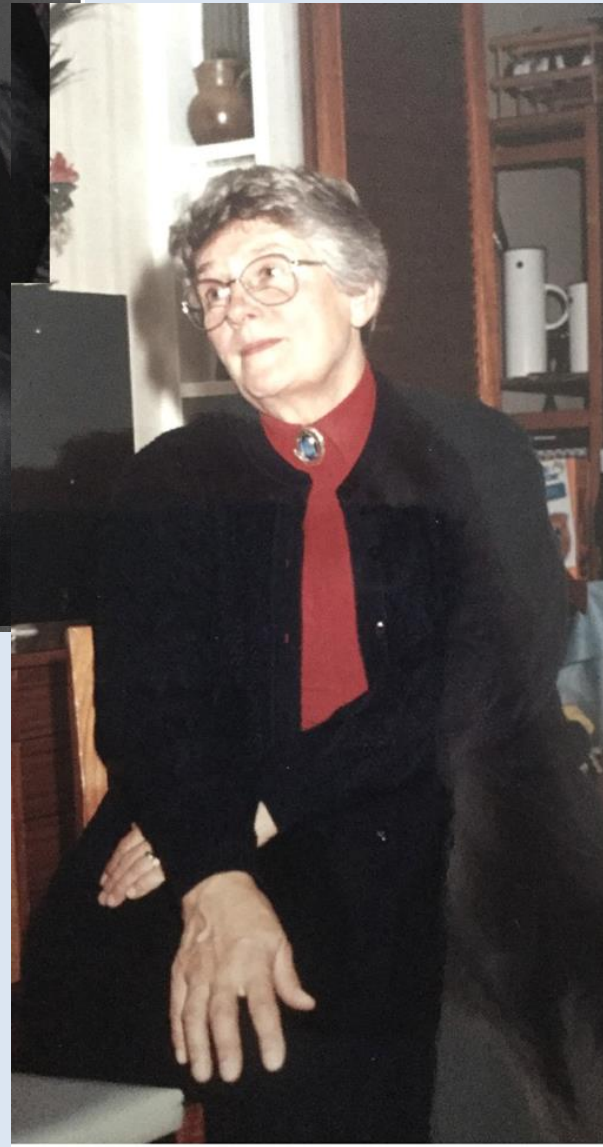
‘It is worship which shifts us from being self-centred to community-centred: to a realisation that what actually happens to me, affects you... . But the mystery is that we are actually made to live in community together. Community that somehow reflects the mystery of God himself, who is Father, Son and Spirit. Three into one DOES GO! Glorious community, self-giving, intertwined, Father, Son and Spirit.’

‘It is very important that the variety of groups that use your Centre are inter-relating with one another. THERE IS NO ROOM FOR SELF-INTEREST GROUPS IN THE CHURCH OF GOD.’

‘It is only worship that can help us to see the face of Jesus Christ in each other: to make us bother about each other... .Only when I start seeing that you are one who is loved eternally by God, of infinite value, worth dying for, only then shall I be bothered to make space for you, only when I see that we have one Father and that we are brothers and sisters. The shift from “I” to “Us”.’

‘The church is NOT A CLUB OF THE LIKE-MINDED. We cannot just lock ourselves in our church buildings, enjoying our worship, going home feeling self-satisfied - “Oh, I really enjoyed that service.” Still less testing whether an act of worship has been worthwhile by whether the hymns you’ve sung are the ones you like.’ ‘... a shift from “US” to “THOU”, to God himself, from selfcentredness to God-centredness. That’s real worship.’ ‘I think that church buildings and their community centres are a prophetic sign in our society today. A sign of God’s deep investment in his world and his deep love for it. The Church must be forever building, always being restored and renewed, leaving go of that which needs to be let go of, straining forward in trust of the living God.’ ‘My prayer is that as the years go on and as you develop the ministry of this parish, that many who find their way first of all to the Centre will so experience the love of Christ through your rubbing shoulders with them that they will find their way to this place. ... my prayer is that as they perhaps make their way to your Centre, they’ll begin to experience something of the rumour of God’s love for them; the rumour that rustles through the pages of holy scripture; the rumour that becomes a reality when someone comes here, unworthy though they may be, and is fed with the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ; the rumour that they’re made for eternity. Yes, that place must be a place full of rumours, NOT GOSSIP, but the rumour of God’s love. That rumour will become a reality if you give yourselves to it.’ ‘This is a new stage, of course, in the vulnerability of your parish, for you are opening up yourselves in a new way and there will be new challenges, new frustrations, new opportunities for dissension and division. Of course these are the risks. But, by God’s grace - for goodness sake you have enough signs of the promises of God, of his faithfulness, to trust HE WILL DO GREAT THINGS.’

Rev. Ronald Poil and his wife Pat





Friends Reunited

Mark Everson, Pat Poil and Karen Barber at the Sussex Day Fete held in the Church Garden on 16th June 2018

Vicars of St. John the Evangelist, Southbourne	
1878 - 86	Rev. John F.E. Holloway
1886 - 92	Rev. Warneford S.T. Gompertz
1892 - 1914	Rev. W.J.B. Wonnacott
1914 - 27	Rev. A.N. Wynn
1927 - 30	Rev. J. Robertshaw
1930 - 54	Rev. William H. Carpenter
1954 - 62	Rev. Christopher Q Phillipson
1962 - 76	Rev. Harry Woodford
1976 - 96	Rev. Ronald W Poil
1996 - 2015	Rev. Clive R Jenkins
2016 - 2022	Rev. Matthew Luff
2023 -	Rev. Tom Robson