

SUZANNE MIDDLETON

ST MICHAEL & ALL ANGELS CHURCH, LYNDHURST

Parish Office Operations Officer, Treasurer, PCC Secretary, Sides Person and Health and Safety Officer...and more...

What do you do when you're not helping out at church?

When I am not involved in helping out at church I enjoy travelling abroad, looking after my 4 grandchildren who all live locally and walking my Goldendoodle dog Molly in the forest. I am also a very keen genealogist and have researched my family tree back to the 17th Century. I have written a book about one of my ancestors who was a shipwrecked sailor on an East India Company Ship. I love reading about Tudor history and was delighted to discover a family connection to Henry VIII!

What made you want to help?

I have been a regular worshipper at St Michael's since 1993, when we moved here from Berkshire. I know that there is a lot that goes on behind the scenes to run a church and felt that I had some skills to offer to help out. At my previous church in Iver Heath I had helped run the Sunday School.

What do you enjoy most about it?

The church building itself is magnificent but I enjoy being part of a diverse congregation and feeling part of the Lyndhurst worshipping community.

Is there anything you have enjoyed during Lockdown?

I have enjoyed baking home made bread, raising some seedlings from some old seed packets and reading more than usual. I have also enjoyed taking part in the weekly 'Clap for the NHS' and seeing all my neighbours in Wellands Road outside their homes joining in every Thursday.

What one thing would you like to see happen, in light of the changes from Lockdown?

I would like to see a continuation of people making more effort to keep in touch with others, particularly the elderly and lonely people in the community. As one of the volunteers for the Lyndhurst Isolation Support Group I hear the deep gratitude of those people who phone up to ask for help with their shopping or collecting their prescriptions and wonder how they manage in normal times.