

SPOTLIGHT ON TERRY WOOD

CHURCH WARDEN AT ST MICHAEL'S, LYNDHURST



What do you do when you're not helping out at church? I have an eclectic mix of activities. Margaret and I like going to the theatre and dining out with friends.

I attend Probus meetings and Southampton Medical Society meetings usually once a month and was given the honour of being President of both Societies in 2019/20

I am now doing more gardening during the lockdown and enjoying the difference we can see with a few less weeds.

I still do a small amount of voluntary work assessing hospitals and clinics as part of PLACE which is Patient Lead Assessment of Care of the Environment a Statutory Body to report to NHS England each year.

What made you want to help? We have been attending St Michael's Church for at least 40 years and it is quite simply a fundamental part of our family life; at first whilst the children were growing up and now with the grandchildren when they are with us.

Margaret was Churchwarden for 7 years about 20 years ago.

I began to realise after our previous incumbent left that we had no volunteers for Churchwardens and that it was crucial to have someone in post when we were in the process of finding and installing a new incumbent. There were still ongoing problems with the structure of the services and with the restoration and renewal project. The concept of the Benefice had sadly fallen apart which was a great shame.

So I volunteered, wanting to support the new vicar when he or she arrived.

What do you enjoy most about it? David has excellent ideas and has generated sheer energy of transformation which often takes my breath away but I like it!!

The Benefice of the three Parishes is coming together and the service changes seem to be appropriate to the individual Churches and having the joint Churchwardens' meetings are really special as are visiting all the churches for Benefice services.

I enjoy the variety of services held at St Michael's when under 'normal' circumstances and I hope by incorporating the new technology learnt during the Lockdown we can encourage more younger people with families in the future yet maintaining a balance for all our parishioners in the worship of Christ.

Is there anything you have enjoyed during lockdown? Being at home and being able to do things around the house and garden far more than before as we usually had many meetings which took us away.

It has been really interesting 'eating out' of the freezer!

I have been especially impressed by the Community spirit in the village and hope that this continues after our 'Release'.

I have enjoyed the varied services with David on the social media platforms and it has been so pleasing to have widespread contact with people around the world and at home during the services.

We have been introduced to Zoom initially by our daughter and now by David and the Southampton Medical Society secretary. We have been able to meet as a family including Oliver and Nicola in Dubai and Nicola's family in Belfast.

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

Lockdown? A continuation of the Community Spirit which has been generated by a need to help all people. I feel that this has worked well because we have such a thriving and active Community Centre but like all such public buildings it has had to close temporarily.

Even when this current crisis is safely over, there are still people out there in our communities of Lyndhurst, Emery Down, Bank and Minstead who will continue to need help in all sorts of ways.

We must aim to be united in our Churches to provide that help by harnessing all the goodwill, empathy and cooperation which has been forthcoming during these difficult times.