

## The Covid year at the Church in the Wood



### Restoration and redecoration

The outside of the building has been repainted by volunteers, except for the roof. Wood work has been replaced where necessary.

### Music,

At the end of 2019 the harmonium was not always producing the notes and harmonies initiated by its player. There were some blanks



and some novel noises. This instrument had been donated by the Salvation Army at the instigation of David Mortock, who was the band leader who brought a band to accompany Hymns in the Wood, for each year since 2015. The previous harmonium was wrecked by vandals in 19?? .

As repair was beyond the financial means of the church; an electric keyboard was bought for a modest amount and played outside Socially Distanced (SD) on 9<sup>th</sup> August

Good news was to come however within a few days when Paul Hellard of Tichborne got in touch to say he had overhauled the harmonium. This he had done brilliantly.



### Services

The bad news was that sadly David Mortlock died of cancer in April 2020 and Covid caused the cancellation of Hymns in the Wood in May of that year with his son as

band leader. On a brighter note, SD services took place outside accompanied by the rejuvenated harmonium on 23<sup>rd</sup> August and also 13<sup>th</sup> 20<sup>th</sup> 27<sup>th</sup> September, harvest festival. After this service our musical mainspring went to spend the winter in Beauworth Church where it was used to accompany two funeral services.

### Clued up with Pat Sissons on Radio Solent

The church was one of the mystery venues on 20<sup>th</sup> December. Did you hear and manage to make sense of the clues?

### Visitors

While the work has been going on there has been a stream of visitors taking their Covid exercise on the footpaths that cross Bramdean Common. It has been a pleasure to allow them to have a look inside. as for many the CiW was where they had been christened years ago, but since forgotten.

### Hymns in the Wood is back.

At **3pm on 9<sup>th</sup> May** there will be an SD hymn singing, weather permitting. It will be outside and dogs, squirrels, birds horses and wellington boots are welcome. Do join us if you can.

Thereafter services will be at **3pm on the second and fourth Sundays until the end of September**

**Directions.** Park on Bramdean Common at 2.45 and listen for the bell.