

# Marhamchurch Christmas Tree Committee – Annual Report 2020

## Committee Members

Sarah Short – Chairman  
Cathy Bowley – Treasurer  
Lucy Smith – Secretary  
Mike Logan  
Bob Taylor  
Chris Hutt  
Iris Ford  
Sandra Dumas

The committee held its last AGM on 12 February 2020 and has postponed the AGM this year until later in the year when it is safe to meet in person.

We had Magic Martin booked for 6 December 2020 as the children's entertainment for the Christmas Tree event at the Bray. When it became clear that we would have to cancel the event we arranged for Magic Martin to host a Zoom magic show to the children remotely via Marhamchurch Primary School. We felt that at least we could provide some entertainment for the children at Christmas.

We still had a lovely Christmas Tree and the local children at Marhamchurch Primary School took part in a colouring competition with the winner lighting the tree, although there was no audience this year. Each child at the school had a star with their name on the Christmas Tree and this year villagers could also purchase a star in memory of a loved one or someone they couldn't be with this year.

Due to the covid pandemic we had to cancel our fundraising events this year. Instead, we were lucky to have a local artist [Sharon Herzog](#) design some lovely Christmas cards for us that we were able to print and sell to help raise some funds. This also gave people the opportunity to send a lovely local card to friends and families.

There were no carols around the tree this year but the Christmas Tree lit up at night was a very cheery sight in what was a rather difficult year for most.

## Chairman's Report

It has definitely been an unusual year. Our intention was to 'spread some cheer' and attempt some feeling of normality for Marhamchurch in these unprecedented times. I am so grateful to the committee, we all pull together, support each other and find solutions to get the Christmas tree in place.

We do have challenges ahead, however we really appreciate and thank the Parish Council for their support and Marhamchurch Primary School for allowing Magic Martin virtually into school, so the children could have some festive fun. Finally, thanks to all the villagers (and beyond) who purchased the Christmas cards and memory stars.

## Treasurer's Report

This year has been a challenging year for us financially as it has been for many

small community groups. Each year we try to raise enough funds to cover the costs of the Christmas events whilst keeping a reserve in our account. Along with grants from the Parish Council, Revel committee and the community chest, we hold fundraising events throughout the year to achieve this. This year we had to be a bit more creative with raising the funds needed to be able to hold as many of the Christmas village celebrations that could be allowed. Together we had the idea for selling Christmas cards illustrating a view of the village that we could send to the friends and family we had not been able to spend time with this year. We are very grateful that a local artist created an original artwork which we could turn into the lovely Christmas cards which the shop and Bullers kindly sold on our behalf. The response to these, and the new red memory stars was amazing. We would like to thank everyone for their support which has seen us cover all our costs which, given this strange year, is something we were not expecting to achieve. We look forward to seeing you all again at fundraising events this year. Thank you all.

### **Grants/Donations Received**

A big thank you to the Parish Council for the grant of £100.

There was no revel this year and this year we didn't apply for the Community Chest grant.

### **Fundraising throughout the year**

Charity Race Night and Quiz planned both cancelled.  
Memorial stars and Christmas cards.

**Follow us on FB for news on future events.**