



The Parish of St Mary's Long Ditton

The Annual Parochial Church Meeting

25th April 2021

Annual Parochial Church Meeting

Sunday 25 April 2021

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ST MARY'S CHURCH, LONG DITTON
Annual Parochial Church Meeting
18th October 2020

MINUTES

27 adults present

1. Opening Prayers

The Chairman opened the meeting with prayers.

2. Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Tashi Lasalle, Sue Scott and Chris Collins.

3. Minutes of the last meeting

The minutes of the meeting held on 7th April 2019 were accepted as a true record of the meeting and unanimously **approved** by those present.

4. Matters Arising

There were no matters arising from the minutes.

5. Electoral Roll

The Electoral Roll report presented by Janet Critchley, the Electoral Roll Officer, was accepted. Janet reported that there were now 103 names on the Electoral Roll an increase of two from last year.

6. Annual Report of the PCC

The report on the proceedings of the PCC over the past year, presented by the Hon PCC Secretary, Penny Fussell, was noted. The PCC had been pre-occupied with four key areas: the lack of volunteers to enable children's activities to be run and developed; the continued fall in income; safeguarding; and community outreach and mission.

7. Financial Statements

The Hon Treasurer, Kim Taylor, presented the financial statement for the church for the year ending 31st December 2019.

The Hon Treasurer reported that the total receipts for the year in the General Fund were in 2019, £132,000. This was an increase on the previous year and was mainly because of one-off donations of nearly £7,000. Planned Giving actually fell to £82,429 (2018: £88,368).

Expenditure in the General Fund was £129,000 for the year (2018: £136,000). This reduction was primarily due to the reduction in the amount the PCC could afford to pay to the Diocese. The Diocese had requested a Parish Share of £82,299; £74,000 was paid. The Hon Treasurer advised that the PCC did not have the capacity to pay the shortfall of £8299 in the foreseeable future.

By limiting the amount of the Parish Share paid, the PCC was able to achieve a small surplus for the year of £3,845 and restore the balance on the General Fund as at 31st December 2019 to £5,316. This was the level of balance which was required for sensible day-to-day management of the financial affairs of the PCC.

The Hon Treasurer cautioned that since the principal factors governing the financial situation of the PCC did not look likely to change materially in 2020, the PCC had to take the decision to limit the Parish Share contribution to the Diocese to £74,000 in 2020, as against a request from the Diocese of £85,855.

The Financial Statements as published in the Annual Report 2019 were accepted.

The Rector thanked the Hon Treasurer for his careful and vital administration of the PCC's finances. He also thanked Martin Perrin for his independent examination of the accounts.

8. Stewardship

The Stewardship Report presented by Katharine Lankey, Hon Stewardship Treasurer, was noted. It was noted that the annual stewardship income had fallen from £89,900 to £88,982. The Rector advised that Lucky Thobela had volunteered to support Katharine in her work as Hon Stewardship Treasurer taking on the responsibility of reporting to HMRC.

9. Fabric, Goods and Ornaments of the Church

The report by the Churchwardens was accepted.

10. Deanery Synod

The report presented by Cat Smith, one of the appointed Deanery Synod representatives, on the proceedings of the Emly Deanery Synod was noted. The report highlighted some of the issues that had been discussed during the year including the Diocesan Growth Fund seeking to develop 100 new worshipping communities over a five-year period; the Parish Needs Process focussing on helping parishes identify their needs to deliver their mission; the Deanery Handbook and the Clergy Care Covenant.

11. Churches Together in the Dittons

The reported by Cathy Doyle, CTD representative, on the proceedings of the CTD was noted highlighting the several ecumenical activities and services that had been held during which time Cathy had acted as CTD secretary and the Rector as Chairman.

12. Safeguarding

A report presented by Joanne Howard, Parish Safeguarding Officer, was noted. Joanne explained that she was reviewing the safeguarding training needs of the parish which needed to be refreshed every three years.

13. Music

A report, presented by Douglas Tang, Director of Music, was noted. Douglas reported on some of the highlights of the year, including the choir's visit to Chichester Cathedral over the weekend of 2/3 November 2019; the ongoing issue of recruitment and attendance numbers; and the social and fundraising activities undertaken. The Rector expressed his warm thanks to Douglas and to the choir for their dedication and talents in leading worship at St Mary's.

14. Sunday Club

A report, presented by Christine Satkunanayagam, was noted. A dedicated team of just two leaders had enabled Sunday Club, with the help of the Creche leaders, to continue. However, new leaders were keenly sought to grow Sunday Club.

15. Community Engagement Activities

A report was noted which detailed the various community engagement activities led by the church namely: publication of the *Lychgate* magazine; the range of Friday activities held in the Community Hall; the Bereavement Club; and the parish events such as Holiday at Home, Long Ditton Alive and Long Ditton Lights Up!

16. Appointment of Tellers

No tellers were appointed.

17. Election of Parochial Church Council members

The Chairman advised that three nominations had been received for election to the PCC:

Peter Brown, on the proposal of Joanne Hall, seconded by Uly Howard;
Julia Watts, on the proposal of Ann Leeson, seconded by Diana Jemmett;
Tashi Lasalle, on the proposal of Chris Howard, seconded by Cat Smith.

The three nominees were duly unanimously elected.

18. Election of Deanery Synod Representatives

The Chairman advised that three nominations had been received for election as representatives to the Deanery Synod:

Chris Howard, on the proposal of Judith Topp, seconded by Cathy Doyle;
Diana Jemmett, on the proposal of Joanne Hall, seconded by Don Anderson;
Cat Smith, on the proposal of Joanne Hall, seconded by Peter Topp.

The three nominees were duly unanimously elected.

19. Appointment of an independent examiner

It was unanimously agreed that Martin Perrin be re-appointed as the independent examiner.

20. Rector's Remarks

The Rector expressed his grateful thanks to the Churchwardens, Peter Topp and Joanne Hall who had been Churchwardens for the last five years since his induction. They had provided support, taking an interest in his well-being as well as occasionally challenging him! They had been wonderful. Joanne now was stepping down and he paid tribute to how brilliant she had served as Churchwarden and how much she had taken on over the years.

Mention also was made to those who worked assiduously on behalf of St Mary's though often not visible: Steve in the office; Jo the Safeguarding Officer; Doug and the choir; Tessa and the cleaning team; the social and Friday afternoon teams; the stewards and servers; the flower arrangers; those behind the creation and distribution of the *Lychgate* magazine (Janet, Ria, Edward and Peter); Cat for publicity; Chris for the website; the amazing Pastoral Assistants; the Sunday Club leaders (the Rector's wife, Christine, and Tashi); the Creche helpers led by Ann; the Babes 'n' Tots team led by Cathy and Pauline; Penny as PCC Secretary; those managing the church's finances (Kim, Katharine, Brian, Lucky and Martin). He commented that it was all too easy to take for granted all the hard work that people did, especially when they had been doing it for many years.

Whilst the APCM was an occasion to review 2019, the meeting of course had had to be delayed from April when it was usually held owing to the coronavirus pandemic. Mention therefore, had to be made of the ongoing impact of the pandemic and lockdown measures that the Government had introduced. The decision had quickly been made to go down the Zoom route of live streaming services rather than having recordings you could watch at any time. This had been for two reasons. Firstly, to perpetuate the sense that all were together at one time, if not in one place, for the sharing in spiritual communion. Secondly, live streaming meant high-quality musical clips could be incorporated into the service which would have been blocked on any recording on YouTube or other platform. He warmly thanked Doug for his tech expertise in choosing the tracks and for introducing the congregation to a wide variety of styles and settings. Thanks too to Julia and Martin Bowyer and the wonderful choir for recording the Thorne Mass setting for us too.

The Rector was pleased to say that St Mary's was one of the first churches locally to open once restriction had been lifted, and one of the first to have services in church. This would not have been possible without the sterling efforts of the Churchwardens and their 'can do' attitude. A particular thanks was expressed to Peter for all his work with the numerous risk assessments in the face of ever-changing guidelines.

The Rector extended his thanks too to Chris Collins, Martin Bowyer, Cat Smith and others for the hours of preparation and setting up that enabled services, since September, to be Zoomed live from church.

The Rector turned to the more difficult subject of St Mary's weak financial position suggesting that this would inevitably lead to further scrutiny from the Diocese and questions about the future viability of the parish. This was a difficult subject and situation, but he encouraged all, as the body of Christ, to play their part and respond to the challenge. He postulated: how could each member of the congregation and parish community respond to God's call in their life to service his church? He reiterated his firm belief that it was the people's church; ministers were transitory (though he reassured that he had no plans to go anywhere) who would lead the people to the best of their ability but the people needed to do their part and respond to God's call to service.

He concluded by encouraging all to look ahead to the new challenges to share our faith of following Christ and serving others in this our community of St Mary's Long Ditton.

21. Any Other Business

There were no items of other business.

22. Closing Prayers

The Rector closed the meeting with prayers at 12.25pm

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Chairman

Date

ELECTORAL ROLL REPORT

The last revision of the Electoral Roll took place in September 2020 when there were 103 names on the roll.

At this revision, we have reviewed all additions to the roll since then and have also removed those who can no longer be on it.

I can, therefore, report that as at 31 March 2021, the numbers on the roll remain the same at 103. We have welcomed one new applicant and one previous member no longer qualifies for inclusion.

Under the Church Representation Rules, a new Electoral Roll has to be prepared every six years and this will next take place in 2025.

Being on the Electoral Roll gives you the opportunity to take a greater part in church life and to vote at the Annual Parochial Church Meeting. If you would like to be on the roll, please contact Janet Critchley, Electoral Roll Officer, for more information.

Janet Critchley
Electoral Roll Officer



**THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF LONG DITTON SURREY
(ST. MARY'S CHURCH LONG DITTON)**

**ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED
31ST DECEMBER 2020**

**REGISTERED WITH THE CHARITY COMMISSION
NUMBER: 1128898**

REPORT OF THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

Vision: Following Christ, Serving You

The Vision of St Mary's Church means that we prioritise:

- (i) Helping those around us discover faith in Jesus Christ;
- (ii) Developing and strengthening our links in the community;
- (iii) Engaging a new generation with the good news of the Gospel; and
- (iv) Deepening our discipleship and spirituality.

A ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

The general functions of the Parochial Church Council (PCC) of the Parish of St Mary's are set out in the Parochial Church Council Measure and The Church Representation Rules. It is the duty of the Rector and the PCC to consult together on matters of general concern and importance to the parish. The PCC works in co-operation with the incumbent in promoting in the parish the whole mission of the church: pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical. Additionally, the PCC is required to consider and discuss matters concerning the Church of England or any other matter of religious or public interest, but not the declaration of the doctrine of the Church. The Charities Act also enjoins all charities to demonstrate that their aims are for the public benefit. Accordingly, the PCC has had regard, where relevant, to the public benefit guidance issued by the Charity Commission in carrying out its activities, as described below.

The PCC is responsible for the maintenance and repair of St Mary's Church building (which is Grade 2 listed) and situated in a conservation area at the junction of Church Road, Rectory Lane and Woodstock Lane North (OS grid reference TQ173659). The PCC is registered with the Charity Commission Number 1128898. The correspondence address for St Mary's Church is: The Rectory, 5 Church Meadow, Long Ditton, Surrey KT6 5EP or The Parish Office, St Mary's Community Hall, Church Road, Long Ditton Surrey KT6 5HH.

PCC Membership:

Members of the PCC are appointed in accordance with the Church Representation Rules or co-opted by the PCC during the year. The following served as members of the PCC in 2019/20:

Incumbent	The Revd Dr Kuhan Satkunanayagam	Ex officio
<u>Until 18 October 2020</u>		
Churchwardens	Peter Topp	Ex officio
	Joanne Hall	Ex officio
Honorary Officers	Kim Taylor – Honorary Treasurer	Elected Member of PCC
	Penny Fussell – Honorary Secretary	Elected Member of PCC
Deanery Synod Representatives	Cat Smith	Ex officio
	Diana Jemmett	Ex officio

Elected Members of the Council	Don Anderson	Retires 2020
	Sue Michalczyk	Resigned January 2020
	Tessa Vallings	Retires 2020
	Kim Taylor	Retires 2021
	Penny Fussell	Retires 2021
	Ann Leeson	Retires 2021
	Lucky Thobela	Retires 2022
	Janet Critchley	Retires 2022
	Chris Howard	Retires 2022

3 vacancies

From 18 October 2020 until 25 April 2021

Churchwardens	Peter Topp	Ex officio
	Susan Rider	Ex officio
Honorary Officers	Kim Taylor – Honorary Treasurer	Elected Member of PCC
	Penny Fussell – Honorary Secretary	Elected Member of PCC
Deanery Synod Representatives	Cat Smith	Ex officio
	Diana Jemmett	Ex officio
	Chris Howard	Ex officio
Elected Members of the Council	Kim Taylor	Retires 2021
	Penny Fussell	Retires 2021
	Ann Leeson	Retires 2021
	Lucky Thobela	Retires 2022
	Janet Critchley	Retires 2022
	Peter Brown	Retires 2023
	Tashi Lasalle	Retires 2023
	Julia Watts	Retires 2023.

4 vacancies

PCC Advisers

Bankers	Barclays Bank plc, Barclays Business Centre, 6 Clarence Street, Kingston-upon-Thames, Surrey KT1 1NY
Buildings	The PCC currently employs John Bailey as its architect
Independent Examiner	Mr Martin Perrin MA, FCA, Chartered FCSI

Sub-Committees

The PCC operates through a number of sub-committees which meet at agreed times during the year and then report to the PCC:

- (i) **Standing Committee.** This is the only committee required by law. It has power to transact the business of the PCC between its meetings, subject to any directions given by the PCC. The Standing Committee elected by the PCC for the year comprises the Rector, the Churchwardens, the Honorary Treasurer, the Honorary Secretary and Diana Jemmett (an elected Deanery Synod Representative and therefore ex officio member of the PCC).
- (ii) **Community Hall.** This committee is responsible for the maintenance and management of St Mary's Community Hall for use by the parish and local

community. The committee works to maintain proper budgetary control whilst ensuring external funding requirements are met and health and safety matters comply with current legislation. Appropriate licensing laws and insurance cover is maintained.

- (iii) **Social Team.** This team aims to co-ordinate a regular programme of social events and to provide support for any special or fund-raising events.

Churchyard, buildings, health and safety

The Rector and Churchwardens continue to liaise with Elmbridge Borough Council to ensure the grounds are kept safe and presentable. Rob's Garden Services are employed to undertake 'gardening' tasks particularly in the Garden of Rest. The Rector and Churchwardens are also responsible for oversight of the maintenance and development of the buildings and churchyard structures (old mortuary, Garden of Rest walls, stone tablets etc.), as well as any relevant legislation relating to the building, staff, and visitors' and volunteers' health and safety. They are supported in these responsibilities by several volunteers from the church community.

Safeguarding

The PCC considers that it has, to the best of its knowledge, taken all reasonable steps to comply with the duty under section 5 of the Safeguarding and Clergy Discipline Measure 2016 to have due regard to House of Bishop's guidance on safeguarding children and vulnerable adults.

General Data Protection Regulation

The PCC, to the best of its knowledge, considers that all reasonable steps have, and continue to be taken to comply with the GDPR that came into effect in May 2018. A data audit was conducted, and a Privacy Notice published.

B REVIEW OF PCC PROCEEDINGS OVER THE PAST YEAR

The following report is provided by the Hon Secretary

The PCC met six times over the past year.

The Covid-19 pandemic of course had a profound impact not only on the concerns and business of the PCC but also on the practicalities of its operation. The concept of virtual meetings and events, so alien to us before last March has come to be so very vital. The pandemic and the resulting Government guidelines and rules have exacerbated existing issues but also shown how flexible and adaptive St Mary's can be, as well as bringing to the fore skills and priorities not necessarily realised before amongst the PCC and church community.

Zoom has become a word with which we have all become so very familiar and which has enabled some semblance of normality and social connectivity to continue. All meetings of the PCC have been held via Zoom and the PCC has been pleased to encourage the use of this platform and the live streaming of services. However, they were very mindful of the need to ensure that people were given appropriate support in getting to grips with the technology. The Churchwardens and the Pastoral Assistants should be thanked for taking up this mantle. The PCC is greatly indebted to the Rector for so speedily and

willingly adapting in the first lockdown in 2020 to holding weekly services on Zoom; and to Chris Collins, supported by Cat Smith, Don Anderson and Martin and Julia Bowyer, without whom the live streaming of Sunday's services would not have been so readily achieved.

Latterly, the PCC has begun the interesting debate about the future of recording services. Once all Covid related restrictions have been lifted the normal routine of worship will return. However, it might be that live streaming and/or recording services could continue to have a role in the church's outreach.

Whilst the PCC has continued to meet, neither of its sub-committees have done so. The Churchwardens and Rector have been responsible for the day-to-day management of the church's response to the Government guidelines and the impact on worship and church activities. They are to be hugely commended for attending to the ever-changing rules enabling the church to be open and congregations attend services as and when permitted.

The regular business of the PCC has continued. The important policies of Safeguarding and Health & Safety, and the risk assessments of the church and Community Hall, were reviewed and adopted. The all-important maintenance of the church building, churchyard and Community Hall continued under the guidance and management of the Churchwardens reporting to the PCC on key works, expenditure and issues. In the previous financial year, the PCC had decided to use the Finch Trust to restore both the Finch memorial grave and the Godfrey memorial grave and this work was completed last year - both graves now are sound and beautiful. The extremely generous bequest of Miss Jean Arscott, which has been placed in the Fabric Maintenance Fund at the request of Miss Arscott's executors, will enable the PCC to continue to properly plan and enable essential works to be undertaken within the church.

The pandemic has most certainly exacerbated some issues principally church finances. Whilst the PCC welcomed the Diocesan reduction in expected Parish Share payments, the PCC had to make the difficult decision not to pay in full the Parish Share payments that continued to be expected of St Mary's. To do otherwise would have put St Mary's in a financially untenable position. A major concern for the coming year will be to address the decreasing income and to launch a much-needed Stewardship Campaign.

The pandemic has delayed the need to find leaders for Sunday Club but this remains a very real issue. Without volunteers to run and help with Sunday Club the ability to render service to families and young people of the church community will be sorely undermined. On a more positive note, under the leadership of Chris Howard and Tashi Lasalle the Pizza & Bible Night has continued, the Zoom platform providing a vital means for the young people to continue to meet and discuss a wide variety of topics. Cat Smith has also provided regular Zoom socials for our junior choristers. Attending to providing activities and opportunities for children and young people to feel welcome and thrive at St Mary's as the lockdown restrictions are eased will be a key challenge for the PCC in the next year.

The pandemic inevitably has meant that compromises have had to be made. The Lychgate magazine has continued to be produced but not always in a hard copy format.

Fees from advertisers are key to financing the publication of the magazine but the PCC has been aware that some advertisers have been adversely affected by the pandemic and so unable to pay the fee. A sensitive and pragmatic approach to collecting the fees has had to be taken. Similarly, whilst the Community Hall has been closed to users, the PCC agreed that it was only correct to continue to support the Hall's cleaners.

The PCC was sad to see the departure at Christmas of Douglas Tang as Director of Music. Douglas, with the Rector, had brilliantly met the challenge of the pandemic to provide music for the online services, introducing a rich variety of settings and anthems. The PCC is greatly appreciative of Douglas's work to develop the choir, its expertise and repertoire and wishes him well with his future. Douglas had initiated a review of the choir, its ambitions and aims which the PCC has debated. The PCC is delighted that Julia Bowyer and Cat Smith have agreed to work with the choir over the coming months to continue developing the choir, working with Michael Stevenson playing the organ.

Looking forward, the PCC recognised the challenges that faces St Mary's to build the community and to grow its finances. The PCC welcomed new opportunities and was delighted to learn that Professor Alison Baverstock will serve her title post at St Mary's. Alison begins her 4 year part-time non-stipendiary curacy in July 2021.

FINANCIAL REVIEW 2020

Financial review:

In 2020 total receipts in the General Fund were £95,000 (2019: £132,000). This fall was caused by the reduction and interruption of all forms of giving and fundraising caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. To pick out a few highlights, planned giving fell to £69,000 (2019: £82,000); collections fell to £2,685 (2019: £9,308); income from the church hall fell to £5,734 (2019: £15,011); and there could be no church fund raising activities at all. In contrast, for the benefit of the Fabric Maintenance Fund within Restricted Funds, the PCC received in the year an extremely generous legacy from the estate of Jean Arscott totalling £58,000. This is the largest legacy that the PCC has received in living memory and possibly the largest legacy it has ever received. It will be well spent.

Expenditure in the General Fund was £91,000 for the year (2019: £129,000). In response to the onset of the pandemic, the PCC sought to economise wherever possible, and indeed managed to reduce expenditure outside the Parish Share from £55,000 in 2019 to £45,000 in 2020. However a significant reduction in Parish Share contribution could not be avoided: this was £45,600 in 2020, down from £74,000 in 2019. Adjusted for credits related to COVID-19, the Diocese had requested a Parish Share of £75,180 for the year. Because the PCC does not have the capacity to pay the shortfall of £29,580 in the foreseeable future, the shortfall has not been recognised as a creditor in these financial statements. This is a similar position to last year where the shortfall was £8,299; the accumulated shortfall is therefore £37,879.

The outcome of the economies made and limited Parish Share paid was that the PCC was able to achieve a small surplus for the year on the General Fund of £3,592 and keep the balance on this Fund as at 31st December 2020 at a level commensurate with the needs of the PCC in managing its day to day working capital requirements.

Since the COVID-19 crisis continues to limit severely the income of the PCC in 2021, the PCC has had to take the decision to limit the Parish Share contribution at present to £3,000 a month, whilst the pandemic and its effects persist.

Reserves policy:

It is the policy of the PCC to have available in unrestricted funds at any one time sufficient cash to be able to meet its working capital requirements. Historical experience suggests that this requires a balance of between £5,000 and £10,000. The General Fund now stands at £8,908, which is adequate.



Chairman

Parochial Church Council of St. Mary's, Long Ditton

Statement of Financial Activities for the year ended
31 December 2020

	Notes	Unrestricted Funds <u>2020</u> £	Restricted Funds <u>2020</u> £	Endowment Funds <u>2020</u> £	Total <u>2020</u> £	Total <u>2019</u> £
<u>Income and Endowments</u>						
Voluntary income	2(a)	79,208	59,986	-	139,194	104,157
Activities for generating funds	2(b)	4,052	-	-	4,052	13,572
Income from investments	2(c)	1	250	-	251	242
Church activities	2(d)	11,522	-	-	11,522	21,377
<u>Total Income</u>		94,783	60,236	-	155,019	139,348
<u>Expenditure</u>						
Church activities	3	(90,751)	(6,417)	(8,000)	(105,168)	(143,322)
Raising funds		(440)	-	-	(440)	(2,376)
<u>Total Expenditure</u>		(91,191)	(6,417)	(8,000)	(105,608)	(145,698)
<u>Net Income/(Expenditure) before Investment Gains</u>						
		3,592	53,819	(8,000)	49,411	(6,350)
Net gains on investments		-	573	-	573	1,314
<u>Net Expenditure</u>		3,592	54,392	(8,000)	49,984	(5,036)
<u>Transfer between funds</u>						
		-	8,339	(8,339)	-	-
<u>Net Movement in Funds</u>		3,592	62,731	(16,339)	49,984	(5,036)
Total Funds brought forward at 1 January		5,316	12,502	312,224	330,042	335,078
Total Funds carried forward at 31 December		8,908	75,233	295,885	380,026	330,042

The notes on pages 10 to 21 form part of these Financial Statements.

The comparative figures for 2019 are analysed in columnar form in the Statement of Financial Activities for that year included in Note 11 to these Financial Statements.

Parochial Church Council of St. Mary's, Long Ditton
Balance sheet at 31 December 2020

	Notes	Unrestricted Funds 2020 £	Restricted Funds 2020 £	Endowment Funds 2020 £	Total 2020 £	Total 2019 £
Fixed Assets						
Tangible assets	6(a)	-	-	295,885	295,885	303,885
Investments	6(b)	-	8,912	-	8,912	8,339
		-	8,912	295,885	304,797	312,224
Current Assets						
Debtors and prepayments	7	3,164	-	-	3,164	1,893
Cash at bank and in hand		9,664	66,321	-	75,985	23,555
		12,828	66,321	-	79,149	25,448
Liabilities						
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	8	(3,920)	-	-	(3,920)	(7,630)
Net current assets		8,908	66,321	-	75,229	17,818
Total assets less current liabilities		8,908	75,233	295,885	380,026	330,042
Total Net Assets		8,908	75,233	295,885	380,026	330,042
Parish Funds:						
Unrestricted	10	8,908	-	-	8,908	5,316
Restricted	10	-	75,233	-	75,233	12,502
Endowment	10	-	-	295,885	295,885	312,224
		8,908	75,233	295,885	380,026	330,042

Approved by the Parochial Church Council on 6 April 2021 and signed on its behalf by:





Dr Kuhan Satkunanayagam (Rector) and Kim Taylor (Treasurer)

The notes on pages 10 to 21 form part of these Financial Statements.
The comparative figures for 2019 are analysed in columnar form in the Balance Sheet for that year included in Note 12 to these Financial Statements

**Notes to the Financial Statements for the
year ended 31 December 2020**

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

(1) Basis of preparation

The PCC is a public benefit entity within the meaning of FRS 102. The financial statements have been prepared under the Charities Act 2011 and in accordance with the Church Accounting Regulations 2006 governing the individual accounts of PCC's, and with the Regulations' "true and fair view" provisions; they are also prepared under FRS 102 (2016) as the applicable accounting standards and the 2016 version of the Statement of Recommended Practice, Accounting and Reporting by Charities (SORP (FRS 102)).

The PCC has formed a judgement, at the time of approving these financial statements, that there is a reasonable expectation that the PCC has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. For this reason the PCC continues to adopt the going concern basis in preparing its financial statements. However, this judgement must be seen against the background of the Coronavirus pandemic, the development and ultimate resolution of which, at the time of approving these financial statements, are unknown. Unknown, and unknowable, future developments in this crisis might therefore have financial impacts on the PCC which cannot be anticipated at this time.

(2) Incoming Resources

Recognition of income and endowments

These are included in the Statement of Financial Activities (SOFA) when:

- The PCC becomes legally entitled to the use of the resources;
- The inflow of the economic benefit becomes probable; and
- The monetary value can be measured with sufficient reliability.

Grants and donations

Grants and donations are included in the SOFA when any pre-conditions preventing their use by the PCC have been met. For collections and planned giving this is when the funds are received.

Gift Aid and other tax claims

Gift aid and other tax claims are included in the SOFA at the same time as the cash donations to which they relate.

Investment income

This is included in the accounts when receivable.

Investment gains and losses

This includes any gain or loss on the sale of investments and any gain or loss resulting from revaluing investments to market value at the end of the year.

All other income is recognised when it is receivable. All incoming resources are accounted for gross.

Parochial Church Council of St. Mary's, Long Ditton

**Notes to the Financial Statements for the
year ended 31 December 2020 (continued)**

(3) Expenditure and Liabilities

Liability recognition

Liabilities are recognised as soon as there is a legal or constructive obligation and settlement is probable and quantifiable.

Grants payable without performance conditions

These are recognised in the accounts when a commitment has been made externally and there are no pre-conditions still to be met for entitlement to the grant which remain within the control of the PCC.

All other expenditure is recognised when it is incurred. All expenditure is accounted for gross.

(4) Assets

Consecrated and benefice property

In so far as consecrated and benefice property of any kind is excluded from the statutory definition of "charity" by Section 10(2) (a) and (c) of the Charities Act 2011, such assets are not capitalised in the financial statements.

Moveable church furnishings

In principle these would be capitalised at cost and depreciated over their useful economic life if there were any such items, which currently there are not. If insufficient cost information were available the item would not be capitalised, but all such items are in any event included in the inventory of the Church.

Tangible fixed assets for use by the Church

These are capitalised at cost if they have an economic life of more than one year and cost at least £1,000. Depreciation is calculated so as to write off the capitalised cost of fixed assets less their currently anticipated residual value over their estimated useful lives, as follows:

- Land: not depreciated;
- Buildings: 50 years;
- Fixtures and fittings: 20 years;
- Plant and machinery: 3 years.

Investments

Investments quoted on a recognised stock exchange, or whose value derives from them, are valued at market value at the year end.

Short term deposits

These include cash held on deposit either with the CCLA Church of England Funds or at bank.

Parochial Church Council of St. Mary's, Long Ditton

**Notes to the Financial Statements for the
year ended 31 December 2020 (continued)**

(5) Funds

Unrestricted Funds

These funds represent the remaining income funds of the PCC that are available for spending on the general purposes of the PCC. These funds could include amounts designated by the PCC for fixed assets for its own use or for spending on a future project, though there are at this time no funds of this type. Any such funds would not be included in the calculation of the PCC's "free reserves" given in the Trustees' Report.

Restricted Funds

These funds are income funds that must be expended on restricted purposes; details of the funds held and the restricted purposes for which they were given are shown in the notes to these financial statements.

Endowment Funds

These are restricted funds that must be retained as trust capital either permanently or subject to a discretionary power to spend the capital as income, and where the use of any income or other benefit derived from the capital may be restricted or unrestricted. Details of the respective restrictions are shown in the notes to these financial statements.

Parochial Church Council of St. Mary's, Long Ditton

**Notes to the Financial Statements for the
year ended 31 December 2020 (continued)**

2. INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS

	Unrestricted Funds <u>2020</u> £	Restricted Funds <u>2020</u> £	Endowment Funds <u>2020</u> £	Total <u>2020</u> £	Total <u>2019</u> £
(a) Voluntary Income					
Planned giving:					
Gift aid donations	55,178	-	-	55,178	67,186
Tax recoverable	13,747	-	-	13,747	16,239
Other	136	-	-	136	-
	69,061	-	-	69,061	83,425
Collections	2,685	-	-	2,685	9,308
Legacies	1,000	58,000	-	59,000	-
Donations	6,462	1,105	-	7,567	10,159
Grants	-	881	-	881	1,265
	10,147	59,986	-	70,133	20,732
	79,208	59,986	-	139,194	104,157
(b) Activities for generating funds					
Parish magazine advertising	2,986	-	-	2,986	8,322
Other funds raised	1,066	-	-	1,066	2,435
Fairs and Bazaars	-	-	-	-	674
Quiz, Concerts and Lunches	-	-	-	-	2,141
	4,052	-	-	4,052	13,572
(c) Income from investments					
Dividends from CCLA Investment Funds					
	1	250	-	251	242
	1	250	-	251	242
(d) Income from Church activities					
Wedding fees	539	-	-	539	775
Funeral fees	1,316	-	-	1,316	2,068
Garden of Rest memorials	3,933	-	-	3,933	3,523
Income from church hall lettings	5,734	-	-	5,734	15,011
	11,522	-	-	11,522	21,377
<u>TOTAL INCOME</u>	<u>94,783</u>	<u>60,236</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>155,019</u>	<u>139,348</u>

Parochial Church Council of St. Mary's, Long Ditton

**Notes to the Financial Statements for the
year ended 31 December 2020 (continued)**

3. EXPENDITURE

	Notes	Unrestricted Funds 2020 £	Restricted Funds 2020 £	Endowment Funds 2020 £	Total 2020 £	Total 2019 £
Diocesan parish share						
Diocesan parish share		45,600	-	-	45,600	74,000
Grants						
Parish schools		-	-	-	-	1,000
Other giving		-	-	-	-	885
		-	-	-	-	1,885
Church Activities						
Printing the Parish Magazine		5,057	-	-	5,057	7,752
Memorial tablet costs		691	-	-	691	889
Parish Training and Mission		1,637	1,152	-	2,789	2,114
Organists, choir and music	4	8,065	1,061	-	9,126	11,102
		15,450	2,213	-	17,663	21,857
Maintenance of Church and Churchyard						
General Maintenance		3,197	711	-	3,908	4,638
Graveyard Maintenance		-	3,493	-	3,493	509
		3,197	4,204	-	7,401	5,147
Community Hall						
Hall maintenance		1,886	-	-	1,886	1,705
Hall running costs		1,777	-	-	1,777	3,985
Depreciation		-	-	8,000	8,000	8,000
		3,663	-	8,000	11,663	13,690
Running costs and overheads						
Rector's expenses		112	-	-	112	947
Locums		642	-	-	642	570
Parish telephones	5	913	-	-	913	857
Salaries	4	8,280	-	-	8,280	9,005
Stationery, postage and printing		604	-	-	604	510
Photocopier		783	-	-	783	859
Gas, water and electricity	5	6,719	-	-	6,719	9,063
Insurance		4,327	-	-	4,327	4,231
Sacristy expense		461	-	-	461	701
		22,841	-	-	22,841	26,743
<u>TOTAL EXPENDITURE</u>		90,751	6,417	8,000	105,168	143,322

Parochial Church Council of St. Mary's, Long Ditton

**Notes to the Financial Statements for the
year ended 31 December 2020 (continued)**

4. STAFF COSTS

	<u>2020</u>	<u>2019</u>
	<u>£</u>	<u>£</u>
Salaries (within organists, choir and music)	7,583	7,000
Salaries (within running costs and overheads)	8,280	9,005
Social Security costs	-	-
Other pension costs	-	-
	<u>15,863</u>	<u>16,005</u>
Average number of employees in the year	<u>2</u>	<u>2</u>

5. RELATED PARTIES

The following items of expense were paid by the PCC during the year which may contain an element of private benefit to the Rector and his family:

	<u>2020</u>	<u>2019</u>
	<u>£</u>	<u>£</u>
Rectory water expense	896	1,289
Rectory telephone expense	595	494
	<u>1,491</u>	<u>1,783</u>

In addition a small but immaterial proportion of the expenses paid to the Rector during the year may have related to his function as chairman of the PCC.

No other payments or expenses were paid to any other PCC member, persons closely connected to them or related parties.

Parochial Church Council of St. Mary's, Long Ditton

**Notes to the Financial Statements for the
year ended 31 December 2020 (continued)**

6. FIXED ASSETS

(a) Tangible - Freehold Land and Buildings

	Endowment Funds
	£
Cost	
At 1 January 2020	399,885
Additions	-
At 31 December 2020	<u>399,885</u>
Depreciation	
At 1 January 2020	96,000
Charge for the year	8,000
At 31 December 2020	<u>104,000</u>
Net Book Value	
At 31 December 2020	<u><u>295,885</u></u>
At 31 December 2019	<u><u>303,885</u></u>

The tangible fixed assets comprise the Community Hall situated alongside the Church. This comprises the entirety of the Jubilee Project Fund/D&K Memorial Fund.

(b) Investments

	Restricted Funds 2020 £	Endowment Funds 2020 £	Total 2020 £
Market value at 1 January 2020	-	8,339	8,339
Transfer between funds	8,339	(8,339)	-
Net gains	573	-	573
Market value at 31 December 2020	<u>8,912</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>8,912</u>

All the investments of the PCC are held in the CCLA Church of England Investment Fund. During the year, in accordance with a resolution of the PCC, the capital of the Finch Trust was re-designated so that it could be spent on urgent maintenance projects within the graveyard and its graves.

Parochial Church Council of St. Mary's, Long Ditton

**Notes to the Financial Statements for the
year ended 31 December 2020 (continued)**

(b) Investments (continued)

The allocation between funds is as follows:

<u>Name of Fund</u>	<u>Market value at 1 January</u>	<u>Revaluation gain</u>	<u>Transfer between funds</u>	<u>Market value at 31 December</u>
	<u>£</u>	<u>£</u>		<u>£</u>
Graveyard Investment Fund	8,339	-	(8,339)	-
Graveyard Maintenance Fund	-	573	8,339	8,912
	<hr/> 8,339	<hr/> 573	<hr/> -	<hr/> 8,912

7. DEBTORS AND PREPAYMENTS

	<u>Unrestricted Funds 2020 £</u>	<u>Unrestricted Funds 2019 £</u>
Income tax recoverable	3,000	1,200
Other debtors	-	529
Prepayments	164	164
	<hr/> 3,164	<hr/> 1,893

Parochial Church Council of St. Mary's, Long Ditton

**Notes to the Financial Statements for the
year ended 31 December 2020 (continued)**

8. CREDITORS – AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR

	Unrestricted Funds <u>2020</u> £	Unrestricted Funds <u>2019</u> £
Accruals for utilities	1,947	1,622
Parish Share	-	4,000
Other creditors and accruals	1,498	1,132
Agency collections awaiting remittance	475	876
	<u>3,920</u>	<u>7,630</u>

The Parish Share requested for 2020, adjusted for COVID-19 credits, was £75,180, but the PCC was able to pay only £45,600 of this, a shortfall of £29,580. In addition there was a similar shortfall of £8,299 in respect of 2019, making a total of £37,879. Since the PCC does not have the financial capacity to pay this total shortfall in the foreseeable future the shortfall has not been recognised as a creditor.

9. PURPOSES OF RESTRICTED AND ENDOWMENT FUNDS

<u>Name of Fund</u>	<u>Purpose</u>
<i>(a) Restricted Funds</i>	
Cassocks Fund	Provision of robes for choir
Fabric Maintenance Fund	Maintenance of church fabric
Ouseley Music Trust Fund	Provision of choral and organ scholarships
Music and Choir Fund	Support of choir activities
Capital Works Fund	Repair and enhancement of church
Garden of Rest Fund	Maintenance and enhancement of the Garden of Rest
Organ Fund	Maintenance and repair of organ
Babes & Tots Fund	Support of Babes and Tots group
Graveyard Maintenance Fund	Maintenance of fabric, graves and churchyard
<i>(b) Endowment Funds</i>	
Jubilee Project Fund/D&K Memorial Fund	Building of new church hall

**Notes to the Financial Statements for the
year ended 31 December 2020 (continued)**

10. SUMMARY OF FUND MOVEMENTS

The movements in funds during the year were as follows:

	Balance at 1 January 2020	Income	Expenditure	Transfers between Funds and Investment Gains	Balance at 31 December 2020
	£	£	£	£	£
Restricted Funds					
Cassocks Fund	1,053	-	-	-	1,053
Fabric Maintenance Fund	-	58,563	(1,185)	-	57,378
Ouseley Music Trust Fund	3,370	-	-	-	3,370
Music and Choir Fund	346	-	(30)	-	316
Capital Works Fund	1,023	-	-	-	1,023
Garden of Rest Fund	2,392	100	(197)	-	2,295
Organ Fund	1,293	-	(1,031)	-	262
Babes & Tots Fund	569	442	(463)	-	548
Graveyard Maintenance Fund	2,456	1,131	(3,511)	8,912	8,988
	12,502	60,236	(6,417)	8,912	75,233
Endowment Funds					
Graveyard Investment Fund	8,339	-	-	(8,339)	-
Jubilee Project Fund/D&K Memorial Fund	303,885	-	(8,000)	-	295,885
	312,224	-	(8,000)	(8,339)	295,885
General Fund	5,316	94,783	(91,191)	-	8,908
TOTAL	330,042	155,019	(105,608)	573	380,026

Parochial Church Council of St. Mary's, Long Ditton

**Notes to the Financial Statements for the
year ended 31 December 2020 (continued)**

11. STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2019

	Unrestricted Funds 2019 £	Restricted Funds 2019 £	Endowment Funds 2019 £	Total 2019 £
<u>Income and Endowments</u>				
Voluntary income	98,427	5,730	-	104,157
Activities for generating funds	12,469	1,103	-	13,572
Income from investments	-	242	-	242
Church activities	21,377	-	-	21,377
<u>Total Income</u>	132,273	7,075	-	139,348
<u>Expenditure</u>				
Church activities	(128,541)	(6,781)	(8,000)	(143,322)
Raising funds	(247)	(2,129)	-	(2,376)
<u>Total Expenditure</u>	(128,788)	(8,910)	(8,000)	(145,698)
<u>Net Expenditure before Investment Gains</u>				
	3,485	(1,835)	(8,000)	(6,350)
Net gains on investments	-	-	1,314	1,314
<u>Net Expenditure</u>	3,485	(1,835)	(6,686)	(5,036)
<u>Net Movement in Funds</u>	3,485	(1,835)	(6,686)	(5,036)
Total Funds brought forward at 1 January	1,831	14,337	318,910	335,078
Total Funds carried forward at 31 December	5,316	12,502	312,224	330,042

**Notes to the Financial Statements for the
year ended 31 December 2020 (continued)**

12. BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2019

Notes	Unrestricted Funds <u>2019</u> £	Restricted Funds <u>2019</u> £	Endowment Funds <u>2019</u> £	Total <u>2019</u> £
Fixed Assets				
Tangible assets	-	-	303,885	303,885
Investments	-	-	8,339	8,339
	-	-	312,224	312,224
Current Assets				
Debtors and prepayments	1,893	-	-	1,893
Cash at bank and in hand	11,053	12,502	-	23,555
	12,946	12,502	-	25,448
Liabilities				
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	(7,630)	-	-	(7,630)
Net current assets	5,316	12,502	-	17,818
Total assets less current liabilities	5,316	12,502	312,224	330,042
Total Net Assets	5,316	12,502	312,224	330,042
Parish Funds:				
Unrestricted	5,316	-	-	5,316
Restricted	-	12,502	-	12,502
Endowment	-	-	312,224	312,224
	5,316	12,502	312,224	330,042

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of Long Ditton Parochial Church Council

I report on the accounts of the church for the year ended 31st December, 2020, which are set out on pages 8 to 21.

Respective responsibilities of the Trustees and the Independent Examiner

The church's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The church's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144 (2) of the Charities Act 2011 ("the 2011 Act") and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under section 145 of the 2011 Act,
- to follow the procedures laid down in the General Directions given by the Charity Commission (under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act), and
- to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of Independent Examiner's Report

My examination was carried out in accordance with the General Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the church and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from you as trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a 'true and fair' view and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

Independent Examiner's Statement

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

- 1) which gives me reasonable cause to believe that, in any material respect, the requirements:
 - to keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the 2011 Act; and
 - to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the 2011 Act have not been met; or
- 2) to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

(Signed)



**MA,FCA, CHARTERED FCSI
39, STATION ROAD,
THAMES DITTON, KT7 0PA
DATE: 6 April 2021**

STEWARDSHIP REPORT

	2019	2020
Donor Numbers		
Regular Non Gift Aided	5	2
Regular Gift Aided	79	79
CAF/PAYE	3	1
Occasional CAF	1	0
Income		
Regular Non Gift Aided	1186.00	276.00
Regular CAF/GAYE	2660.00	1260.00
Occasional CAF	4500.00	0.00
Regular Gift Aided	56558.00	49273.00
Occasional Gift Aided	6237.89	1788.00
Payments via SumUp	476.90	1688.00
Tax Repayments	15595.00	12037.00
GASD Repayments	1769.00	2000.00
Total Stewardship		
Income	88982.79	68322.00

The income from stewardship was considerably less in 2020. This is in all areas and for several reasons. People have moved away and some sadly died. The total number of donors has remained the same as some who used to give in the collection plate have switched to standing orders.

Reduction in church services including weddings and funerals has meant a loss of occasional gift aid contributions. This is offset partially by donations using Sumup and these have been increasing. Many thanks to all who have continued to support St Mary's during this difficult time. I would also like to thank Lucky Thobela for taking over the process of claiming the Gift Aid from HMRC. I am very grateful for this as it was a I found difficult.

Katharine Lankey
Honorary Stewardship Treasurer

CHURCHWARDENS' FABRIC, GOODS AND ORNAMENTS REPORT

The coronavirus pandemic has restricted the use of the church and hall during the past year. Risk assessments have been carried out for both buildings following C of E guidelines and buildings reopened when permitted by government regulations. Maintenance work to keep the buildings well maintained and comply with the requirements of our building insurance has however continued throughout the year.

Following the quinquennial inspection of the church carried out by the church architect in April 2018 some work has been carried out on the mortuary to stabilise the brickwork and relay the entrance floor.

Several repairs have been carried out:

- the brickwork in one of the manholes in the drive had crumbled and needed replacement
- the lights high in the chancel roof failed and have now been replaced with efficient LED fittings
- the church lightning protection system failed its inspection but has now been repaired
- there was a small leak in the hall heating system and the faulty pipework has been replaced. It was apparent that the controls on the system were not working correctly so this has been fixed and the system should now be more economical to run

A number of routine maintenance inspections have been carried out including the roof alarm, boiler, portable electrical appliances and fire extinguishers. The gutters are cleared regularly to avoid water leaking into the church.

Following a successful appeal the energy inefficient bulbs in the church chandeliers have been replaced by LEDs which reduces the church's energy bill as well as supporting our eco-church initiative.

Cutting the grass in the churchyard is the responsibility of Elmbridge Council but the PCC is responsible for some items and, in particular, maintenance of the Garden of Rest. A firm of gardeners is employed to carry out this work. We have also organised some Saturday working parties to improve the appearance of the churchyard by tidying the flower beds, trimming low hanging branches and removing fallen wood. An area of the churchyard near the Garden of Rest has been identified as suitable for an "eco-garden" and work on this has started.

A small patch of the invasive Japanese knotweed has been identified in the churchyard. It has been cordoned off and is being treated with weed killer.

The checks and inspections specified in the Health and Safety Policy are being carried out. A number of memorials in the churchyard, which were at risk of toppling, have been stabilised. The inventory has been checked. Following the discovery of moth damage in the church in 2019 a further check has been made and suspicious items sprayed with insecticide and moth killer sachets in drawers and wardrobes renewed.

This report has been presented to and agreed by the PCC prior to the APCM.

*Peter Topp & Susan Rider, Churchwardens
March 2021*

DEANERY SYNOD REPORT

Cat Smith, Diana Jemmett and Chris Howard were elected to represent St Mary's on Emly Deanery Synod for three years.

Andrew Cowie continues as Area Dean.

Nick Stuart stood down as Lay Chair and Brian Howells was elected to succeed him. Brian worships at Holy Trinity Claygate and is a member of the Diocesan Synod.

The Deanery bid for apprentices via the Diocesan Growth Fund has been accepted with positive feedback but due to COVID this has been pushed back a year.

The Big Read - a talk from Alison Baverstock looked at the possible role and value of book clubs within parish life and the wider Church of England. Alison with her Kingston University and publishing background has launched a Book Club at St Nicholas's Thames Ditton. The idea when reading whatever book is to see where and if you can see Christ in any of the characters.

Living in Love and Faith (LLF) - introduced by the Bishop of Dorking. How do questions about identity, sexuality, relationships and marriage fit within the bigger picture of the good news of Jesus Christ? What does it mean to live in love and faith together as a Church? The purpose of the resources is to enable Church of England churches across the country to participate in a process of learning and praying together as part of discerning a way forward in relation to matters of identity, sexuality, relationships and marriage.

The Deanery is looking at facilitating a LLF course for people from various churches but the course can also be run at a parish level.

Cat Smith
Deanery Synod Representative

CHURCHES TOGETHER IN THE DITTONS (CTD)

Churches Together in the Dittons consists of clergy and lay representatives from the following churches in the Ditton area:

All Saints'(C of E) - Weston Green;
St Christopher's (C of E) - Hinchley Wood;
St Nicholas (C of E) - Thames Ditton;
Our Lady of Lourdes (Roman Catholic) - Hampton Way;
Speer Road Church (URC) - Thames Ditton
St Marys (C of E) - Long Ditton

The group usually meets 4/5 times a year to plan the various ecumenical activities and services. During 2020, however, like everyone else, meetings became virtual and usual various activities had to be abandoned or rethought.

At the start of the year in January we joined together in fellowship for the **Week of Prayer for Christian Unity** and a **joint service** held at Our Lady of Lourdes
By March , all things had changed and lockdown began but on **Good Friday**, thanks to the wonders of Zoom – churches and members of the congregations joined together for the alternative Good Friday Joint Service.

For the rest of the year meetings continued on Zoom – offering mutual support and encouragement and sharing ideas of how each church was reaching out to its congregation.

CTiD gives us the opportunity to celebrate and worship together, sharing our similarities and faith. You are very welcome to join us at any service or event.

THE CT PRAYER- Lord God, we thank you for calling us into the company of those who trust in Christ and seek to obey His Will. May Your Spirit guide and strengthen us in mission and service to Your World, for we are strangers no longer but pilgrims together on the way to Your Kingdom. Amen.

Cathy Doyle
CTiD representative

ANNUAL REPORT ON SAFEGUARDING

Thank you to everyone involved in activities for adults and children for your hard work and for your commitment to the safeguarding, nurture and care of everyone in our community.

DBS renewals have recommenced having been on hold during the pandemic. The diocesan safeguarding team have developed a leadership training programme delivered via Zoom. It involves two 90-minute sessions which must be taken one week apart and are booked together.

Of course, safeguarding goes beyond a DBS check or attending training, and it is the responsibility of all of us to ensure that St Mary's is a safe place for all.

Following the Past Case Review 2, the diocese is reviewing all its records, across all parishes, to ensure that all safeguarding concerns and allegations have been identified, reported, and appropriately actioned. Critical to this, is the voice of survivors and victims.

Anybody who would like to give information or make disclosures about church-related abuse is asked to contact Diocesan Safeguarding Advisor, Jackie Broadfoot jackie.broadfoot@cofeguildford.org.uk
07918 559387

If anyone has any questions about safeguarding, or is made aware of any specific concerns please contact me or the Rector.

Diana Jemmett
Designated Safeguarding Lead

MUSIC REPORT

Despite not being able to do our 'usual' calendar of cathedral visits, seaside trips and station/pub carol singing, the members of St Mary's Church Choir kept in regular contact and managed to continue various activities.

Highlights of our music, technical and social experiences in 2020 include:

Music – expanding our horizons

- Hearing interesting and varied choral recordings on Zoom services
- Music theory online lessons
- Being able to rehearse and sing in person again in the Autumn
- Learning plainsong and rehearsing Miserere Mei
- Christmas 2020 – sadly Nine Lessons was not possible, but we did Advent Carols and enjoyed Doug's fantastic organ playing and sang in German (Wachet auf)

Technical – the start of the 'Stream Team'

- Recordings for Easter services – O Sons and Daughters, Exultet, plus Good Friday instrumental and solo voice contributions
- Standby/reserve carols also recorded leading up to Christmas
- Members of the choir have been key in setting up live streaming of services, enabling those at home to feel part of 'normal' church attendance. This was complex and involved many, many hours of set up, testing and sound checking of wifi/recording/video equipment.

Social – the rise of the penguin

- Zoom talks from Chris Collins about Antarctic/Arctic wildlife for adults and juniors – learning about his fascinating job, all the bird/wildlife/penguin facts and enjoying stunning photos
- Virtual escape room for choir families and excellent junior zoom socials run by Cat Smith, keeping the juniors engaged
- 'Game show' zoom socials with great hosting by Martin Bowyer

Director of Music and organist

Sadly, we said goodbye to Douglas Tang at the end of the year following his two years as Music Director. We greatly appreciate everything Doug did with us, including building up the choir's musicality, blend and tone and doing a wide range of music. We wish him well for the future.

Julia Bowyer
Choir Co-ordinator

CHILDREN'S ACTIVITIES

Our children's activities have been hardest hit by the pandemic. Many of our younger children were on the fringes of church life and with the first lockdown we lost contact with them and their parents.

Due to other commitments, Tashi Lassalle and myself have stepped down as Sunday Club leaders. It has been a privilege nurturing our young people in their faith. It is a vital aspect of being a church community and we have been blessed to serve in this way.

2020 was due to be the diocesan 'Year of Children and Young People with some big flagship events planned. Due to the pandemic this has been rethought to include more bottom-up approach. We are not alone in diminishing numbers of young people in our church community and the diocese are keen that all parishes rethink and rebuild their ministry among the young. Key to this will be having new people take up the responsibility of leading Sunday Club. Please do pray and reflect if this something you could be involved with.

To end on a positive note, the last year has seen a successful series of Pizza Night evenings held online for approximately nine children hosted by Chris Howard and Tashi Lassalle. Subjects discussed by the children, ranging in age from 9 to 13, include the meaning of Easter, animals and the bible, climate change and God's planet, defeating prejudice through Christ, music, and a Christmas special. The ethos of the group is to be discursive, open-minded and to create a safe space for children to explore contemporary issues within a Christian ethos. The evenings have continued to provide fellowship for the children throughout the isolation of lockdown but we look forward to the evening resuming in person as soon as covid-restrictions allow.

The future of the Church is in our ministry to our young people. Please be part of the solution not the problem.

Christine Satkunanayagam

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

With the beginning of the first lockdown, all our Friday groups including Babes and Tots had to be put on hold and have not resumed to date.

Throughout the pandemic, our team of five Pastoral Assistants have continued to maintain touch with our Church community.

Thankfully the many weeks of beautiful weather during 2020 enabled conversations to be held with many people, not only by phone but on doorsteps or in the garden but as winter swept in this was reduced. Contact is maintained now through phone calls and emails to those in the community.

We have been able to help some with shopping and other practical things but most important is checking up on those more vulnerable or living alone and feeling isolated.

The Pastoral Team continue to meet at regular intervals via Zoom to discuss how we may continue to assist those in the parish who may need support.

Our contact details continue to be advertised in the Lychgate magazine and through the Rector letting those who may have been bereaved or are unwell and wish for a visit or support now or in the future.

Diana Jemmett
Pastoral Assistant



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