

St MARY the VIRGIN

BLETCHINGLEY

ANNUAL REPORTS

2019



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Parochial Church Council Members 2019

Rector	The Rev'd Phaedra Pamphilon Green
Assistant Curate	The Rev'd Penny Sherrington
Reader	John Buck
Churchwardens	April Alexander (ex officio) Richard Fowler (ex officio)
Treasurer	Bill Alexander
Secretary	Valerie Muller
Elected members	Bill Alexander Pamela Cock Kate Doody Vickie Gillespie Lynn Hargreaves McCullum Donna Hawkins (resigned) Robin Idle Jennifer Hyde Sandie Roper Clemmie Sellick Owen Thurston
Deanery Synod	Richard Fowler(ex officio) Oliver Jackson (ex officio) Alison Horlock (ex officio)
Q	Clare Wilson (ex officio)
Verger	Cyril Mighall
General Synod	April Alexander (ex officio)
Independent Examiner	Anthony Cock

St Mary's Bletchingley

**Minutes of the ANNUAL VESTRY MEETING held
on Sunday 7th April 2019**

The meeting opened with prayer led by the Rector

41 members of the congregation were present at the meeting.

The Minutes of the 2018 Vestry meeting, were circulated in the Annual Report. The Meeting agreed them as being a true account of the 2018 meeting and they were signed by the Rector.

Election of Churchwardens

April Alexander was proposed by Valerie Muller and Pamela Cock to be re-elected for a third year.

Richard Fowler was proposed by David Sellick and Mark Tantum to be re-elected for a second year.

There were no other nominations, so they were duly elected.

Election of Deputy Churchwarden

Sandie Hooper was proposed by Angela Price and Kate Wills. There were no other nominations so she was duly elected.

The Annual Vestry meeting was closed.

St Mary's Bletchingley
Minutes of the ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH meeting
held on Sunday 7th April 2019

41 members of the congregation were present at the meeting.

Apologies for absence: , Caroline George, Charlie Gillespie, Vicki Gillespie, Joan Millar, Pat Napper Ann Pressey, Nigel Price, Penny Sherrington, John Thurston, Owen Thurston, Averil Trott, Kerry Tucker, and Rob Tucker.

Minutes of the 2018 APCM.

The minutes were circulated in the Annual Report. The meeting agreed they were a true account of the 2018 meeting and they were signed by the Rector.

Matter Arising.

There were no matters arising.

REPORTS

The Electoral Roll

Clare Sturgeon, the Electoral Roll Officer explained that every 6 years the Electoral Roll is completely renewed, hence everyone completing new application forms.

There are now 118 (129 on previous roll) names on the roll, 93 residents of Bletchingley and 25 non resident.

Clare was thanked for her really hard work in creating this new Roll.

All other reports are available in the Annual Report, which has been circulated and is also available on line at www.bletchingleyparishchurch.org.uk. The PCC Secretary was thanked for her work in compiling this Report.

Presentation and Adoption of the 2018 Audited Accounts.

Lisa Swan, the treasurer, presented the audited accounts for 2018, a copy of which will be available on the church's website:

www.bletchingleyparishchurch.org.uk

This financial year has once again seen the need to draw from reserves albeit to a lesser extent than last year. For 2018 our deficit for the year was £826 compared to a deficit of £5,172 in 2017.

By the end of 2018 our reserves to carry forward are £14,243 with £5,781 of this earmarked for restricted use (training bell fund, mission events, fabric fund and community cafe). That means our general unrestricted reserve is now depleted to £8,462. In order to protect our reserves going forward, cost consciousness and income boosting measures need to continue into 2019.

Financial highlights of 2018 have been:

- The level of direct giving and associated gift aid remained constant compared to last year and provided £70,758 (2017: £71,349) of annual income.
- Our fairer Share payments to the Diocese increased by £635 (1.0%) from £63,500 in 2017 to £64,135 in 2018.
- The Bletchingley Thomas Chapman Charity, which derives income from Clerks House, continued to donate and more than met the PCC's share of parish administrator costs by giving £9,600 (2017: £5,556). We are grateful for this continued financial assistance.
- Repairs and maintenance costs were minor in 2018 at £1,047 (2017: £4,537) and included external lights in the churchyard.
- Mission and Appeal giving increased to £2,997 (2017: £470) with £1,907 (2017: £470) being raised from specific appeals.

The treasurer pointed out that St Mary's cannot continue to rely on the Thomas Chapman Charity because if the Clerk's House were without a tenant for any length of time their income would stop and they would be unable to help the church.

Direct giving to St Mary's has fallen by £5000 over the last three years and we urgently need to address this or ask regular givers to increase their contributions by 11%.

Thanks, as always, go to Anthony Cock, our independent examiner, for his continued support and all his hard work throughout the year.

Lisa Thurston raised a query on behalf of John Thurston about donations received last year on Mothering Sunday. Unfortunately, although banked, the money appeared not to have been paid to the charities concerned. Lisa Swan promised to look into this.

Lisa Swan took over as treasurer in very difficult circumstances in about March last year. She has done wonderfully in sorting and organizing the church accounts and we are very grateful to her for her very hard work.

(NB. Lisa has since checked the accounts and the missing donation has been made to the appropriate charities)

Ed Muller, seconded by Bill Alexander, proposed accepting these accounts.

ELECTIONS

Parochial Church Council

The following were nominated as PCC members

William Alexander	proposed by Pamela Cock,	seconded by
	Anthony Cock	
Kate Doody	proposed by Edward Muller	seconded by
	Clementine Sellick	
Donna Hawkins	proposed by Oliver Jackson	seconded by
	Vicky Williams	
Owen Thurston	proposed by Richard Fowler	seconded by
	Pamela Cock	

There being no other nominations they were elected en bloc.

Welcomers

At 8am Kate Wills, Angela Price

At 9.30am Trevor Dawson, Hanni Dennis, Charlie Gillespie, Vickie Gillespie, Alexander Green. Alison Horlock, Joan Millar, Jeff Marks, Pat Napper, Jean Osborne, Clare Sturgeon, Louise Tantom, Mark Tantom, Rob Tucker
They were all duly elected.

Electoral Roll Officer

Clare Sturgeon was re-elected unanimously as [Electoral Roll Officer](#), proposed by Valerie Muller, and seconded by Pamela Cock.

Appointment of Auditor/Independent Examiner

Anthony Cock was thanked for his work in doing this, and re-elected unanimously

RECTOR'S REPORT

Dear Friends,

I've now seen the whole liturgical year through with you all. I've enjoyed seeing all the seasons and also how the Benefice fits together whilst remaining distinctive in both churches. I particularly enjoyed going through Advent and Christmas for the second time, as they now felt more familiar.

It's been an interesting and sometimes bumpy year. We have seen friends come and friends depart which is always difficult in a community. The year began with Ron Napper's Death and funeral, which hit us all very hard, not least Pat. I have been amazed at how she has got through this year and I'm sure she would agree that it has been down to the love and support of her friends in the village and church.

There are a lot of people I want to give a 'Big Thank you' to, so please bear with me when I say it over and over again!

After a lot of negotiations and form filling with Tandridge Council, we saw the arrival of the Jaqmara Family into Clerks House. I want to thank Marian Buck in particular for her unwavering help with this. When I met with her to look at how we could best support the family and work with the council, she immediately understood the areas that we would need to cover and put together a working group that would meet the perceived needs of the family. This has worked very well and is still in place. We were expecting the

extended part of the family in September, but as most of you know this didn't happen until only a few weeks ago due to their baby having health problems. I'm pleased to say that they are all now in the house well and happy. A big thank you to Marian and her team of befrienders.

In October we were all delighted to see Liz licensed as a Reader at Southwark Cathedral. It was a very special occasion and very well supported by members of the congregation. I'm sure you will all want to join me in congratulating Liz on her achievements. We now have 2 Readers licensed to the Benefice. I am grateful to both John Buck and Liz for their ministry amongst us. Liz has taken a lead on the healing and prayer team, who offer prayer ministry at the Eucharist Service on the 1st Sunday of the month. John has chaired both the worship and Sunday space teams, he has taken a lead in the retreat during Holy Week and is preparing for this coming Holy Week. He has also along with Cyril our Verger, put a directory together of all the services we have and what is needed at each. I also want to thank John and Marian for building our Manger. It was a beautiful piece of artwork, but it was also a place for spiritual reflection and meditation for everyone during Advent and Christmas. I'm sure you all enjoyed its simplicity yet incredibly moving nature. I hope it will become a loved part of our future Christmas reflections.

I want to thank our Assistant Clergy, Kerry, Penny and John Scott for their help, support and encouragement through the year. I would also like to thank our Lay Champion Mark Tantam and his assistant Rob Tucker. Both have taken time to research and assess where we are and what we are doing. Out of my discussions with them have come lots of ideas many of which have been included in the life of the parish. I'd like to especially thank Rob for following up on his ideas for the men in the parish, with the Men's Breakfast. I know that many men who find it difficult to talk about feelings, faith and health have found these breakfasts invaluable forums to speak openly.

We have tried to address the problems we were getting with the all age

Eucharist, where children and adults were avoiding it for various reasons. Sunday Space was born out of many discussions around how to tackle those problems. It is still early days with only 3 being done, but we are already getting very positive responses to this service. What's been great about this service is the response we've had from the congregation to help with it, so we've seen lots of different people involved. It's also been encouraging to hear about people's lives outside the church and how their faith inspires their daily lives. A big thank you to all who have taken part but I want to especially thank those who have helped shape the service and plan it each month, to Glynis Beazley, Steve Carter, Alexander Prince Green, Tim Johns, Christopher Prince Green, April Alexander, Clare Sturgeon, John Buck, Liz Windridge, Richard Fowler and the Dewar Family, who have played various roles over the last couple of months.

Whilst I am thinking about services, I want to thank a group of people who are here every week, enhancing our worship and enabling us to lift our hearts and souls to God. A big thank you to our choir, our organists and musicians. For singing, sorting out the music, making sure our festival services are just that, bringing us beautiful anthems and helping us sing in tune!

I'd like to thank Ann Pressey and Sue Morris for their ideas of the church using Church House as a Cafe for the community. With much planning, training, sink building, praying and brainstorming later the Hungry Hermit is 'well and truly' up and running with lots of helpers and clients! So a big thank you to Ann and Sue for this community building project.

A big thank you goes to all the Sunday Club helpers and leaders who have kept Sunday Club going and thriving. I want to especially thank you for the Light Party and for the Christingle Nativity. Both were given a revamp and I think our efforts paid off. So well done to all of you, especially Kate Doody who asked, if we could do a proper nativity with the Christingle and to Glynis who rose to the challenge!

Life during the week here at St. Mary's is never dull with lots going on. Not

least visiting the vulnerable and taking a communion service to Coppice Lea. The visiting team visit people who need support, a listening ear, someone to share a cuppa with and a smile. A big thank you to the visiting team and those who every other week take communion to Coppice Lea. You know who you are.

I now come to those who give up their time to make our church welcoming and beautiful are our welcomers, servers, cleaners, gardeners, flower arrangers and bell ringers. Without them the church would not be the same. We might take it for granted because all of what this group of people kind of happens in the background, yet without this group of people there would be a huge gap in how we meet and connect with those coming to our church for the first time. So thank you.

On 6th March 9 were confirmed by + Christopher. It was a beautiful service but more importantly + Christopher said that there was an authenticity and calibre about the candidates that pleased him very much. So well done to all the candidates for impressing the Bishop of Southwark!

I could not have got through this year without some very special people, April, Cyril, Elaine, Richard and Val. Their hard work, counsel, planning, challenging, wisdom and friendship have got me through this year. So a big thank you to them.

A lot of amazing work has been done here and there are some exciting things planned on the horizon. When it comes to church, everybody has an opinion and preference. Inevitably, there are competing priorities in St. Marys and I'm going to say that trying to deal with the conflicting preferences has sometimes drained me. The fact is, there is no right or wrong, it is all preference. My vision for St. Mary's is that we become a community of people who come to church to worship God, regardless of whether we like the hymn choice or not, or whether the sermon is too long, or whether we thought the service was ok or not, or whether you like my lipstick or earring choice. As the Rector here, it's not my job to placate everyone, it is my job to ensure that when someone comes into church they are challenged, feed

and nurtured with the Gospel.

As Christians being a Community is not an optional extra, it's a command, Jesus said we are to love God with our whole heart and to love our neighbour as ourselves. In Bletchingley we have people from all walks of life, meeting together as this diverse community we call St. Mary's. The church is not about consumerism, its about worshipping God. The only way we can exist and grow, is if all of us who are part of this community, think more about the mission of the church rather than about our own personal choice.

The word community has two parts: "common" and "unity." Without something in common, and without unity, there is no community. It takes a common mission and personal sacrifice for it to work. I believe we hold the greatest truth in the world and it is vital for the wider community to know it, that is God's unconditional love for them. Do the people of Bletchingley know this truth? Jesus commands us, to make disciples of all nations and the only way that happens is when we sacrifice self and put mission at the heart of what we do. God's joy is in our worship of Him. Not in the style we package it in.

The question is: in the year ahead, are we willing to make personal sacrifices for the good of the community and the glory of God? Naturally we desire to have what we want, to be catered for, to focus on ourselves, but community doesn't work like that. Community can only exist when mature Christians are willing to set aside their personal agendas and support the good of the community.

Lets build a community that is based on worshipping a God who loves us all and wants to share God's love with others.

A.O.B

There was a suggestion that there should be a forum for young people, who were too young to be on the PCC, to be able to express their opinions. This idea will be discussed by the PCC

Lisa Thurston, speaking on behalf of John Thurston, commented on the New

Initiatives section of the Annual report. John is still feeling very cross about problems with the Amethyst groups lack of inclusivity when the Men's Breakfast by its very nature was not inclusive as it excluded women.

On February 8th 2021 Mrs Thurston expressed her unease at the way her comments had been minuted. She forwarded the question she says she actually asked on behalf of her husband, which is as follows:

"There is a lot of praise for the men's breakfast which is really positive because it's a new initiative, but given that the two pre-existing thriving valued fellowship groups have been told they can no longer meet in the name of St Mary's because they were exclusive (which they weren't) how inclusive is a group that is only for men?"

Mark Tantum responded on behalf of the Men's breakfast. This group was **open** to all men who wanted to attend, it was not by invitation only. It was very popular, giving a voice to men who otherwise might not become involved. The issue was referred to the PCC, who will discuss it at their next meeting.

For clarification the Rector has added:

No group in church has been told 'they can no longer meet in the name of St Mary's because they were exclusive', this is simply not the case.

In January 2018, the Rector asked John Thurston if the church fellowship group, Amethyst, could open their Pancake party up to the whole church, she said *'My concern, as I've said, is that Pancake Day could be such a good 'family of the church' event, instead of an exclusive event for a group'*. John Thurston told the Rector that the Pancake Party would go ahead as usual and it did. The Rector has never told a church fellowship group to stop meeting and never told the Amethyst Group or any other Group that they were exclusive.

Pamela Cock suggested we salute the Men's Breakfast for its success. Lisa Thurston was thanked for contributions.

Closing remarks

The Rector thanked everyone for attending this meeting.

Gill Black, one of our District Councillor's, thanked the Rector for all she does both within the church community but also in the Village Community. Phe is always there when she is needed and has helped Gill a lot with problems within the village.

April Alexander also thanked the Rector for her unconditional love within the community, something she shares every day. She has introduced the congregation to new services, Confirmation, Baptism, Mothering Sunday and many still to come. She is a huge comfort to the sick and bereaved, has welcomed the Syrian family with open arms and is a friend to many. She received a large round of applause.

Rector's Report

Dear Friends

This is my 3rd APCM with you all! Can you believe it? But of course, we are another 6 months into the 4th year because of Covid - 19. Before I address what has happened since March 2020, I shall say something about the year from April 2019.

2019 was a good year for us continuing to build on our relationship with community and hospitality. The Hungry Hermit began in February 2019 and has served soup, refreshments, cake and friendship to the local Community and beyond. With a team of 8 volunteers and a paid cook the Hungry Hermit met the remit of being a Christian place of refuge throughout 2019 and into 2020. It was also able to make donations to various charities, thereby fulfilling our 'Justice, Peace and Integrity of Creation' commitment. I would like to thank all the volunteers who have helped make this possible, but a special thank you to Ann Pressey and Sue Morris for running the venture for St. Marys but also Jeff Markham for ensuring the money was counted properly each week.

Another hospitality group has been the 'Coffee and Craft', which has been a simple yet necessary monthly activity. Enabling people to get together and share over a cuppa, cake and craft. I'd like to thank Jean Price for opening her doors so that others can find fellowship.

2019 was a year where we didn't have a permanent Director of Music, but that didn't stop our Choir producing some wonderful music for us. They were able to give us another beautiful Tenebrae Service, along with the whole Easter Programme. A very moving Remembrance Service and a splendid Christmas. All of this was done with a list of Organists who came to rehearse the choir and play for us at each of our services. I would like to thank the Choir for their hardwork throughout 2019, but a special thanks to April Alexander for not only finding the list of Organists but also ensuring

they got paid and they came back!

In the Autumn of 2019 our Church Wardens, April and Richard ran a Stewardship campaign. Not an easy task and not one that parishioners always want to listen to. But they did it and I know that people felt informed and surprised at some of the information. It was successful in that there was an increase in regular giving from the church family but also the community. So I thank our Church Wardens and the Treasurer, Bill Alexander for helping us all to understand what happens to our giving and how much we need to run the church.

A special mention goes to Glynis Beazley who had been St. Mary's Sunday Club leader for many years. She felt it right to retire from this role at the end of 2019 and so I would like to thank her for that she has done for our church over the years. A big thank you goes to Kate Doody who has taken this role on.

2020 began quite promisingly, with Ian Skipper, our new Director of Music starting in January. And what a godsend he has been. None of us could have predicted in January 2020 what was going to happen in March. And yet even though the rest of the groups and activities had to stop, I was able to produce online services with the help of Ian recording music and the choir virtually. So a special thank you to those who have sung virtually and for Ian sending me hymns, voluntaries, anthems and music for our YouTube Services.

I shall continue to produce YouTube Services for as long as people are watching them. I know that some parishioners are still isolating and have found real comfort in being able to watch the services and feel connected to St. Mary's. A big thank you to all who have taken part either by reading, leading intercessions or preaching online.

I want to thank Val Muller who has worked tirelessly as our PCC Secretary, ensuring we have got tickets for church so that we can accommodate you all safely. By producing the newsletter every week, for singing in the choir

and for generally being a good egg!

I thank my church wardens for ensuring we have kept safe and financially secure during this difficult time.

Another thankyou goes to Jeff Marks, our Safeguarding Officer who has worked extremely hard at making sure we are all DBS checked, on the right courses and thereby running as a safe church. We, as other churches, had to adopt the Diocesan Safeguarding Policy, 'A Safe Church'. It wasn't that much of a change to our existing one, but it is an evolving piece of work that will regularly update so it means that we never fall outside latest developments.

We do face uncertainty as we move into the next 6 months. None of us know how Covid will progress during the winter. We are planning for our normal festival services, All Saints, Remembrance, Advent and Christmas and whether they are live and/or online I shall endeavour to make sure that we continue to be a worshipping community that places God first. Whatever we face, we are stronger when we face it together and we face it together with God. So I leave you with this thought from 2 Corinthians

"Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of compassion and the God of all comfort, who comforts us in all our troubles, so that we can comfort those in any trouble with the comfort we ourselves receive from God." 2 Corinthians 1. 3-4

Out of his love for us, God comforts us when we're discouraged and anxious. When we allow God to comfort us, we will be comforted and we are then able to comfort others. This is going to be so necessary as move through the rest of this year into 2021

WORSHIP and CHURCH ATTENDANCE at ST Mary's

The Principal Feasts of Easter, Christmas and Pentecost are celebrated in full. Attendance at Easter was significantly down on 2018. For the Christingle service the numbers were down from the previous year, though attendance and communicants at Midnight Mass was higher. The annual service for All Souls continues to draw many who have been recently bereaved. **Midweek festivals** and special days such as **Ash Wednesday**, and **Ascension Day** are supported by a committed group of people. **Holy Week** observances are shared between the two parishes, with Compline, Hymns and Address on Monday to Wednesday at Nutfield; Maundy Thursday Liturgy of the Last Supper, Foot Washing and Vigil at Bletchingley. The Good Friday pattern of worship in 2019 was Stations of the Cross, Children's service and a Tenebrae service in the evening.

There were **4 Baptisms** (6 in 2018), and **8 weddings** (5) The Clergy conducted **12 (8) funerals** in church during the year.

Attendance at the major festivals: (with 2018 figures for comparison)

EASTER:	Communicants 71 (132) Attendance 93 (147).
CHRISTMAS:	Communicants 191 (140) Attendance 510 (547)
Christingle:	Attendance 309 (364)
Midnight Mass:	Communicants 120 (74) Attendance 130 (117)
Christmas Day:	Communicants 57 (66) Attendance total 71 (66)
PENTECOST:	Communicants 59 (65) Attendance 73 (97)

CHURCHWARDENS REPORT 2019

Though the Coronavirus lockdown has had the most significant impact upon us all, this report is for 2019, so you will have to wait for the next APCM, which should be back to the normal time of April/May 2021.

As in last year's report, we will start with the Jakmara family in The Clerk's House. Marian Buck continues to keep an eye on them, and regularly updates us on how they are getting on. February 2019 saw the arrival of the rest of the family, with Maher and Fatima's eldest son Mohammed Noor, his wife Nariman and their two little girls, Fatima (junior) and Scilla. The other sons, who arrived with Maher and Fatima in July 2018, are Said, who attends Warwick School, and Omran, who attends East Surrey College. In July we celebrated their first year in Bletchingley with a bring-and-share picnic in the Rectory Garden. The family meet with other local Syrian families. The council arranged Syrian Feasts at The Harlequin, cooked and served by the refugee families, in March and a second one in September, which a number of us attended. At the September feast we were delighted to be entertained, with the Jakmara's taking a major part, and Maher starring with his singing.

There have been difficulties with finances, with the changes in benefits, and this has resulted in a shortfall in the rent received from DWP. However, we have been able to continue to benefit from the donations to church funds made by The Bletchingley Thomas Chapman Charity.

We have again been fortunate during the past year in not having to carry out any significant work to the church building. However, some works identified in the last 5-yearly architect's "Quinquennial" report were intended to be carried out in 2020, but were stalled by the Covid lockdown, and will require action in the very near future, which will add to the calls on our finances. The other plans for the Holy Spirit Chapel, and for upgrading of lighting, were also stalled.

We lost our former organist and choirmaster, Tristan Hall, at the end of 2018. We had a full year of visiting organists who did a brilliant job

between them. However, we were delighted to appoint Ian Skipper to start as a permanent organist on 5th January 2020.

We would again like to thank all those who keep the church functioning, cleaning, flower arranging, mowing, making coffee, counting the money, etc., etc. Thanks to the Welcomers, who are usually the first faces a visitor will see on entering the church for a service and are so very important. As both churchwardens are in the choir, we are indebted to Sandie for her help as Deputy Churchwarden, in making sure that everything runs smoothly while we are out of sight.

A big thank you also to Elaine, our Administrator, who runs the church office. Due to her ongoing treatment she has been unable to work for some periods of time, so thanks also to those who have stepped in to assist.

Most of all we thank Phaedra for her spiritual guidance and vision, supported by the rest of the ministry team.

April Alexander & Richard Fowler

PCC SECRETARY'S REPORT

The PCC is responsible for the financial affairs of the church, and the care and maintenance of the church fabric and its contents, It also has a responsibility to assist the Rector in promoting the mission of the church.

The PCC has met seven times during the year and discussed a wide range of topics. We have been busy!

- Plans to use the Holy Spirit Chapel as an intimate Coffee area are underway. A sub committee has been set to explore these ideas and our architect has provided several plans/ideas for us to consider
- In agreement with the Warden of Readers and the Training Officer of Readers Liz Windridge has decided to take a sabbatical from ministry .
- All printed material is now published in a large font format
- Following a suggestion from last year's APCM, a committee has been set up to look into ways of involving children who are too young to have a voice on the PCC
- The finance committee ran a successful Stewardship Campaign
- Our finance Policy has been updated
- Social events have included a pancake party, Bring and share lunches following the Harvest Festival and Remembrance Sunday services. We held a toy Service to donate Toys to Welcare and we began the season of Advent with a concert 'for the village by the village' during which the lights on the Christmas tree were switched on.
- The Men's Breakfast continues to meet and discuss many interesting topics over a 'full English' with plenty of coffee to wash it down.

Valerie Muller PCC Secretary

JUSTICE, PEACE and INTEGRITY of CREATION,

Outward giving to Support the Work of the Church

16th June – Renewed Hope Trust – John Bartlett talked at the Sunday Space Service. He spoke about the work of the Winter Night Shelter, as well as the ongoing support throughout the year for homeless and lonely people in the Redhill area. <https://rhthes.org/>.

8th September – Welcare – Georgia Waterson spoke to us about the work of Welcare in looking after families who are struggling. We had a collection of toys which will be kept for Christmas presents. They are planning a My Space course this area which supports children who have experienced domestic abuse. <https://welcare.org/our-services/services/myspace>.

6th October – A Rocha – our Harvest Festival speaker was Paul Williams. He introduced us to the work that A Rocha do and encouraged us to think about our response to climate change using the Eco Church audit process. <http://arocha.org.uk>.

Eco Church

Richard Fowler and I have begun the Eco Church audit. The scheme can be seen at <https://ecochurch.arocha.org.uk/eco-survey-non-saving-example>

House Groups/Lent courses

1 house group has kept going – Tuesday evenings fortnightly – currently enjoying discussion of the last 2 Sunday's sermons with the preachers attending if possible.

Lent groups ran on 12th & 14th March and finish on 9th and 11th April. Both courses ran in the evening, Tuesdays at Court Lodge Barn, Church Lane and Thursday at The Rectory. They followed the Pilgrim course on The Creeds.

FINANCE REPORT 2019

I am delighted to report that the parish finances turned round from a deficit (£826) in 2018 to a surplus of £9344 in 2019. This was primarily due to an increase in stewardship of 13%, part of which came from a number of generous one-off donations and part of which came from the successful stewardship campaign which yielded significant benefits in the third quarter of the year. The level of stewardship reflects the generosity and commitment of our parishioners.

By far the largest part of our income (79%), derives from stewardship and the associated tax rebate. There are some other smaller items including Phe's fees for providing funerals and weddings. The largest part of our expenditure is our contribution to the diocese of £64,776 or 66%, which is used to pay for our priests and the many supporting functions required. The remainder is made up of numerous smaller items, for example our organist and insurance.

Overall, this is a very favourable result and has led to an increase in our unrestricted reserves from £8462 to £17,806, well on the way to meeting our objective of three month's revenue of around £25,000. But we should note that we are still over dependent on the Thomas Chapman Charity – without the grant of £9,600 we would have sustained a deficit.

In the balance sheet in the following page of the accounts, we can see again the figure for the unrestricted reserves together with other items of restricted reserves, ie those funds which are kept for particular purposes. The largest of these is the fabric fund of £20,389 which has been boosted by Lydia Dawes' legacy of some £19,000. Other movements are identified in the Training Bell fund which was used to pay for the new training bells which were financed by donations. There is one small item 'Mission Events' where money was collected for a specific purpose but has not all been spent. Where appropriate I would like to transfer such outstanding sums to our general reserves, but this must be consistent with the wishes

of those who donated the original funds.

It can be seen that we keep about half our cash in our current bank account (£20981) and about half in our deposit account at the Central Board of Finance.

The remaining item in the Restricted Reserves is the Hungry Hermit which is dealt with separately on the following page of the accounts. Overall it had a very successful year. Total donations including the Pimms and Parasols fund raising events amounted to nearly £8,000. Expenditure of some £5,600 left a surplus of more than £2,000 which was used to donate to four charities.

The notes show the donations from the church, as opposed to the Hungry Hermit. Note that the collection for the Poppy Day appeal was not donated until the following year (2019). Two donations held over from the previous year (Welcare and the Childrens Society) were paid. Little was paid in church maintenance bearing in mind the size and complexity of the building. All outstanding funds were recovered from our debtors and we paid our creditors so both of these items were zero which simplifies the accounts.

Thanks are due to Anthony Cock for examining the accounts and to Lisa Swan for taking over the accounts in difficult circumstances in 2018 and handing them over in good order in early 2019.

My thanks to everyone for your support during the year.

Bill Alexander, Treasurer

TANDRIDGE DEANERY SYNOD 2019

The Deanery Synod is the forum for representatives of all the 26 parishes in the Deanery to meet and discuss. It meets three times each year. A deanery is the bridge between the parishes and the diocese, the wider church and beyond. The Area Dean was Revd Kathryn Percival, Vicar of Lingfield and Dormansland, until the October meeting. At each meeting we have a time for a speaker and/or discussion on a specific topic. The following are the summary reports of the meetings in 2019, for which thanks to the Deanery synod secretary, rather than trying to summarise the summaries. Apologies if this is rather long, but you may find something relevant to you hidden amongst it.

Richard Fowler

28 February 2019: Our Deanery

Revd James Ashton, Team Rector of Warlingham and Deanery Mission Enabler, thanked everyone who had responded suggesting three words to encapsulate what we would like our Deanery to be. It is hoped to use this information to inform our Deanery Mission Action Plan (MAP), which will be something to make a difference in parishes. Copies of the 'wordle' produced were distributed; this gives a pictorial representation of the results, a larger font showing a greater number of times a particular word was presented.

Nearly half of all Deanery Synod members contributed and the three most popular words were supportive, collaborative and inclusive, closely followed by relevant, inspiring and resourcing. James asked members to read all the words submitted carefully, considering any they found surprising. The meeting then moved into small groups of five or six people to spend 10 minutes considering each of the top three words (supportive, collaborative, inclusive). Groups were asked to record their reflections and ideas about

exactly what the words might mean, including some concrete ideas. These sheets were gathered in to go to the Deanery Mission Team who will work on the ideas as they produce a Deanery MAP. Kathryn Percival will collate the responses for circulation to the Deanery Synod in due course.

The difference between a Parish and Deanery MAP was considered and it was felt that a Deanery MAP could be quite different and perhaps more inward looking. The creation of an interactive electronic hub was suggested. This could be somewhere that information from churches from all over the Deanery could be found, rather than everyone being continually swamped with paper and information.

11 June 2019: The Theology of Disability in a Disabling World

Revd Tim Goode moved from Whyteleafe and Chaldon a year ago, to become Rector at St Margaret's Lee, London SE13 and Southwark Diocese Disability and Accessibility Adviser. For his new role, Tim adopted the strapline '*As children of God, we have a new dignity and God calls us to fullness of life.*' Taken from the introduction to the Common Worship baptism service, tragically this is not the experience of many disabled people in church. A wealth of practical advice and resources for churches can be downloaded on Tim's page on the Diocesan website: <https://southwark.anglican.org/about-us/what/caring-for-our-churches/secular-legislation/disability-access>.

Theology tries to make sense of what is going on in society and the theology of disability began to develop after the two World Wars as people returned with disabilities. Our language is part of the problem, even with the word itself, disability. '*I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made*' (Psalm 139, v 14) asserts my knowledge that I am fearfully and wonderfully made; this lived experience makes me want to praise. This is very powerful and is extraordinary good news. It applies at all times and in all circumstances: in the womb with learning impairment, when I am just born, a toddler, teenager, adult, with dementia, whether I am dependent or independent.

Tim took the funeral of Scarlett, a six-year-old girl with profound learning impairment and very little communication, whose parents lavished love on her. She died overnight when new breathing apparatus failed and the police were involved. The funeral in a packed church was followed by a burial in the churchyard and everyone helped to fill in the grave. Scarlett had been a magnet of love and had a profound effect on the community, mirroring the love of God - she was *'fearfully and wonderfully made'*. When Jesus heals a blind person, he does not heal all blind people; the healing goes further than the person to the community beyond.

Is disability a human construct or a God construct? Does God recognise it or are we dealing with the wonderful breadth of his creation? The theology of disability is rooted in the victory of the cross. We are the body of Christ, the full breadth of humanity. We are all disabled or limited in some way and must engage with it.

Can anyone read the biblical accounts of St Paul with the same understanding following Tim's insight? The sudden loss of sight transformed Saul from a Trumpian' figure (to be a true Jew, I must destroy the Christians) as he became dependent on others to guide him to Damascus and was forced to face his own vulnerability and mortality. Some impairment remained and the experience changed him, becoming the root of his theology of the body. *'The members of the body that seem to be weaker are indispensable'* (1 Corinthians 12: 22-24). The disabled body is essential to the whole body of Christ. Power is not found in great strength, but in coming to terms with and learning to love our vulnerabilities. It is then that we are healed and true liberation is found. When I am weak, then I am strong: liberated and free.

The art around the crucifixion is both amazing and deeply disturbing. However, Tim said he had an issue with the art of the resurrection in that we hardly see the wounds. We do not engage with the revelation of the fully divine and fully human. Tim thanked God for the insight he had gained through being able to engage with his own vulnerabilities.

Access to our buildings and the welcome both matter. Physical constraints, mental barriers and rejection have been the experience of many people. We need to be challenged to listen to the stories of disabled people which will start to resonate with our own vulnerabilities. They are prophetic, a part of the resurrection that we still have not fully grasped.

Business Meeting

- **PCC Tonight** - this pack of resources is intended to be fun and enjoyable and aid the effective leadership of PCC meetings. Packs will be available to borrow from the Archdeaconry Resource centre in Bletchingley.
- **'Refreshing Church'** - the second archdeaconry conference will be held at St Bede's School, Redhill on Saturday 14 September, from 10am - 4pm; the keynote speaker is Paula Gooder. Tickets, £10, include a light lunch. Two workshops can be chosen when booking online at: <https://refreshing-church.eventbrite.co.uk>. Parishes are encouraged to send a group along.
- **'To be a Pilgrim'** - A Spirituality Day will be held at Southwark Cathedral on Saturday 19 October from 10am - 4pm.
- **A Deanery consultation** - is underway, concerning a proposal to limit lay representatives to two consecutive 3-year terms, after the presentation of new Church Representation Rules for approval to the General Synod in February.
- **'Everything holds together** - A Song for the Season of Creation', commissioned for St Bride's Choir, Fleet Street is available for free download in a variety of arrangements at www.stbrides.com/creation.
- **Thank you** - to Christ Church, South Nutfield for providing refreshments on arrival at the meeting.

15 October 2019: Strength in Numbers & farewell to Kathryn Percival

This was the last meeting for Revd Kathryn Percival, Area Dean, before moving on to join the clergy team at Portsmouth Cathedral as Canon Chancellor and Vice Dean. Her 'Collation and Installation' will take place at a service of Choral Evensong on Sunday 15 December 2019. Lay Chair, Sue Mallinson

paid tribute to Kathryn's three years as Area Dean during which she saw through the establishment of the new Tandridge Deanery, formed in September 2016. The two Deaneries of Caterham and Godstone, quite different in size and character, were amalgamated to become Southwark's largest deanery. Sue said, 'Kathryn had the ability to link us together and went for it with energy, enthusiasm, clear thinking, wit, innovation and some chuckling!'

Kathryn has been adept at choosing good speakers and singing Compline at the end of Synods. We have enjoyed her strong faith and good sense as we have worked together on interactive events, learning about each other. As a leaving gift, the Deanery presented Kathryn with a Portsmouth Cathedral cassock and accompanying ribbon embroidered with 'TANDRIDGE' to go inside the neckband to help her remember us. It has been an amazing beginning for a new deanery. We thank Kathryn for bringing us thus far.

Currently there is quite a bit of change amongst the clergy in the Deanery. Others, in addition to Kathryn, are moving on: James Percival, Team Rector of the Limpsfield & Tatsfield Team Ministry; Wendy Harvey is to retire in January 2020 as Minister in Charge of St Andrew's Limpsfield Chart; James Ashton, currently Deanery Mission Enabler and Team Vicar in the Warlingham Team Ministry, will move within the Deanery to become Team Vicar at St Mary's, Oxted and St Peter's, Tandridge, in January 2020; Alison Way, Vicar of Christ Church, South Nutfield and Area Officer for Lay Mission and Ministry is moving to become Rector of the Benefices of Wincanton and Pen Selwood in the Diocese of Bath and Wells. Revd Trevor Mapstone who had been licensed as Priest in Charge of St Mary's Caterham the previous day, was welcomed to his first Deanery Synod meeting.

Strength in Numbers *(focusing on the 'collaborative' strand of the Deanery Mission Action Plan)*

The main speaker at the meeting was Revd Raewynne Whiteley, Deputy Director of Discipleship and Lay Ministry for Southwark Diocese. The essence of her talk was that although most of us think of ourselves as belong-

ing to our parish, we are actually all one Church, but in many places, just like the early church. We were asked to think of things we can do together across parishes, sharing our gifts with others. Raewynne is available to come to parishes, to preach, run studies or lead quiet days.

Business Meeting

People arriving at the meeting were greeted with a glass of Prosecco and an amazing spread of tasty canapés, for which we thank the members of St Peter's Church, Limpsfield. Has this set a precedent?!!

The Archdeaconry Resources Centre in Bletchingley is being underused and it is hoped this will pick up by ordering new materials people will find useful - lists of suggestions from parishes were collected.

Revd Sister Phaedra Pamhilon-Green, Rector of Bletchingley and Nutfield spoke about her work as one of the Bishop's 'deliverance ministers'. Exorcism is no longer carried out, but the Southwark Deliverance Team can be contacted if someone feels a presence in their home and they also offer support to a local priest trying to help someone who has contacted them. There are often mental health issues, perhaps past abuse and the person has just died. The hurt and pain can generate poltergeist activity.

Deanery Synod lay representatives are in the final (3rd) year and new members will be elected at the APCMs in 2020. The number each parish is entitled to is based on the electoral roll figure presented at 2019 APCMs. Sue Mallinson will stand down as Lay Chair after 9 years.

Elections to General Synod, for which Deanery Synod members form the electorate, will take place in 2020.

Sutton Deanery has now been transferred from Croydon Archdeaconry to become part of the Reigate Archdeaconry, joining Reigate and Tandridge Deaneries.

CHILDREN'S WORK

Sunday Club

It has been a great privilege to have been a Sunday Club Leader and Co-ordinator for many years. It's time to hand over to someone else. I have learnt so much from being with the children including what's good on CBeebies, the latest social media sensations, how to make a locust from a clothes peg, hundreds of poppies for a Remembrance Day display and very many things from a toilet roll middle. In addition, I have heard happy stories and sad stories as well as the most profound theological insights from the imaginative, non-judgmental and big-thinking minds of the children who attend.

Our Sunday sessions welcome school age children to age 11 in Church House. We begin in Church before being commissioned to our activities and then return at communion. The times in church are important so that the children feel part of the worshipping community. Lockdown and the Pandemic has presented huge challenges, but St Mary's has a fantastic group of children, leaders, helpers, and regular occasional visitors and I'm sure that spirit of community and sharing will return soon.

The year began following the 2019 APCM which was just before Easter. There was a children's service on Good Friday with much participation from Sunday Club families in the readings and interactive parts of the re-telling of the events of Holy Week followed by the ever popular hot cross buns.

Weekly sessions follow the lectionary readings and particularly memorable was the beautiful crafty efforts (not mine!) of the leaders to create models of the Jesse Tree symbols for the tree during advent.

The Children are pleased to come to the front and share with the congregation at the end of the service what they have been up to and it is wonderful to see them grow in confidence as well as numbers. The numbers were steady with about 10-15 children each week. There was the usual end of the summer term party outside in the churchyard which was a lovely occa-

sion of games and celebration. (see picture)

I recently read an account of a Christian who, when growing up "searched for a distant God who seemed to enjoy watching me do colouring-in sheets in church". We do colouring sheets, but, much more besides. It is my prayer that Sunday Club will have sown a seed in our young people and nurture a faith which sustains them as they grow up and discover the love and presence of God for themselves.

I would like to pay tribute to the tremendous commitment of the leaders and helpers I have worked with. Their flexible and "can do" attitude is much appreciated. The attached Church Times cartoon by Dave Walker absolutely sums up what you need to know if you are running Sunday Club. Over to you Kate!

Glynis Beazley – Former Sunday Club Co-ordinator

Light party

Once again the light party was a success. It was attended by 40 children with parents/grandparents – which although a slightly lower number than usual may have been because it was in the middle of half term and some families were away. All the sausages were eaten which is a sure sign of a good party! The party was also attended by a superb bee keeper and his bee (aka Ollie and Ellie) – great costumes!

We had the usual activities of jam jar lanterns, biscuit decorating, apple bobbing, guess the weight of the pumpkin, and some fabulous light up balloons. Thanks as always to those who gave up their time to help – either running an activity, providing the music or cooking and serving the food. We really couldn't do it without you.

Clare Sturgeon

The Ark

The Ark welcomes children under 5 and their caregivers. We had another happy year with inevitable goings as children start nursery and school and exciting comings as new babies and families join us.

We enjoyed many sessions of 'Ark in the Park' throughout the weeks of sunshine. A perfect safe space for the young ones to run about, confidence is nurtured and strengthened and joy shared watching the first cautious slide or ball kicked or caught.

Snack time and activity songs and stories are popular.

Our splendid team of helpers continue their support.

Sue Morris

SAFEGUARDING REPORT 2019

We received two reports of a safeguarding nature during 2019. The first was early in 2019 and considered by the Standing Committee and then referred to the Diocese for advice. The opinion of the Diocese Safeguarding Officer was that this did not meet the Safeguarding threshold.

The second was near to Christmas and was referred instantly to the Diocese Safeguarding Officer. This was also considered to not meet the Safeguarding threshold.

The PCC decided in the autumn to adopt the Southwark model of Safeguarding control, as this was a little more up to date than the one we were using. Consequently, we now use 'A Safe Church' and all its practices.

Jeff Marks

CHURCH CHOIR

Sadly we started 2019 without an organist and musical director! However the choir is a resilient group and were not to be beaten and kept going. We were very lucky to have a succession of visiting organists who led the choir for our weekly practices and played on Sundays. We have continued to sing motets every week, to sing for all the major festivals including a Tenebrae service on Good Friday and the Carol service at Christmas.

A special thank you to April for finding us organists week by week and a special thank you to them for playing.

I have enjoyed guiding the choice of music, sometimes quite challenging to find just the right piece, but a very fulfilling role.

We finished the year feeling very optimistic as we prepared to welcome our new organist and director of music Ian Skipper.

Valerie Muller

BELLRINGERS

We completed the installation of two Training Bells, mounted alongside our main bells. These are not actual bells, but are heavy weights attached to wheels and bell-ropes. They rotate and feel like normal bells to ring, but the sound is generated in our ringing room by a computer simulator. They are ideal for learning to ring and improving basic bell handling skills. When used with the simulator, a learner has the opportunity to ring accompanied by a band of near perfect simulated "ringers" (and with no disturbance to our neighbours). The total cost of the project was approximately £7,000 and was largely funded by generous donations from the Surrey Association of Church Bellringers, and the Reginald Arthur Baker Trust. Our own bellringers made up the balance.

During the year, we held monthly silent practices on Saturday mornings for ringers from many other local towers. These took advantage of our simulator facilities and the training bells, and were much appreciated by all.

Ed Muller – Tower Captain

HUNGRY HERMIT

The Hungry Hermit launched in February 2019 had a good first year. Sadly in keeping with government guidelines we suspended our service in March 2020.

As we became known many local residents came regularly, a group end their exercise class with coffee and chat. Casual visitors join us drawn by our 'A' board on the A 25.

Owners of pets attending the specialist Veterinary hospital on Brewer street were glad of a place of respite and refreshment while pets were being treated!

We have a team of 8 volunteers and usually have 2 working each week.

We have been given encouraging and heart warming comments in our visitors book, evidence to support the re opening of Hungry Hermit when safe to do so.

Ann Pressey Sue Morris

COFFEE AND CRAFT

We are a small group that meet once a month at my house - there is just room for 12.

Our crafts include crochet, embroidery, patchwork, knitting, tapestry and general sewing repairs.

We help, encourage and share knowledge with each other and have fun at the same time.

All this is done over coffee, cake and lots of good humoured chat.

Jean Price

WELCOMERS 2019

In those far off days before and after Christmas 2019 we had a team of Welcomers and another team of counters. All of them played a vital role in looking after newcomers, welcoming familiar faces, organising the visitors for Baptisms as well as giving out the right books and counting the collections at the end of Church. We owe thanks to them all including Jean Osborne, Joan Millar, Jeff Marks, Trevor Dawson, Charlie Gillespie, Vicki Gillespie, Clare Sturgeon, Bev Green, Pat Napper, Rob Tucker, Alexander Green, Vicki Gillespie, Louise Tantum
Counters included Jean Price, Anthony Cock, Jean Osborne, Robert Trotman, John Trott, Angela Price, Bill Alexander

April Alexander

A REALLY BIG THANK YOU

No Annual Report would be complete without saying a huge thank you to a large number of people who work away, often unseen, helping to keep our church clean and beautiful, decorating it with flowers, serving numerous cups of coffee and making sure the churchyard is well looked after.

Joan Millar and her team of **church cleaners** keep our church looking so clean and tidy

Averil Trott, helped by **Jenny Davenport**, inspire a group of **flower arrangers** who thoroughly enjoy the quiet moments in church decorating it for the following Sunday and all the special church festivals.

Joan Millar's team of **coffee makers** help conversation flow after Sunday morning services.

Annabel Smith and her army of **gardeners** has kept out churchyard looking trim and encouraged wildlife to make a home there.

Anyone who would like to help any of these groups would be made very welcome!

To you all

THANK YOU VERY MUCH