THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF CHRIST CHURCH EPSOM COMMON

England & Wales · Charity number 1127945

Details

Other names	CHRIST CHURCH PCC EPSOM COMMON
Status	Registered
Legal form	Previously excepted
Registered	2009-02-09
Register	View on the Charity Commission register

Contact

Address	20 Christ Church Road Epsom Surrey KT19 8NE
Phone	01372720302
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Website	http://www.christchurchepsom.org.uk

Activities

Objects: Promoting in the ecclesiastical parish the whole mission of the Church.

Activities: Christian worship, pastoral, mission and outreach activities based on the CofE parish church of Christ Church, Epsom Common.

Classification

- **How:** Makes Grants To Organisations, Provides Buildings/facilities/open Space, Provides Services
- **What:** Religious Activities
- **Who:** The General Public/mankind

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Geography

- **Area of benefit:** UNDEFINED. IN PRACTICE LOCAL
- Surrey

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2025-12-31	£186,776	£232,581	-	-
2024-12-31	£199,000	£184,724	-	-
2023-12-31	£273,156	£345,206	-	-
2022-12-31	£242,910	£250,624	-	-
2021-12-31	£159,733	£210,735	-	-
2020-12-31	£152,274	£147,109	-	-

Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
BERWICK JOHN CURTIS MA		
CAROLINE DANIELS		2025-09-29
Charlie Hart		2026-06-15
David Frederick Blacoe		2023-05-10
David Wedlake		2022-04-24
Ebba Ingrid Sofia Helde Welsby		2024-11-06
Fay Wedlake		2022-04-24
Gillian Margaret Glasspool		2022-04-24
Leslie King		2023-04-16
Nigel Thomas Daniels		2021-04-25
Patricia Helen Crawford		2024-04-21
REVD SUE CURTIS		
Shirleyann Mary Dartnell		2023-04-16
Thomas Richard Ellinor		2023-04-16

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THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF CHRIST CHURCH EPSOM

England & Wales - Charity number 1127945

Accounts

CHRIST CHURCH
EPSOM COMMON
FAITH HOPE & HEALING 150 Years

Annual Report 2025-2026

Prepared for distribution in advance of the Annual Parochial Church Meeting 19 April 2026

As Christ Church approaches its 150th anniversary, it's time for us to celebrate the past while looking to the future together.

Our church on the Common is rooted in faith. We remember Epsom's long history as a spa town and place of healing.

Our shared vision is to build on this legacy by growing in hope and healing together, and to be a hub of hope for our community as an inclusive church going forward in love and compassion.

This report offers a review of the past year, looking at the steps we have taken so far on our shared journey.

Rooted in **Faith**
Growing in **Hope**
Nurturing **Healing**

Annual Report 2025-2026

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Christ Church Epsom Common APCM - Area Dean Report

Dear friends, as we reflect on the joy of Easter, we remember the greatest victory in history, when death was defeated and hope was restored through the resurrection of Jesus Christ. Easter is not just a day we celebrate; it is a truth we must live from every day. It calls us to be **deeply rooted in faith**. I love that this is part of who you are as a church and part of your Mission Statement.

The Bible reminds us in Colossians 2:7, *"Let your roots grow down into Him, and let your lives be built on Him. Then your faith will grow strong."* After Easter, our faith should not remain shallow. The resurrection proves that God's power is greater than any fear, failure, or even death itself.

When Jesus Christ rose from the grave, He gave us a **living hope**. Our faith is not rooted in tradition or feelings; it is rooted in our **living Saviour** who conquered the grave. That means no matter what storms we face, loss, uncertainty, or trials, we stand firm because our roots are planted in the truth of the resurrection.

In 1 Peter 1:3 it says that through the resurrection of Jesus Christ we have been given a **living hope**. Hope that does not fade a hope that does not fail.

I just wanted to encourage you to keep going. I'm hugely excited about Christ Church's future under the leadership of Rev Tom Hill, but I want to thank you for your faithfulness in the time of vacancy. So my encouragement for you all in this post Easter period is to keep going, is to stay rooted in prayer. Stay rooted in God's Word. Stay rooted in the victory Christ has already won.

Because when your faith is rooted in the risen Lord, your life will stand strong, grow deep, and bear fruit for God.

Wishing you all every blessing and praying for you all as a church,

In His name,

Revd John Marrow
Epsom Area Dean

Church Wardens' Report, David Blacoe and Fay Wedlake

Announcements and Highlights of 2025-6

Christ Church has seen many changes this year.

After 14 years as Vicar of Christ Church on 6 July 2025 the following announcement was made:

"The Bishop of Derby is delighted to announce that Rev'd Canon Rosemary Donovan, Vicar of the benefice of Christ Church Epsom Common and Area Dean of Epsom, Diocese of Guildford, has been appointed Vicar of the benefice of Melbourne, Ticknall, Smisby and Stanton by Bridge, Diocese of Derby, subject to all legal and safeguarding requirements being fulfilled."

In the autumn Christ Church showed their appreciation and made a fond farewell.





A formal Church Warden's duty is to 'handover the vicar' at the collation service in the new parish, which took place on 4 October 2025. Many travelled to Rosemary's new benefice, everyone wishing Rosemary and Craig every blessing in Derbyshire.



Revd Esther Holley Hunt completed her curacy with Christ Church and on 28 September 2025 the announcement was made that Esther had been appointed as Associate Minister at St Mary's and St John's in Walton on Thames. The role has a specific focus on children and young people, families' ministry and discipleship. Esther started her new role in May 2026.





Rev'd Sue Curtis and our Lay Reader Berwick Curtis continue to lead worship; Sofia Welsby our children, youth and families ministry. Andy Hards, sacristan, verger, also balancing premises, projects and eco duties. Tricia Crawford co-ordinating all our church administration and communications.

Much thanks and appreciation goes to the PCC and every supporting team; worship, pastoral, prayer, music, tech, finance, missions, premises, heating, grounds, cleaning, Mothers' Union, flower arrangers, hospitality, social and our newly created 150th Anniversary Team.

We continue to give thanks to the many faithful and dedicated members of our congregation who do so much to facilitate meaningful acts of worship to the glory of God, we are blessed to be part of such a committed and generous community.

During this interregnum Christ Church is positively journeying forward, as a demonstrator net zero carbon and Gold Award Eco Church, and as a welcoming community in every season, with our broad range of inclusive worship and services. One body, many parts working together!

A further announcement took place at Christ Church Epsom Common and Leatherhead at the main morning services on Sunday 8 February 2026:-

"The Bishop of Guildford is delighted to announce that Rev Tom Hill has been appointed as Vicar at Christ Church, Epsom Common, subject to DBS and medical clearance. He is currently Associate Minister at Leatherhead and we are hoping that Tom and his family might be able to move in late summer, but details are yet to be confirmed".

Tom says:-

"Megan and I are so excited to join with you in God's vision and purpose for Christ Church. Having grown up in Epsom, I gave my life to Jesus when I was 18, because someone at this church invited me to hear the gospel. Our hope and prayer for the coming years is that we see many more lives transformed by the love of Jesus in the same way, as we work together to share the good news. We can't wait to see what the Lord is going to do in this new season and look forward to meeting you all soon!"

Please pray for Tom and his family as they prepare to move. Tom will be licensed on 27 August 2026 at 7.30pm in Christ Church by Bishop Paul.



Christ Church Parish Profile

What Can Christ Church Celebrate?

Christ Church draws together people of many different ages, backgrounds and Christian traditions. It was established as a place of sanctuary for all the population on the Common and over the years, the church has built a reputation as a friendly, open, family-oriented community.

At its heart, above the chancel, is this Scripture from Matthew 11:28-29:

"Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls".

As we celebrate 150 years of ministry at Christ Church, we are focussed on three facets of Christ's teaching and these are:

1. Rooted in Faith
2. Growing in Hope
3. Nurturing Healing

In the power of the Holy Spirit, we believe that Christ Church can expand its outreach as a focal community hub. For this purpose, we offer opportunities in many different formats, in addition to our traditional services:

- Bubble Church for young children and their
- Kids Church and youth activities
- Outreach to schools
  - Kingswood House
  - Rosebery School
  - Southfield Park
  - Stamford Green
- Links to Christ Church United Football Club and Uniformed Organisations
- Courses for enquirers and new Christians including Alpha
- House and small groups for bible study, prayer and support
- Mothers' Union (celebrating its 135th anniversary) offering:
  - regular meetings and walks

- the inclusive Wheels & Squeals toddler group (embracing cohabiting and blended families)
- Mothers' Union membership and family support

- Tea Club offering activities for older people
- Bell tower and bell ringers
- Creative arts - celebrating the musical talents of the choir, band and local artists
- Gold Award Eco Church respecting creation and care for our environment
- Outside, the forest chapel attracts walkers and their dogs, who are welcome in church services
- Church and Hall use, including hire for approved community and social events
- Initiatives with Churches Together in Epsom e.g. World Prayer Day Service
- Dedicated volunteer teams, practically ensuring the witness of Christ Church

What Are Our Challenges?

We recognise these aspirations need further nurturing and they present new challenges:

- Enhancing our programme for children and young people
- Developing our outreach to the expanding local community
- Developing our wide range of music and creative arts
- Improvement in our facilities to be more open and accessible
- Financial background and look ahead:
  During the year ending 31 December 2024, Christ Church received income, including legacies, of £199,000 whilst expenditure totalled £184,724 giving a surplus over the course of the year of £14,276.

However, very little was spent on property refurbishment which resulted in this small surplus of income over expenditure, after several years of deficit.

During 2025 we have invested in renovating the Church Hall and are proposing to update facilities within the Church with the installation of the Pod. There will also be repairs and maintenance work on the fabric of the Church building. These capital expenditures will result in a reduction in our reserves, which have largely come from legacies. These reserves currently stand at around £500,000. Hence the need for:

- Ambitious capital fundraising for major projects, such as Net Carbon Zero Demonstrator Church, in order to future proof the Grade II listed building in the 21st Century.

Parish considerations in the recruitment and selection of a vicar

From October 2025, the Church Wardens and PCC have been working with the Bishop, Arch Deacon and newly appointed Area Dean to prayerfully recruit and appoint a new vicar.

For this exciting post, we were seeking an ordained, energetic and visionary leader who is gifted with God's calling and a limitless compassion for God's people and with the following gifts, knowledge, skills and abilities:

- Deep personal commitment to Christ. Be a person of prayer, lively faith and spiritual maturity
- Passion to share the Gospel. An engaging teacher and strong preacher who shows humour and sensitivity
- Pastoral heart, a shepherd to foster a church culture where everyone feels valued and encouraged to contribute
- Good communicator with all ages whatever their nature and situation
- Ready to lead and develop our broad spectrum of worship, liturgy, choral, band music and technical support, holding together the best of the different traditions

- Adherence to safeguarding policies and practices, creating a safe space, to protect all from abuse and to support survivors
- Committed to welcome and guide all who ask for baptism, weddings and funerals
- Driven in developing partnerships with our local schools, uniformed organisations and community groups
- A leader to seek out and engage families and to develop and enable youth ministry
- Able to encourage and guide others to develop their personal and spiritual growth, vocation and ministry
- Enthusiastic in relating our faith to everyday lives and in encouraging collective events such as Parish Weekends/Retreats and Christian festivals
- Making opportunities to promote a culture of generous giving. Building resources, motivating and engaging people and increasing funding (with the financial team) to support our ministry
- Take interest in the 'project management' of day-to-day maintenance, grounds work and building projects (with the premises/Net Carbon Zero Demonstrator project leads). The current focus is: accessible toilet and servery in church; restoring stonemasonry; and achieving sustainable heating solutions.
- Competent and collaborative in managing Parish Administration and leading the staff team currently of Associate Minister, Licensed Lay Minister, Children and Youth Worker, Office Manager, and Verger, in close liaison with the Churchwardens and PCC leadership and our teams of volunteers.
- Committed to respect the following statement adopted by the PCC in January 2021:

  "Christ Church seeks to welcome, affirm, and celebrate every person and show no discrimination.

  We ensure that disability, socio-economic status, ethnicity, gender, gender identity, learning difficulties, mental health, neurodiversity, age, or sexuality

have no bearing on full membership, participation or involvement in the worship and witness, as part of our church community.

We welcome those who are looking for a safe space and those who are exploring the Christian faith.

We take the Bible seriously, proclaiming the Gospel in our contemporary context.

We rejoice in the breadth and depth of the love of God in the sacrifice of Jesus and affirm God with us in the indwelling Holy Spirit."

Romans 15:7
"Accept one another, just as Christ accepted you, in order to bring praise to God."

We considered what Christ Church can offer a new Vicar

Welcoming, supporting and nurturing a Vicar adhering to the Clergy Well Being Covenant. Welcoming any family members with a balanced respect for privacy and community life.

Five-bedroom detached vicarage in its own grounds, with outbuildings. Set on Epsom Common. Good public transport links to London, Surrey Hills and the seaside. Within walking distance of the town centre. Excellent reputable schools for all ages and local sport, leisure and creative art facilities.

Working together with the vicar and staff team and employed children and youth worker are a talented congregation and committed teams for ministry, missions, pastoral care and music. Also with the highly capable financial, technical, premises and Merry Mowers teams.

A generous congregation - donations to equip Bubble Church and refurbish the Hall, and social event fund raising. Looking to initiate capital fund raising for major projects.

We considered Christ Church's Hopes and Needs for the New Season

As we look forward, our hopes and needs are:

Appointment of Vicar, to ensure a high standard of worship, pastoral care, and to advance the Kingdom of God through leadership and collaboration.

Growing in numbers - we are witnessing the 'Quiet Revival' with an increasing number of younger people (under 20 and 30) being baptised, confirmed and offering resources as they journey in Christ Church. Helping to balance the effects of demographics and an aging population.

Building on our Discipleship Groups - In the power of the spirit, we offer a variety of small discipleship groups all different from each other giving opportunities for people to meet for prayer, bible study, mutual support and social activities.

Supporting the vicar in the training of a curate. Christ Church offers a recently modernised family home for a curate.

Deepening relationships with God, supporting new Christians. Achieving shared visions of the Kingdom of God delivering good news for all – seen in Transforming Church and Transforming Lives.

For Christ Church to be a living community hub. Our journey is summarised below:

- Christ Church as a Living Well and Living Well
- Transforming - Growing Knowing Going
- Growing Disciples Growing Diversity Growing Community
- Celebrating Christ Church 150th Anniversary and MU 135th Anniversary
- Rooted in Faith, Growing in Hope and Nurturing Healing



Communications - Tricia Crawford

Throughout the year, we have continued to reach out to our local community through digital and print media and also continued the process of refreshing the look and feel of both internal and internal communications.

Our new look

Having adopted a new strapline for our 150th year,
Rooted in Faith, Growing in Hope and Nurturing Healing,
we created refreshed logos and graphics to demonstrate this

This has been reflected in the new powerpoint displays for our Sunday services, which still use the colours of the church's year but which have been redesigned to be more engaging and offer more clarity.

We offer huge thanks to Paul Cutmore for being so generous with his time and professional services to create this fantastic new look and also for his creation of our stunning Christmas card and our Christmas and Easter posters





Newsletter and website

Our next steps are to redesign the weekly email newsletter, to make it more visually engaging and a quicker and easier read, and to finish the content for the new website (now only a few pages left to go) and then to look at ways to bring in more images and make the site as engaging and eye-catching as we can.

Huge thanks to Fred Campbell-Hollis for giving his time and professional expertise to create the new website.

Social media

We continue to use social media to reach the wider community in Epsom.

Our goal is 'brand awareness' - in other words, we want as many people as possible to see a little of who we are and what we do.

How successful is this?

In the year from 9 March 2025 - 8 March 2006:

Our Facebook posts were seen 29,693 times
by 13,573 different people, e.g.:



Lenten purple
1,855 people



Jazz Festival
1,541 people



Carol service
1,297 people

What does help us reach more people is if you like, comment and share - this tells Facebook and Instagram that the post is interesting, and that means they will show it more widely.

Why is this important?

In today's busy world, on average people are exposed to a brand, product or organisation 22 times before they take action.
(In the pre-digital age, it was 7 times.)

Our posters, social media posts, website, Christmas cards and sharing in neighbours' WhatsApp groups all have a part to play in this.

Over the last year, our publicity has brought newcomers to the carol service, to the Jazz Night and to Wheels & Squeals - so it is possible to make a difference.

Sharing posts, putting up posters and distributing cards is really a gentle form of evangelism - so please take part in telling the wider community about Christ Church if you can.

Eco Church

In July, we were delighted to be awarded Gold Eco Church status. This was a fantastic recognition of the time, work and care our whole congregation and of course our amazing Eco Team have put into our many green initiatives and ensuring creation care is embedded in the day to life of Christ Church.



Throughout the Season of Creation members of the congregation shared eco initiatives to promote and encourage our on-going commitment to creation care such as water butts and composting, water for dogs and bee water

garden as well as supporting community initiatives such as the Epsom Repair Cafe. Building on our current practice of outdoor acts of worship we continued to host the 4 seasonal sessions of Forest Church namely Spring: Dawn service; Summer: Outdoor Sunday parish Communion Services and 5@5; Autumn: Creation tide and Winter: Open Chapel. We are pleased to be identified as one of five churches in Guildford Diocese as a national demonstrator church able to access advice and grants to assist our commitment to Net Carbon Zero. To this end we have continued to make improvements to draft-proofing the church and insulating the hall as well as upgrading to double glazing, working towards installing solar panels and researching sustainable heating.

Outreach

Christ Church has continued to be more visible in our local community, particularly at town centre commemorations of the anniversary of VJ Day and Armistice Day and Civic Community Events where Rev'd Sue and Berwick Curtis, Michal Keefe and Sofia Welsby have specifically represented Christ Church.

Churches Together in Epsom, in which we play a very active part, continues to host an open-air service on Good Friday in the marketplace as well as other seasonal activities in Rosebery Park and the town centre that are a great way of demonstrating our faith.

We have vibrant links with local schools and the Epsom Common Association, Association and regular hall hirers including Alpine Gardens Association, a dance school, and children's Kung Fu classes. New hall hirers include baby music and movement and Alcoholics Anonymous.

The Age Concern annual Christmas Concert has become a regular opportunity to reach out to many people who don't often attend church alongside the annual memorial service in conjunction with Longhurst funeral directors. Both these events saw the church packed and many commented on the warm welcome and spiritual atmosphere to be found here.

Social Committee - Michal Keefe

A very small but dedicated team provided a variety of social activities for our congregation to enjoy, made outreach opportunities and welcomed the wider community. Midway through the year, we merged with the 150CC committee (some members of which were on both committees) to arrange celebrations of Christ Church 150th Anniversary in October 2026. We also entered a period of vacancy after Rev'd Rosemary Donovan (previous chair of the committee) moved to a new parish.

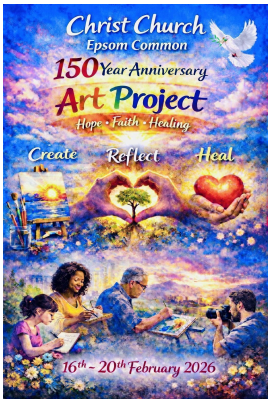
Our emphasis changed to ensure we provided events to draw parishioners closer together, and to raise the Christ Church heritage profile in the wider community and promote the 150th Anniversary. As a committee, we have always been mindful that we want enjoyable community events but that it would also be useful to raise church funds. To this end, as a community we have raised £6,127.





At the Autumn Fair, many enjoyed our refreshments, the uniformed organisations' sausage sizzle, bell tower tours and puppet shows alongside the many stalls and games. We held an 80s Disco (thanks in particular to Claire, Tilly and Tom), a plant sale (thank you Marilyn and Jenny), Macrame Workshop, Jazz Night (thank you Dan) and last but not least the wonderful recently held quiz night fun by Sue Matthews and Marilyn. The amazing Art Festival organised by Lucy and Jenny P showed what talented people we have in our community.





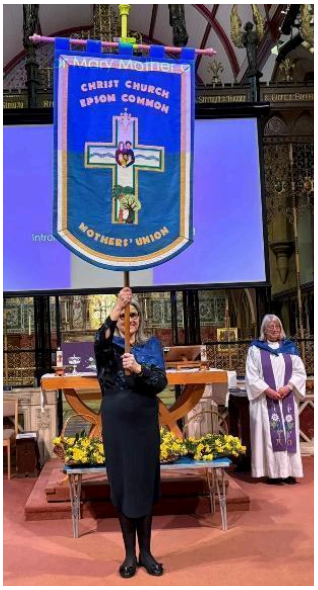


Our committee is small and we are always looking for people who would like to join us and come up with some new ideas for events. We usually meet 3 or 4 times a year and in the autumn put a schedule of events together. So if you have some spare time please do contact Michal Keefe who can talk you through what we do. We would love to expand our team. Please also sign up for events ASAP as it makes it much easier to organise events and catering.

Last but not least, a lot of what goes on does so behind the scenes so this year I would particularly like to thank our committee: Sue Matthews, Sue Ellinor, Caroline Daniels, Lucy Healy, Liz Pullinger, and our wardens Fay and David and Trish in the office who have given particular support, and everyone who has helped.

Christ Church Epsom Common Mothers' Union

We currently meet on the 2nd Tuesday of each month in the lower hall from 10.30am. Meetings will start with a prayer and usually evolve around the aims of the Mothers' Union at strengthening families and communities worldwide. However, we also enjoy craft mornings, social evenings and occasional speakers who will talk to us about other objectives such as the Away From It All Holidays or our links with Christ Church Freetown Sierra Leone. We also enjoy a monthly walk on the 4th Thursday of the month. Usually meeting at Christ Church at 9.45am to leave at 10.00am. More recently we have helped support the Mothering Sunday service on the 15th March and a group of us visited the cathedral on the 17th March to celebrate the **Mothers' Union 150 celebration** with other diocesan branches.







Celebrating the 150th Anniversary of the Mothers' Union - and the 75th Anniversary of our link branch in Sierra Leone.

Our members support Christ Church in many ways. Running Wheels & Squeals toddler group, members of the Baptism team, help with Bubble Church, are sidespeople, members of the choir, on the social committee and members of the PCC. You do not need to be a mother or female to join our group. All we ask is that you support our aims. If you are interested in joining us, our details are on the notice board at the back of the church, or contact Michal, Kate, Avril or Sarah Chorley.

Discipleship - Revd Sue Curtis

At Christ Church, we are negotiating the vacancy aware of the work of Rosemary, Craig, Esther, Jane, David who have moved on to serve God in new places. It has also been a year when other faithful disciples have moved away, become unwell or have died and we build on the legacy that we have been blessed with through their endeavours.

We are grateful to those who currently have taken on more responsibility to keep us not only in maintenance mode but able to thrive and nurture new disciples and help many in the congregation mature and deepen their faith. Amongst them are PCC secretary, wardens, verger, Youth and Families Worker, the office manager, Ruth organising organists and choir music and Dan leading the band and organising the band music and musicians. Christ Church is a community and those who worship with us in church or online and then live out their faith in their personal prayer life, in their work or their relationships have an important part in our communal life. Hopefully the church can resource disciples of Christ in their daily lives and in their particular circumstances.

Small groups are a good way for faith to be nurtured and there are seven groups that meet in different ways: in homes, in church, online, weekly or monthly. These groups discuss, pray, study, socialise together and offer mutual pastoral support. Other groups such as MU, choir, band, cleaners, tech team, sidespeople, bell ringers, readers, intercessors, the social team and the pastoral team share their discipleship as they work to support worship and our communal life.

In August we had adults from our Alpha Course being baptised by immersion as part of our Summer Series. Their passion for Christ and their enthusiasm were inspiring.

This was followed by Confirmation in December. Our nine candidates, adults and children, were joined by candidates from St Mary's Ewell in a joyful service led by Bishop Andrew. It was good to have him with us so recently and we join with the Diocese in giving thanks for his ministry and in mourning his death.





We also ran a prayer ministry training course this year with thanks to Sue Matthews for her leadership and Tricia Coleman for adapting and producing course materials based on the resources of The Acorn Christian Healing Foundation We are pleased that a good number came to the training and were able to share their ideas on praying for others and growing in faith. Three individuals have joined our Prayer Ministry Team and we are also pleased that we have someone undertaking a diocesan-led Lay Visitors Course and another signed up for the next course.

Sofia, our Children and Youth Worker, is planning to run a new Alpha Course after Easter. We also are thinking of looking at evangelism in our contemporary context as a theme of our summer series.

Christ Church 'disciples' can be seen sharing their time, their talents and their faith in all that supports our worship, our outreach to our local community, our concern for the planet and the world beyond our nation and continent.

Our vision is to be rooted in faith, growing in hope and nurturing healing. Discipleship is fostered in casual and serious conversations, in the liturgy, songs, hymns, readings, sermons and in fostering private prayer, Bible study and reflection on how we engage with our contemporary society in a way that honours Christ.

Discipleship is relational; courses and programmes can support this, but it is in essence more than that. Our discipleship should inform our identity and our relations with others, seeing all as loved children of God. The Anglican Church roots its beliefs and practices in Biblical understanding, tradition and reason.

"Discipleship is based solely on devotion to Jesus Christ, not on following after a particular belief or doctrine." Oswald Chambers

In this year, leading up to our 150th Anniversary, we have been delighted to welcome former curates and ordains who have shared with us something of how Christ Church was instrumental in their ongoing discipleship. We have valued their fresh insights and learning of the wide range of Christian work they have undertaken since being with us. Later in the year when we welcome our Vicar Designate Tom Hill, we can reflect that Christ Church was a formative part of his discipleship journey too.

It has been good to access an increasing programme of courses run by Diocese and Deanery, which have been attended by church members; and people from Christ Church attended New Wine and Green Belt last Summer

We look forward to our new Vicar Tom, his wife Megan and their family joining us later in the year. Discipleship may look different under new leadership, but I am sure we can all work together with renewed enthusiasm and vision to grow in numbers and depth of faith here at Christ Church. We need to remain a place of welcome and inclusion, where questions can be asked freely and ideas shared honestly. This is the responsibility of us all, as we learn and share together, joining in all that fosters breadth and depth within our church life. There is so much on offer through which we can share and learn together. We need to be committed to participating where we can. Our Christian calling is to embrace the transforming work of God in all we are, and all we do.

Children and Youth Worker's Report - Sofia Welsby






Christ Church Kids

Christ Church Kids is our Sunday school during the 10am Sunday morning Services. We leave church during the first hymn for the upper church hall. There we have a mini crèche if needed, with a carpet and toys for little ones, and tables and chairs for children of all ages. We return to church and the parents, before the communion starts.

During the first half of 2025 we had very good attendance, including a number of teenagers. Some Sundays we could be up to 17 children and young people. We considered splitting the group into two in the autumn, to cater for more age specific teachings and a chance for the young people to bond more with each other.

However, after the big changes our church faced after September, attendance has been patchier and there has not been a need for the group to split into two. We will consider again, when numbers bounce back after the new vicar arrives with his family. We have used a mixture of Roots and Bible stories material.

Christ Church Youth

As mentioned above, during the first half of 2025, most of our young people came to church on Sunday mornings with their families. We stopped doing Sunday evening youth group as many of the young people were in their GCSE year, and completing homework on Sunday evenings.

From September we re-started the Youth group on every first and third Friday of the month, 7-8.30pm, so that it would not clash with Bubble Church on the second and fourth Sunday of the month (if they were helping with that).

During the autumn, we made a harvest loaf for our church harvest festival, and carved pumpkins amongst other things. The young people also helped to lead our 5@5 Christingle Service on the 1st Sunday in Advent, together with our newest ex-alpha homegroup. It was lovely to see everyone doing such a good job, being brave and working together.

Four of our young people were confirmed in December, by our late Bishop Andrew, together with the same ex-alpha congregation members who helped at 5@5. Another very special day.

Bubble Church

From June 2025, with Rev Esther's looming maternity leave and completion of her curacy, I took over the running of Bubble Church. I had always assisted with it, but now I took over the running of it.

Bubble Church has continued to be a blessing to us, and the numbers of families visiting it remains strong most Sundays. Some outgrow it but new ones come along.

A bubble church session generally looks like 15 min of refreshments, a bubble machine and mingle, followed by 30min 'carpet time' with puppets, bible story and action songs.

Bubble Church requires a team of 8-10 volunteers per session. There is a mixture of local families as well as families from outside of Epsom attending. Some attend other churches on Sundays but come to us for Bubble Church. On average we have about 7-10 families per session.

For our crib service on Christmas eve, we used the Bubble Church Angel puppets service. Both services were well attended and appreciated by the congregations.

Schools

We are grateful for having good relationships with our local schools; we are keen to continue to develop our relationships with local schools.

We had both Stamford Green and South Field Park school classes visiting the church in November. Both had their end of term services and also their Christmas Carol services with us, and all the parents were invited too.

Kingswood House School also had their Christmas Concert, with us, as well as regular assemblies at church. We were invited to take part in their Remembrance commemoration at school that I attended and said a prayer.

Uniformed Organisations

After a slightly bumpy start to the year 2025, a new lease got signed with the scouts. We were very pleased to welcome them to take part in our Autumn fair, providing the sausage sizzle and table activities. The thriving uniformed

organisations have been able to parade at key services including the November Remembrance Day Service. We are looking forward to more joint events soon, such as the summer family fun day, with good relationships continuing.

Christ Church United Football Club

As part of the Christ Church 150th celebration, Revd Clive Potter, who, as a curate, founded Christ Church United Football Club in1992, preached and shared his sporting experiences. Thirty-four years onwards Christ Church United is a live, affordable, church linked, community focused football club affiliated to the Football Association. Developing individual and team skills, providing training for young players on Saturdays. David Wedlake is the church link, or for bookings via web for christchurchunited.co.uk. They are always looking for more members so please get in touch if you are interested. We are hoping that they will also be able to take part in the Summer Fun day.

Other Activities

New Wine

A small group of us from Christ Church Epsom Common went to the New Wine church festival at the beginning of August 2025, for the first time in many years. It is a good way of going away as a church family and bond and have fun whilst further deepening our faith. Some of us camped and stayed all six days, whilst others stayed in B&Bs or just came for day trips.





It was fun and we hope to see more Christ Church people joining us this year. Please contact Sofia and look on the New Wine Website if you want to know more. All ages, all abilities welcome.

The Posada



Mary, Joseph and the Donkey from our church nativity set went for a journey again this Advent and found shelter for 24hours at different congregation members or local institutions. They visited all three local schools as well as the scouts. Their journey ended at the Crib service in church on Christmas eve, when they reached the stable. Thank you to everyone who took part!

Ex ALPHA New Home Group

Since September 2025 we started a new homegroup with the members from the second Alpha course. We meet on the first and third Tuesday of the month in the upper room in the church hall, 7.30-9pm.

It's a lively group that has tried a few different materials from videos to studying bible passages relating to the time of the year, like Advent, Christmas, Lent and Easter. The bible sessions tend to be the more popular sessions. New members are welcome.

Finally a **BIG THANK YOU** to all the wonderful volunteers that I have to help me and to make this work possible!

Gill, Katherine, Olivia, Will, Sarah C, Anne S, Susie, Rosie, Lucy, Tom, Andy, Charle, Tilly, June, Sue M, Vanessa, Loic, Sacha, Zaccary, Ebba, Freja, Rochell, Reiner Aveah and all our cake makers!

Pastoral Care - Sue Matthews and Jo Woolfe

Despite the interregnum and departure of Esther, and Jane Williams in 2025, and Tricia Coleman's imminent move away this year, we hope the care of the Pastoral Team continues to respond to the needs of the congregation. We're delighted that Leanne Cutmore has been accepted for the Diocesan Visitor Training Course starting this spring.

It is also encouraging that new members of the Prayer Ministry Team have been recruited recently to bring it up to full strength. The confidential Prayer Chain is much valued for immediate prayer support and is well-used. Thank you to all who volunteer to pray and email messages round.

Tea Club continued with four events last year. Many thanks to all who have supported the team in supplying sandwiches and cakes and providing practical help setting up and serving on these much-appreciated afternoons.

Before Christmas we distributed nearly 30 small, mainly homemade cakes to those who had been bereaved during the past year or been unwell. These were much appreciated, but we may have to make adjustments this year due to a lack of 'bakers'.

We continue to receive positive feedback about the welcome newcomers find at Christ Church and are delighted that some become regular attenders. We very much look forward to working with and supporting our new Vicar Revd Tom Hill when he joins us later in the year.

Missions - David Blacoe

Christ Church continues its budgeted Missions Giving through five funded charities, which are supported for a five year period and have a dedicated Mission Champion. These are:

- The Children's Society
- Christian Solidarity Worldwide (CSW)
- Spinnaker
- UNiViDA
- Vision Peoples in Mission (VPM)

We are encouraged and grateful for dedicated sermon slots to promote the work and needs of our Mission Partnerships. During the year representatives from CSW featured a video 'The Disappeared People' and Marc and Ruth from Univida sent a personal video, thanking the church for our support and prayers, also with a video made by the staff about a day at the project.

Additionally one of the functions of the Missions Committee is to identify and request PCC approval to support charities requiring urgent funding from the Mission Emergency Fund. This year we distributed the following payments:

- £200 – Myanmar Earthquake appeal
- £200 – Afghanistan Earthquake appeal

This year's collections at our nominated services (Harvest & Christmas) for specific charities were:

- At the Harvest service, £125 was collected for the Farming Community Network.
- At the Christmas Crib services, £471 was collected for Crisis.
- Following the Christingle service, £120 was collected for The Children's Society.
- A collection of £238 from the Confirmation Service on 14th December was donated to the Bishop of Guildford's Community Fund.

Once again, we thank Christ Church PCC and congregation for their continued support for the Missions Group.
The Missions Group Champions

Safeguarding - Leslie King, Parish Safeguarding Officer



We are pleased to state there have been no safeguarding incidents in the period covered by this APCM report.

During the year there was a data breach that affected the company to which Christ Church submitted our DBS checks, and so everything was put on hold for a few months to check impact and sort out a new DBS provider. Christ Church was fortunate that only six members were slightly affected and the impact for us was very limited. There was support provided to those affected and it became apparent that none of their data was misused.

We have now opened an account with a Diocesan recommended DBS checking service provided by Matrix Security Watchdog (MSW) and we trust that all future checks and personal data should now be fully secure.

Due to the circumstances mentioned above there is a slight backlog of DBS checks to be submitted and that is underway. Safeguarding training continues, and it is important that there is full compliance with the three yearly requirement to redo training in the required courses. Reminders continue to be sent out.

So, we are happy to report that Christ Church remains fully committed to ensuring our vigilance: processes, training, commitments, transparency and encouragement are all in place and are all effective.

The PCC takes its responsibility to oversee safeguarding most seriously and safeguarding is always a standing agenda item on each PCC meeting.

We continue to emphasise that safeguarding is the responsibility of everyone in our church, and we must all remain vigilant about what may be going on around us, particularly in relation to older and vulnerable adults, and all youngsters, and report any concerns.

On Safeguarding Sunday in November the congregation was shown a helpful safeguarding video.

Several safeguarding information booklets on a range of subjects, including domestic violence that are published by our Parish Safeguarding Officers (PSOs) are readily available to all in the lobby at the church entrance.

We continue to encourage anyone who is aware of a safeguarding issue relating to themselves or others, or who witnesses anything, or has any safeguarding concerns to come and speak to the PSOs (Les and Maureen King) and/or the church leadership. They will be listened to with empathy, patience and compassion, and confidentiality will be fully respected wherever possible.

Christ Church's 'Safeguarding Pledge' is strong and is published in a leaflet also found in the church entrance lobby, and we can assure Church members that we will remain vigilant on all safeguarding matters during the coming year.

Church Governance - PCC Secretary Caroline Daniels

Christ Church, Epsom Common, is an Anglican Church in the Diocese of Guildford. The postal address is: Christ Church, Christ Church Road, Epsom KT19 8NE. Registered Charity number: 1127945.

The Parochial Church Council (PCC): Under Church of England legislation, the PCC is responsible for collaborating with the incumbent in promoting, in the ecclesiastical parish, the whole mission of the Church: pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical. Worship matters are for the incumbent. The PCC is responsible for these premises: Christ Church, its Church Hall and the Curate's house at 278 The Greenway, Epsom.

The PCC has complied with the duty under section 5 of the Safeguarding and Clergy Discipline Measure 2016 (duty to have regard to the House of Bishop's guidance on safeguarding children and vulnerable adults).

PCC membership during 2025-2026

Ex-officio PCC members and BRC members

Clergy	Vicar	Revd Canon Rosemary Donovan	Chair till Oct 2025
	Curate	Revd Esther Holley Hunt (NB Training/Maternity Leavex2)	From 07/22 till August 2026
	Associate Minister, OLM	Revd Sue Curtis	
	Reader; LLM	Berwick Curtis	
Church Wardens	PCC Designated CW for Premises. Missions	David Blacoe yr 1	Lay Vice Chair
	PCC Designated CW for Safeguarding	Fay Wedlake yr 4	Sequestrators in vacancy

Elected PCC members

Name	Year appointed	Additional Roles
Jane Williams	2020, 3 yr 2024	PCC Sec, BRC, Pastoral Team *Moved August
Caroline Daniels	Sept 2025	PCC Sec, BRC casual Vacancy
Andy Hards	2025, 3 yr	BRC Premises/Heat/NZC/Proj/Verger/Sacrosant NZSacrosanct
David Wedlake	2022, 3 yr, 2024	Christ Church United Rep, Tech
Gill Glasspool	2022, 3 yr	Deanery Synod, Children and Families
Leslie King	2023, 3 yr	Deanery Synod, Safeguarding Officer
ShirleyAnnDartnell	2023, 3 yr	Deanery Synod
Sofia Welsby	2024 August	CFW, Deanery Synod Elected Rep
Nigel Daniels	2021, 3 yr, 2024	Finance committee, Treasurer
Tom Ellinor	2023, 3 yr, 2024	Premises, Heating Team and NZC project
Tricia Crawford	2024, 3 yr	Administration, Website, Publicity

Annual Report for 2025 -2026

Together with: The statement of financial activities (SOFA) for the year ended 31st December 2025; The balance sheet as at 31st of December 2025.

Review of PCC Business from May 2025 - Caroline Daniels

Composition and Changes within the PCC

The Parochial Church Council (PCC) is composed of a total of sixteen members, which includes both the Incumbent and the Curate as well as two other ex-officio PCC members and the two Church Wardens. This year, however, saw significant changes in the council's structure due to personnel movements. Both the Vicar and the Curate moved on to new parishes, with the July meeting marking the final session chaired by the Revd Rosemary Donovan. Meanwhile, our Curate, Revd Esther Holley Hunt, was on Maternity Leave until May 2026 but has now left, to take up a new position, having completed her three-year extended Curacy at Christ Church. The PCC wish to express their sincere gratitude to Revd Rosemary Donovan for her vision, inspiration and leadership over the past 14 years, making Christ Church the vibrant and outward-looking community that it is now.

Andy Hards stood down as Church Warden having completed his six-year term and David Blacoe was appointed as the Second Church Warden in his place. Andy Hards was later co-opted onto the PCC considering his in-depth knowledge of the workings of the Church.

As PCC chairperson, the vicar nominated the vice-chairs, the two church wardens to alternate as Chair of the PCC meetings until a new incumbent was appointed. Furthermore, in September, the Hon Secretary, Jane Williams, resigned as she and her husband were relocating to the South Coast to be nearer family. Sincere and grateful thanks are extended to Jane for her dedication and efficiency as Hon Secretary over the past few years; she leaves a significant gap to be filled. Caroline Daniels kindly agreed to take on the role for the time being and was unanimously co-opted onto the PCC.

Committee Structure and Activities

The Committee convened five times throughout the past year, achieving an average attendance rate of 88%.

In addition, extra meetings were held specifically to address the Vacancy, each attended by the Archdeacon, where the council was presented with the option to 'Explore the Preferred Candidate Route, which could significantly expedite the appointment process for a new Vicar. After unanimous approval, the Church Wardens drafted a 'Statement of Needs' endorsed by the PCC and sent to the Archdeacon. The PCC then nominated two Church Wardens and one non-voting member to the interview panel with the Patron (The Bishop), Archdeacon, and Area Dean. The Interview was held in January, and the new Vicar was announced on February 8th 2026. The Diocese is carrying out building work on the vicarage, completion expected in the summer for the licensing of Revds Tom Hill on 27th August 2026 at Christ Church.

The PCC receives support from the Business and Resources Committee, which convened four times during the year. In addition to this, other groups met regularly, each comprising both PCC and non-PCC members. These groups focus on key areas such as Finance, Premises, Heating and the Net Zero Carbon Project, Missions and Giving, Evangelism and Outreach, Environmental/Eco matters, and the Children and Youth Support Team. All groups report to the PCC at regular intervals, ensuring seamless communication and oversight. Each group is chaired by a PCC member, promoting accountability and effective management of church staff.

Seven days in advance of each PCC meeting, the agenda is displayed on the church noticeboard (mandatory). To keep the congregation informed, the draft minutes of each meeting are also displayed on the PCC noticeboard.

Safeguarding is an agenda item at every PCC meeting. The whole church community is responsible for safeguarding. Les and Maureen King, Parish Safeguarding Officers and DBS Validators, have worked diligently to keep up to date with new developments and requirements. Fay Wedlake is the designated CW for oversight of safeguarding.

We spent time discussing the necessary maintenance to the church fabric.

The Scout Hall lease expires 31/12/2026 and discussions will shortly take place with the Scouts for the renewal of the Lease.

Considerable time was devoted to exploring development of the Church Pod, providing a servery and accessible toilet. This discussion is still ongoing.

Many discussions also took place regarding the cost feasibility and installation of Solar Panels on the roof of the Church. Andy Hards has spent a significant amount of time researching this and reports on this in more detail elsewhere in the report. We have also been researching alternative methods of heating the Church bearing in mind our current boiler is over 90 years old and is literally on its last legs.

Report on the Fabric of the Church and its other Properties

2025 – 2026, as at 4 March 2026

Prepared by Andrew Hards (premises committee chair) on behalf of David Blacoe and Fay Wedlake: Church Wardens.

Generally, the Church is in good condition but aging and deterioration of some of the construction elements mainly of the high level stonework and the heating system means that significant costly works are anticipated within the next few years. This is consistent with the age and construction of the church building, its services and boundary walls.

The periodic Quinquennial Inspection was carried out in August 2024 as in previous years by Robert Shaw, an architect approved by the diocese and registered in Conservation Architecture and Historic Buildings Consultancy. Robert commended the church on its devotion to upkeep and stated that on the whole the building and curtilage are in good order for its age and situation but did draw attention to the condition of the stonework and boundary walls.

The upkeep of the church, hall, grounds and 278 The Greenway (the Curate's house) are overseen by the small but dedicated Premises Committee. The Committee manages a planned maintenance programme to ensure that the small things are dealt with in a timely manner and record when everything has been completed. This includes routine items such as servicing and safety checks of heating installations, fire extinguishers, electrical installations and equipment, fire alarms, organ and woodworm checks. These are an important element of the Health and Safety of the church and hall.

As in previous years, many checks and repairs continued to be carried out in-house, saving considerable expenditure. The wardens would like church members to note the continued hard work, advice and dedication of Richard Martin, Roger Wedlake and Tom Ellinor who have helped with several technical problems.

Thanks must again go to the teams of volunteers who work hard and often unseen with the upkeep including the church cleaners, the flower team and the Merry Mowers who have evolved into a connected gardening group.

At the time of writing, a spring clean-up day is planned for 21st March. Thanks to all who are taking part.

Thanks also to Martin Shipton for continuing to deal with insurance issues. The church building is insured by the Ecclesiastical Insurance Group in the sum of £18.2M with a £ 500 excess. The hall is similarly insured for £ 3.66M with a £ 250 excess. EIG normally applies an inflation-indexed increase to these sums at this time of year. During the year there were no claims.

Main Church

Anticipated repairs: Stonework

As reported at the last APCM, parts of the stonework are clearly spalling, due to weathering and frost damage over the years mainly the high level gable end copings plus some more recent damage to lower areas most obviously the decorative moulding over the hall facing doors. The Quinquennial Report recommended that the PCC should organise remedial work within five years (from 2024).

The previous fabric report outlined and discussed the various repair options and confirmed PCC agreement to follow Robert Shaw's (the quinquennial architect) advice of a phased course of action.

Robert Shaw and Andrew Hards (premises committee chair) carried out an inspection on 4th. March to reassess the condition. They will draft a Statement of Need for inclusion in an application for DAC approval, discuss the works with and obtain quotations from suitable contractors who have already been identified. To quote Robert, we will then need to "draw breath" to explore funding and grant applications

Heating system and Net Zero Carbon Demonstrator Church

The previous report advised that the heating system is known to be of limited life, inefficient by more modern standards and sourcing boiler spares is problematic.

It went on to comment about Christ Church having been chosen as Net Zero Carbon Demonstrator Church and the 'stage one' funding made available towards professional fees relating to Net Zero project technical advice.

Several consultants were asked to submit fee proposals and the PCC chose Sure Consulting, a Leatherhead based team of engineering experts, who were approved by the Church of England NZC grants team.

With help from the NZC and heating team, Sure Consulting developed a plan for new non fossil fuel burning church and hall heating systems and a solar panel installation which together with already completed hall double glazing, formed the basis of our NZC Demonstrator Church award. The plan included investigation into the power requirement for electric based heating, the existing power supply and required upgrade.

Sure Consulting concluded that with intermittent use of the church, a 'heat the people not the building' approach is the most appropriate option and developed a proposal using overhead infrared (non-glowing) heaters. They advised that the existing hall heating could be adapted to work with an air sourced heat pump.

The existing power supply was found to be inadequate.

Sure Consulting asked UK Power Network to provide details and cost for the required new 3 phase supply. Unfortunately, the closest connection point is at Manor Green Road requiring extensive excavation and road works with a quoted cost of almost £290,000 (with VAT) The alternative would be a substation to pick up a high voltage cable under the car park but the cost is still over £180,000.

This has been taken up with the national NZC team and enquiries made to determine whether any grants might be available. The NZC team are still being supportive and have not excluded the church from the stage one grant award scheme.

Sure Consulting indicated that a lower capacity upgraded power supply suitable for a hall heat pump should be simpler and less costly so this will be investigated and the possibility of a less power demanding church heat pump revisited.

Development of a replacement church heating system is work in progress and possibly a hybrid NZC project will be required, a gas fired boiler with new heat pump ready plumbing might be one possibility, although gas fired boiler replacement now requires a full faculty application.

Solar power

Sure Consulting have obtained a proposal for solar panels along the south aisle roof from Titan Eco.

They are a local company who installed solar power at St. Georges Church Ashtead. The cost is in the region of £16,000, or £19,000 with battery storage. Grants should be available in addition to any NZC Demonstrator Church stage 2 funding.

Planning permission is required in addition to a faculty. Sure Consulting have quoted for a planning application submission. Our quinquennial architect has visited and will also provide a quote. These will be submitted to the NZC Demonstrator Church grant team for a stage one grant. If and when planning permission is obtained, a faculty application can be submitted, further quotations obtained and grants investigated.

The NZC Demonstrator Church stage one grant has funded Sure Consulting fees so far both for heating and solar power

Hospitality and accessible toilet project

A faculty application was made for the proposal prepared by Brendan Tracy architect.

Two formal objections were made. The Chancellor, who decides whether or not to approve applications, has agreed a 3 month stay on the application during which plans can be revised, objections discussed and DAC consulted.

A draft revised plan has been produced (by passing the original architect) of smaller dimensions so less intrusion into the worship area and not enclosing the stained glass windows. Hopefully this will address the objections.

When some further refinement and elevations have been completed, this will be presented to the church members.

Other Items

Regular servicing of the heating system, organ and organ blower plus safety checks of fire extinguishers were carried out, as normal.

The 5 yearly ECIR electrical safety check has been made.

The Hall

The previous report described the improvement scheme and thanked James Hunt for all his work.

There is little to report, although the flat roof and gutters over the covered patio have deteriorated and quotations are being obtained for replacement.

A new projector and screen are being installed, thanks to David Blacoe and Richard Martin.

The Grounds

The condition of the flint boundary walls was mentioned at the previous meeting and has been flagged up in the quinquennial report. Since the report, the condition of the leaning section with the brick buttresses has deteriorated to the point where it is unstable and needs to be rebuilt. Other sections require overhauling.

Quotations were obtained from Louis Stanley of Flintstones who has carried out previous repairs and were approved by PCC. The DAC gave approval. The planning department was consulted and the conservation officer has decided that a full planning application is required including architect plans, elevations and heritage statement. This has delayed the works, the quinquennial architect will process the application as the process is quite

complex and Jim Smith (a previous church member and a land surveyor) has offered to help with plans.

278 The Greenway (The Curate's House)

The alterations were detailed in the last two reports.

The house is now vacant and could be let, landlord gas safety and electrical ECIR certificates have been obtained, thanks to James Hunt for arranging this and making good the decorations. Some further decorative work has been carried out with help from church member Gerald Wisden.

A letting agent has visited, given a rental assessment and is ready to start marketing.

At the time of writing, the Wardens were awaiting further guidance and approval from the archdeacon on whether or not to start the letting process, bearing in mind the appointment of Tom Hill as the new incumbent.

It should be noted that the new Renters Rights Act prevents short term letting.

As a clergy house, notice can be served if there is a requirement by the owner to house a minister, however the minimum tenancy is still 12 months followed by 4 months to work through the notice procedure.

Report on the Goods and Ornaments 2025 -2026
David Blacoe and Fay Wedlake

The previous report mentioned the loan and disposal of some items.

Otherwise, there is nothing to report.

Deanery Synod Report - Gill Glasspool

Deanery Synod has met four times this year, sharing productive fellowship and ideas for the benefit of churches Deanery-wide. The first two meetings (May and July) were chaired by Revd Canon Rosemary Donovan. Following Rosemary's departure for Melbourne, Derbyshire, Revd John Marrow of All

Saints, West Ewell was elected Area Dean and two further meetings were held under John's chairmanship (October and January).

Christ Church was represented by our elected Synod members: Shirleyann Dartnell, Leslie King, Gill Glasspool and Sofia Welsby, with Revd Esther Hunt also in attendance before her maternity leave commenced.

The meetings consisted of a time of prayer and worship together, general Deanery notices, an update from the vicar hosting the meeting, and a topic for discussion/learning and feedback.

Via Zoom on Wednesday 21st May 2025

Worship and Introduction from Revd Canon Rosemary Donovan, Area Dean and Vicar of Christ Church, Epsom Common.

This was a shorter meeting to **set the scene for the coming year**. Churches were invited to provide a brief update about an initiative in their church they were thankful for and the meeting concluded with prayer for each of these.

The Christ Church Team reported that its children's work was growing, especially Bubble Church, and that the church was seeking to increase depth in discipleship. Topics from other churches included new members of all ages coming to faith (St. Mary's, Chessington), some congregational growth (St. Martin's, Epsom) and 19 nationalities regularly attending (Ruxley, Epsom).

Christ Church, Epsom Common on Tuesday 15th July 2025

Worship and Introduction from Revd. Canon Rosemary Donovan, Area Dean and Vicar of Christ Church, Epsom Common.

Led by Mat Ineson, Interim Director of Mission and Ministry, Guildford Diocese, the Synod focused on **the Parish Needs Process (PNP) and our churches' responses to this**. The goal of the PNP is to support parishes in identifying their top priorities for mission and growth over the next two years and to support the implementation of their plans. Bishop Paul attended to listen and help. He noted how encouraging it was that the focus on discipleship was being embraced around the diocese and praised the Deanery for its positivity and collaboration.

Mat summarised the individual church development plans (CDP) received. There were nine plans and 224 actions in total, focusing on the following areas of church life in particular: discipleship; children; communications; and generous giving. Clearly there was much synergy across the Deanery.

Synod members split into focus groups to discuss approaches for:

- Growing children's and family's ministry.
- Growing discipleship (including new leaders).
- Growing engagement with our communities (how we are serving them and inviting them into next steps for exploring faith).

A taste of the feedback:

Growing children's and family's ministry:

- All churches making a strong welcome.
- Some café-style, relaxed family worship (St. Mary's, Cuddington)
- Older children taking part in services by reading lessons/assisting (St. Martin's, Epsom)
- Connections with schools (St. Martins, Epsom; Christ Church, Epsom Common)
- Youth café (All Saints, Ewell)
- Toddler Group, Bubble Church and relaunching a Youth Group, meeting every other Friday (Christ Church, Epsom Common)

Growing discipleship (including new leaders):

- Churches to be expectant, looking for change and rejoicing in it.
- Overall desire for 'depth' and awareness of different learning styles.
- Setting up 'stepping stones' to go deeper e.g. home groups, study groups, prayer groups, hoping to establish a Christian book club. (St. John's, Stoneleigh)
- Talking Jesus course and knitted angel bombing! (St. Mary's, Headley/St. Andrew's, Box Hill)

- Running The Bible Project Course and Alpha which has led to new groups forming. (Christ Church, Epsom Common)

Growing engagement with our communities (how we are serving them and inviting them into next steps for exploring faith):

- Build as a music and choral venue (St. Martin's, Epsom)
- Community Choir (St. Mary's, Headley)
- Annual lecture on racial and social justice (St. Martin's, Epsom)
- Heighten visibility via website and at local events (All Saints, Banstead)
- Social Media outreach (St. John's, Stoneleigh)
- Communicating Church vision better and wider (new logo, banners, more active on social media) in advance of 150th Anniversary events (Christ Church, Epsom Common)
- Bereavement café (St. Mary's, Ewell)
- Accessible church for neuro-diverse kids (St. Paul's, Howell Hill)

Overall:

- go out to the community (media, building relationships, litter picking – be practical)
- provide a welcoming hub (café brand, comfortable space, everyone to feel included, music as an attraction, open church)

All Saint's, Banstead on Thursday 9th October 2025

Worship and Introduction from Revd. Kate Blake, Vicar of All Saints, Banstead.

Mat Ineson joined us again and shared a presentation on **discipling the middle-aged**.

Main messages:

From 2018 to 2024 statistics have shown an increase in people who say they believe in God with the exception of those aged between 45-63.

Those present discussed a myriad of possible reasons for why middle-aged people are participating less than other age groups in the current 'Quiet Revival' generally being seen in churches, e.g. care of children AND ageing parents; busy work life; people being set in their ways; distractions of modern living; media negativity about Christianity; experience of RE when at school. As a church, we expect people to come to us but this may not be practical for people with other pressing demands on their time.

Synod members suggested some positives of Christian faith for this group of adults: Christian 'Good News'; church can meet a need for people looking to belong; the opportunity for a new start and moving on; Christian life is a journey with a future; God has a plan for you no matter what age you are; being loved; authenticity.

It was agreed that our personal stories are really important when sharing the 'Good News'.

We reflected on the difference being a Christian makes to our own lives and representatives were encouraged to think about next steps for the middle-aged in our churches.

St. Mary's, Ewell on Tuesday 27th January 2026

Worship and Introduction from Revd Mark Stafford, Vicar of St. Mary's, Ewell.

John Simon, Treasurer, reported that each Parish would shortly be asked to contribute £75 to top up the Deanery bank account, currently holding £500 and used for expenses. This was the first funding request in six years.

Rachel Tooze, Head of Communications, Guildford Diocese addressed the Synod on **Communications in the Digital Age**. Her presentation considered the platforms churches are currently using – top three are Facebook (70% of churches are using this); YouTube (55%) and Instagram (40%).

Rachel provided information on the audiences using these platforms and suggested the type of content which worked most effectively on each e.g.

Facebook: faces; real moments captured; 'this week at church' round-ups; quotes/clips of sermons; live videos; adverts for key events/activities.

Instagram: behind the scenes of church life; pictures of people not buildings; stories – 'what's coming up today?'; reels (15-90 seconds).

Whatever we do needs to be done really well. It's best to focus on one channel.

Tips:

- Set achievable goals
- Set a routine
- Use templates
- Use a scheduler
- Try to experiment and explore

Rachel encouraged churches to experiment with Canva (a web-based graphic design platform) which offers easy-to-use templates and free features suitable for church communications. She also highlighted the benefits of using AI to refine written content and recommended promoting events through the website *A Church Near You*.

Statement of Financial Activities

Christ Church Epsom Common
Statement of Financial Activities for period from 1 January 2025 to 31 December 2025

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Endowment funds	Total funds	Prior year total funds
Incoming resources					
Incoming resources from generated funds	-	-	-	-	-
Voluntary income	£131,223	-	-	£131,223	£134,274
Activities for generating funds	£7,045	-	-	£7,045	£3,941
Investment income	£19,456	-	-	£19,456	£23,909
Incoming resources from charitable activities	£26,182	-	-	£26,182	£32,020
Other incoming resources	£2,869	-	-	£2,869	£4,856
Total income	**£186,776**	**-**	**-**	**£186,776**	**£199,000**
Resources used					
Cost of generating funds	£619	-	-	£619	£508
Cost of generating voluntary income	-	-	-	-	-
Fundraising trading cost of goods sold and other costs	-	-	-	-	-
Investment management costs	-	-	-	-	-
Charitable activities	£231,839	-	-	£231,839	£184,119
Governance costs	£123	-	-	£123	£97
Other resources used	-	-	-	-	-
Total expenditure	**£232,581**	**-**	**-**	**£232,581**	**£184,724**
Net income / (expenditure) resources before transfer	**(£45,805)**	**-**	**-**	**(£45,805)**	**£14,276**
Transfers					
Gross transfers between funds - in	£44,551	-	-	£44,551	£12,092
Gross transfers between funds - out	(£44,551)	-	-	(£44,551)	(£12,092)

Other recognised gains / losses					
Gains/losses on investment assets	(£1,030)	-	-	(£1,030)	£2,547
Gains on revaluation, fixed assets, charity's own use	-	-	-	-	-
Net movement in funds	**(£46,835)**	**-**	**-**	**(£46,835)**	**£16,823**
Total funds brought forward	**£577,167**	**-**	**-**	**£577,167**	**£560,344**
Total funds carried forward	**£530,332**	**-**	**-**	**£530,332**	**£577,167**
Represented by					
Unrestricted					
General fund	£102,946	-	-	£102,946	£110,160
Designated					
Church & Hall Fund	-	-	-	-	-
Curate's House Fund	-	-	-	-	-
Fixed Assets	£2,935	-	-	£2,935	£2,935
Living Well Fund	£424,002	-	-	£424,002	£463,423
Missions Appeals Fund	£449	-	-	£449	£649
Property Reserve	-	-	-	-	-
Vestments	-	-	-	-	-
Wells Fund	-	-	-	-	-
Restricted					
Agency collection	-	-	-	-	-
Holiday Fund	-	-	-	-	-
Total funds	**£530,332**	**-**	**-**	**£530,332**	**£577,167**

Christ Church Epsom Common
Balance Sheet detailed

Class and code	Description	As at 31/12/2025	As at 31/12/2024
Fixed assets			
1000	278 The Greenway	£2,935	£2,935
1100	Equipment	-	-
1200	Audio,Visual,Lighting	-	-
	Total Fixed assets	**£2,935**	**£2,935**
Current assets			
3200	Nat West Current account	£100	£100
3205	Nat West Reserve account	£25,244	£49,917
3220	Lloyds Bank Fees Account	£1,839	£1,839
3230	CBF Deposit Fund	£446,456	£446,356
3240	Investments	£46,289	£47,319
3260	Floats	£100	£100
3270	Sundry Debtors	£9,428	£29,550
Z05	Accounts Receivable	-	-
ZZZ08	Prepayments	-	-
	Total Current assets	**£529,455**	**£575,181**
Liabilities			
0	.	-	-
3650	Uncleared Cheques	-	-
3670	Hall Deposits	£1,000	-
3680	Utilities Creditor	-	-
3690	Sundry Creditors	-	-
6699	Agency collections	£1,058	£949
Z04	Accounts Payable	-	-
ZZZ09	Accruals	-	-
	Total Liabilities	**£2,058**	**£949**
	Net Asset surplus (deficit)	**£530,332**	**£577,167**

Reserves

	Excess/(deficit) to date	(£45,805)	£14,276
Z01	Starting balances	£577,167	£560,344
Z02	Gains/(losses) on investment assets	(£1,030)	£2,547
	Total Reserves	**£530,332**	**£577,167**

	Represented by Funds		
	General (Unrestricted)	£102,946	£110,160
	Designated	£427,386	£467,007
	Restricted	-	-
	Total	**£530,332**	**£577,167**

Financial Report – Nigel Daniels

During the year ending 31 December 2025, Christ Church received income, including legacies, of £186,776 (versus £199,000 in 2024) whilst expenditure totalled £232,581 (versus £184,724 in 2024). This resulted in a deficit of £45,805 (versus a surplus of £14,276 in 2024).

Analysis of the deficit shows that there was the investment in improving the Church Hall at a cost of £62,085 and a legacy of £24,837.

If the above 2 items are excluded, then the deficit becomes £8,557.

This shows that regular standing order donations and trading income from the Church Hall are insufficient to cover normal every day running costs. Therefore, we are using our reserves to cover the deficits as well as to fund the larger, irregular maintenance and improvement costs.

In 2026, it is anticipated that there will be necessary and costly repairs to the Church stonework.

The balance sheet at the end of 2024 records the total net worth of Christ Church as £530,332 compared with £577,167 at the end of 2024.

Planned Giving and Other Income

Christ Church is heavily dependent on voluntary financial contributions from our members, most of whom donate via standing orders through their bank, for which we are eternally grateful. Standing orders generated £72,064 (£77,568 in 2024). We were able to claim from HMRC a total of £19,168 in gift aid (£22,071 in 2024).

Planned Giving forms a major source of our income. If you have not already done so, please consider joining our Planned Giving Scheme.

One off donations totalled £8,019 (£26,220 in 2024), some of which was gift aided.

Income generated from Church Hall hire was £22,421 (£20,930 in 2024). In 2024 £10,096 was received from Little Hands Nursery for 2 terms. Hall improvements in conjunction with the efforts of our Office Administrator in promoting and managing the Hall hire, have effectively replaced much of the income lost from the Nursery.

Income from Church hire was £508 (£883 in 2024).

The Scouts have continued to pay rent of £2000 for the Scout Hut.

Investment interest on cash balances held with NatWest and Churches, Charities and Local Authorities Investment Management Limited (CCLA) amounted to £19,456 (£23,909 in 2024).

No rent was received for The Greenway as we had a Curate in residence until recently but hopefully we will be receiving rent during 2026.

Legacy income of £24,837 was gratefully received (£2,008 in 2024).

Legacy income has been vital in keeping our Church solvent during and following the covid crisis.

As mentioned above, our day to day spending and expenditure is in deficit so we need to utilise our reserves.

These reserves have largely been built up by legacy income and are steadily reducing. We ask you to kindly consider leaving a legacy in your will.

A gift to the Church is normally deducted from the value of an estate when inheritance tax is calculated thereby reducing the amount of inheritance tax payable.

There are some leaflets on legacy giving at the back of the Church. More information is available at www.churchlegacy.org.uk or by phoning the information line on 08445 870875.

It is always important to take independent advice over such matters.

Expenditure

Our Parish Share was £90,153 (£89,155 in 2024). This supports our clergy and ministry, as well as being part of the support to those parishes in the Diocese who are suffering from reduced income and are less well blessed with funds than ourselves. The Parish Share is expected to rise to £93,597 this year.

Salary costs were £26,309 for the Office Administrators and Youth and Families Worker (£19,841 in 2024).

Missions

Donations and emergency appeals to our Missions partners amounted to £5,200.

Funds

The General Fund at the year-end is £102,946 and the Living Well Fund (intended for repairs and capital projects) is £427,386. These will decrease after any expenditure on Church repairs and the Pod.

Investments

In November 2018, £30,000 was invested in the Charities Ethical Investment Fund (COIF) managed by Churches, Charities and Local Authorities Investment Management Limited (CCLA). This was valued at £46,289 at the end of 2025 (£47,319 at the end of 2024). Although this was an unrealised loss over the year of £1,030, overall we have seen an unrealised gain of £16,280 on the original investment, since 2018.

Unrealised gains and losses represent the movement in market values during the year and are credited or charged to the statement of financial activities based on the market value at the year end.

Statement of Financial Activities (SOFA)

These financial statements were approved by the PCC of Christ Church, Epsom Common on 16th March 2025 and signed on its behalf by the Vicar appointed PCC Vice Chair Church Warden David Blacoe as Christ Church was in vacancy.

The Income and Expenditure Analysis for 1 January 2025 to 31 December 2025 and proposed budget have not been included in this report. A print out or email copy of this report is available on request from PCC Secretary Caroline Daniels pcc@christchurchepsom.org.uk.

The accounts also do not incorporate the financial statements of the Vicar and Churchwardens' Trust, which handles the legacies from Eden and Dennis King and also Mildred Freeman.

Accounting Policies

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with Church Accounting Regulations 2006, together with applicable accounting standards and the SORP 2015. The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention. The financial statements include all transactions, assets and liabilities for which the PCC is responsible in law.

They do not include the accounts of church groups that owe their main affiliation to another body, nor those that are informal gatherings of church members.

Funds

Designated Funds are part of the unrestricted funds which the PCC has earmarked for a particular project or use, without restricting or committing the funds legally. The designation may be cancelled by the PCC if it later decides not to proceed or continue with the use or project for which the funds were designated.

Unrestricted Funds are General funds, which can be used for PCC ordinary purposes.

Incoming Resources

Voluntary income, including donations, gifts, legacies and grants are recognised when there is an entitlement certainty of receipt, and the amount can be measured with sufficient reliability. Investment income is recognised on a receivable basis. Income derived from events is recognised as earned and is accounted for gross.

Resources expended

Expenditure is recognised when a liability is incurred. Grants and donations are accounted for when paid over or when awarded if that award creates a binding or constructive obligation on the PCC.

The Diocesan Parish Share is accounted for when due.

Fixed Assets

Consecrated land and buildings and movable church furnishings

Consecrated and beneficed property is excluded from the accounts by s.96 (2) (a) of the Charities Act 1993. The curate's house is included at the original cost. No value is placed on movable church furnishings held by the churchwardens held in special trust for the PCC and which require a faculty for disposal, since the PCC considers this to be inalienable property. All expenditure incurred during the year on consecrated or benefice buildings and movable church furnishings, whether maintenance or improvement, is written off as expenditure in the SOFA.

Other fixtures, fittings and office equipment and individual items costing £5000 or less are not capitalised.

Payments to Trustees

There were no Payments to Trustees during the year other than for goods or services purchased by Trustees in the course of their duty on behalf of Christ Church.

Independent examiner's report to the PCC of Christ Church, Epsom Common UPDATE NEEDED

I report to the PCC (the trustees of Registered Charity 1127945) on my examination of the accounts of the charity for the year ended 31 December 2024, as set out on the pages attached.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity's trustees, you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ("the Act").

I report in respect of my examination of the Trust's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination, I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

Independent examiner's statement

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination which gives me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

- the accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act; or
- the accounts did not accord with the accounting records; or
- the accounts did not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair' view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination.

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

D C Slade

Douglas Slade
33 Pine Walk, Banstead, Surrey

7th April 2025

PARISH OF CHRIST CHURCH EPSOM COMMON

Registered Charity No 1127945

Minutes of the Combined Vestry and Annual Parochial Church Meetings

Held at 10am on Sunday 11 May 2025. Chaired by the Vicar, the Revd Rosemary Donovan Notes: The Annual Meetings were integrated with Parish Communion held publicly in church and live-streamed on Zoom (as approved by the Diocese).

Vestry Meeting Minutes for 11 May 2025

Election of Churchwardens

There were two nominations for the role of Churchwardens. Both were appointed.

Role	Nominee	Proposer	Seconder
Churchwarden 1st term	David Blacoe	Jane Williams	Gill Glasspool
Churchwarden 4th term	Fay Wedlake	Nigel Daniels	Jane Williams

Thanks were expressed and a gift was presented to Andy Hards for his diligence and hard work as Churchwarden over the past 6 years. Fay was thanked for her work and willingness to continue as Churchwarden. David Blacoe was congratulated on his appointment as Churchwarden and thanked for his willingness to serve.

Annual Meeting Minutes for May 11 2025

1. Attendance

The service was held in Church and live-streamed. 54 adults (age over 16) were present in Church, all were eligible to vote. 9 adults were present via zoom. Apologies were received from Jenny Breese, Shirleyann Dartnell and Jane Hards

2. Minutes of the Vestry and APCM, 21 April 2024, included in the 2025 annual report as circulated via website, weekly newsletter and hardcopy in church were approved.

3. Election of PCC members

The following nominee was appointed to this role:

Role	Nominee	Proposer	Seconder
PCC member (2nd 3yr-term)	David Wedlake	Nigel Daniels	Jane Williams

Thanks were extended to those willing to continue their PCC membership.

3. Appointment of other Key Roles

Douglas Slade, retired Chartered Accountant, was reappointed as Independent Examiner of the financial accounts for year ending December 2025.

Leslie and Maureen King were reappointed as Parish Safeguarding Officers and DBS validators. Martin Shipton was reappointed as Electoral Role Officer.

All were thanked for their work and willingness to serve

4. Vicar's Review Sunday 11 May 2025 *John 10:22-30*

The main themes to Rosemary's address were:

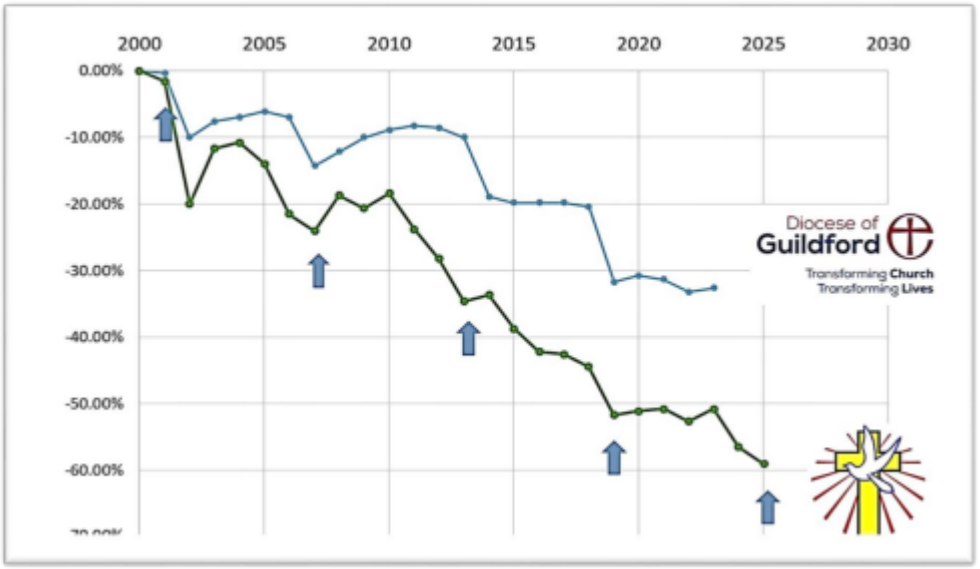
- Christ Church as a team working together
- Seeking to exercise Ministry personally in all aspects of our lives
- Growing in depth of faith as a congregation and personally

- Hoping for growth in numbers attending Church services and activities · Reflecting on Outreach in terms of Care and Service
- How are we responding to God's calling?
- We know that God will do amazing things through us in the coming year. Link to the full sermon in report.

5. Electoral Roll: Report by the Electoral Roll Officer, Martin Shipton.
The Church Electoral Roll is the foundation of the structure of synodical government in the Church of England and is governed by a set of rules passed by parliament known as the Church Representation Rules. They cover a lot more than just the ER.

Like its national counterpart The ER confers certain voting rights and it lists the names and addresses of all members, although only the names are publicly available. Only those who names are on the Electoral Roll are eligible for election to the PCC and Synods. Every 6 years these rules require the old roll to be scrapped and a new roll prepared. The process has to be completed a set time before the Annual Meeting and published. That exercise has been completed and we now have our new Electoral Roll.

Back in the year 2000 the Church of England started collecting good numerical data, buried within it are the electoral roll numbers for each Diocese, the figure below compares the total Diocesan ER numbers against our own church numbers.



This highlights that over the last 10 or 15 years the slopes of the two curves are very similar which indicates that the changes in Christ Church numbers broadly match the wider Diocesan trend. The second is to look at the blue

upward pointing arrows. These are the years where the ER has been totally renewed, as this year. Note the upward trend in numbers for the following year where folk have realised that they have not completed a form and joined the new ER before the deadline. There are a number who may have missed the deadline. It is not too late to join; you may join any time in the year. Forms are available at the back of the Church. The total membership for this year to 128; in the 2024 APCM the number was 137. 24 new people join the roll this year but in this past year several people have moved or just not yet signed up.

There have also been several deaths of members and former members of our Church Family and from our Electoral Roll:
Ron Byer, Mike Reeves, Ann Chandler, Pam Vonburg, Joan Stephenson, Devorah Burns All have been ER members for many years and made positive contributions to the good of Christ Church.
During the year we have heard of the death of several former members: Thelma Hearn, Eve Tovell, Joan Strickland, Vi Williams and Lindsey Collard. As has been our tradition the congregation was invited to stand to remember them. All are sadly missed and we thank God for our memories of them and all that they gave to us and the church.

6. Verbal Finance Report: Treasurer Nigel Daniels.

Nigel thanked the Finance team for their support and on-going work, mentioning Malcolm Channing, Assistant Treasurer, June Skinner, Chair of the Finance Team and Anne Sturton. Nigel also thanked Douglas Slade, Chartered Accountant, for his *pro bono* work as Independent Examiner. Nigel also thanked former Treasurer Alan Frame for his mentorship, friendship and guidance in succeeding to the role.

In summary Nigel stressed capital projects reduce the reserve funds from previous generous legacies. Funding repairs highlighted in the Quinquennial report on the building in summer 2025, expenses incurred in the necessary hall refurbishment will lead to a deficit in the region of £200,000, greatly impacting the financial reserves in the Living Well Fund. Nigel encouraged us to review our giving as the current giving barely covers the running costs of the church and hall and encouraged us to consider legacy giving. Leaflets available at the back of the Church.
Income year ending Dec 31 2024, including legacies, **£199,000** (versus £273,156 in 2023) **Expenditure £184,724** (versus £345,206 in 2023): a surplus over the course of the year of £14,276 versus a deficit of £72,050 in 2023.
Total net worth £577,167 (compared with £560,344 at the end of 2023)

7. Deanery Synod Report: included in Annual report

8. PCC Report: included in Annual Report

9. Annual Report on the Fabric of the Church and other Properties, and on the Church Goods and Ornaments: included in the Annual Report

10. Questions from the Congregation sent in advance

Question from Martin Shipton

I am grappling with the PCC membership for the year 2024 – 2025, Annual Report Page 14. The table shows 6 Ex-officio members and 10 elected PCC Members. My understanding is that elected Deanery Synod members are ex-officio members of the PCC, not elected members, thus leaving just 6 elected PCC members. For an electoral Roll size of 100 – 150 the Church Representation Rules indicative number is 12 elected lay members.
During the year what steps has the PCC taken to co-op to fill the space in PCC membership?

Answer from Rosemary

Whilst this is technically correct the BRC some time ago felt that to have a PCC membership of 12 elected members plus 3 Deanery Synod Plus Ministry team currently 4 + CW so 6 totalling 20/122 people was too much, that's nearly 1/3 of our ER. It's too unwieldy for decision majfgking (which is bad enough as it is!)
Consequently, we made the decision to count our DS members as part of the 12 thus reducing membership by 3 to make it slightly more manageable.
We are blessed to have 3 clergy so ratio of clergy to lay is 1:4 which feels ok and will obviously reduce when Esther moves on next year.
Thus our 12 elected lay members is made up of

- 2 CW (Fay/David) elected by this meeting
- 3 DS (Shirleyann / Les / Gill) again elected by this meeting
  (Sofia was also co-opted to Deanery at a Deanery Bi election as she technically lost her seat moving from Banstead to us – this will iron out next year when the Deanery members are elected for 3 years)
- 5 more elected members (Jane, Nigel, Tom, Trisha, David W,), co-opting Andy

In previous years we have co-opted people to PCC for a year to fill vacancies such as Gill, Tom and David were. If more candidates had come forward, we could have had a vote as also experienced in recent years. Alternatively, we could also decide to reduce PCC membership by

asking PTO MT members to step down which the PCC didn't feel was right. I am satisfied we have good lay representation on our PCC, and we shouldn't be beating ourselves up about this.

Rosemary offered to address any other questions relating to the annual report or church activities in a future 'talk-about' session in a couple of weeks, if there is a need. Please email Rosemary with your questions.

Jane Williams PCC Secretary 17/05/2025 ***RAD 21/04/25***

hhht

Christ Church Epsom Common

Analysis of income and expenditure plus budgets
Selected period: 01 January 2025 to 31 December 2025
Selected funds: All Funds

					Totals			
	Un-restricted	Designated	Restricted	Endowment	This year	Last year	This year's Budget	Next year's Budget
Income								
Incoming resources								
Incoming resources from generated funds								
4000 - Collections	6,083	0	0	0	6,083	5,301	3,500	5,000
4010 - Planned Giving	72,064	0	0	0	72,064	77,568	80,000	72,000
4020 - Donations	5,781	0	0	0	5,781	19,721	10,000	10,000
4030 - Donations Gift Aided	2,238	0	0	0	2,238	6,499	0	0
4040 - CAF Vouchers	540	0	0	0	540	540	540	540
4050 - Legacies	0	24,837	0	0	24,837	2,008	0	0
4060 - Interest	19,456	0	0	0	19,456	23,909	18,000	18,000
4090 - Gift Aid	19,168	0	0	0	19,168	22,071	22,500	18,000
4100 - Rental 278 Greenway	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	18,000
4135 - Wedding Collections	5	0	0	0	5	135	0	0
4145 - Funeral Collections	438	0	0	0	438	5	0	0
4150 - Baptism collections	70	0	0	0	70	426	1,000	1,000
4165 - Easy Funding	0	0	0	0	0	200	0	0
4170 - Events	7,045	0	0	0	7,045	3,740	3,000	7,000
Incoming resources from generated funds Totals	132,888	24,837	0	0	157,725	162,124	138,540	149,540
Incoming resources from charitable activities								
4105 - Church Income (Hire etc)	508	0	0	0	508	883	1,000	1,000
4110 - Hall Income	22,421	0	0	0	22,421	10,834	12,000	25,000
4111 - Scout HQ Lease	2,000	0	0	0	2,000	6,000	2,000	2,000
4115 - Little Hands	0	0	0	0	0	10,096	0	0
4120 - Refreshments	79	0	0	0	79	308	350	100
4125 - PCC Sundry Fees	205	0	0	0	205	0	0	0
4130 - PCC Wedding Fees	515	0	0	0	515	1,870	2,000	1,000
4140 - PCC Funeral Fees	454	0	0	0	454	2,030	1,000	1,000
Incoming resources from charitable activities Totals	26,182	0	0	0	26,182	32,020	18,350	30,100
Other incoming resources								
4190 - Other Income	240	0	0	0	240	365	0	500
4230 - Grant Income	2,629	0	0	0	2,629	4,491	0	4,300
Other incoming resources Totals	2,869	0	0	0	2,869	4,856	0	4,800
Incoming resources Grand totals	161,939	24,837	0	0	186,776	199,000	156,890	184,440
Income Totals	161,939	24,837	0	0	186,776	199,000	156,890	184,440
Expenditure								
Resources used								
Cost of generating funds								
5230 - Bank Charges	619	0	0	0	619	508	500	800

Cost of generating funds Totals	619	0	0	0	619	508	500	800
Charitable activities								
5050 - Parish Share	90,153	0	0	0	90,153	89,156	90,153	93,597
5100 - Clergy Car Expenses Vicar	445	0	0	0	445	414	450	300
5120 - Clergy other expenses Vicar	385	0	0	0	385	288	450	1,500
5130 - Clegy Tel Expenses Vicar	1,378	0	0	0	1,378	1,297	1,330	1,600
5140 - Clergy hospitality Vicar	150	0	0	0	150	105	300	300
5150 - Curate Expenses	676	0	0	0	676	716	1,000	0
5200 - Administrator	15,655	0	0	0	15,655	4,662	6,000	17,000
5203 - Administrator Pension	259	0	0	0	259	0	0	300
5210 - Ass Administrator	0	0	0	0	0	7,777	9,000	0
5220 - Payroll Expenses	151	0	0	0	151	127	145	170
5250 - Office Stationery	1,045	0	0	0	1,045	1,282	1,300	1,200
5260 - Office Telephone	1,385	0	0	0	1,385	3,824	1,308	1,500
5280 - Youth & Families Worker	10,283	0	0	0	10,283	7,322	10,296	11,000
5281 - Y&FW Training	70	0	0	0	70	0	0	0
5282 - Y&FW Expenses	120	0	0	0	120	0	500	500
5283 - Y&FW Pension	112	0	0	0	112	81	125	135
5290 - IT Costs (Subs etc)	865	0	0	0	865	894	720	1,000
5300 - Maint Vicarage	161	0	0	0	161	151	200	500
5310 - 278 Greenway Consumables	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	500
5320 - Insurance Greenway	698	0	0	0	698	673	700	750
5340 - Water Vicarage	746	0	0	0	746	562	576	900
5350 - Water Greenway	255	0	0	0	255	312	320	550
5400 - Training	60	0	0	0	60	710	400	500
5450 - Vicars Discretionary Fund	100	0	0	0	100	0	100	100
5460 - Stationery Books	0	0	0	0	0	56	0	0
5500 - Sundry Expenses	183	0	0	0	183	0	500	500
5510 - Events Expenses	2,282	0	0	0	2,282	1,731	1,000	3,000
6000 - Church Gas	1,969	0	0	0	1,969	4,699	5,000	4,200
6010 - Church Electric	2,301	0	0	0	2,301	2,108	3,000	2,500
6020 - Church Water	170	0	0	0	170	126	120	225
6030 - Church Insurance	6,304	0	0	0	6,304	5,798	5,250	7,000
6040 - Church Consumables	424	0	0	0	424	550	400	500
6045 - Baptism Expenses	0	0	0	0	0	164	200	200
6050 - Church Flowers	144	0	0	0	144	0	200	200
6100 - Organist Expenses	280	0	0	0	280	187	100	1,500
6110 - Church Music	217	0	0	0	217	528	500	500
6120 - Band Leader	4,000	0	0	0	4,000	4,000	4,000	4,000
6150 - Audio, Visual & Light	349	0	0	0	349	2,022	2,000	3,000
6160 - Organ Maintenance	510	0	0	0	510	1,272	1,000	1,000
6170 - Church Maintenance Fund	12	9,631	0	0	9,643	6,419	150,000	85,000
6180 - Hall Maintenance Fund	1,360	60,725	0	0	62,085	4,459	60,000	5,000
6200 - Junior Church	558	0	0	0	558	484	1,000	1,000
6210 - Youth Club	0	0	0	0	0	162	200	200
6300 - Hall Gas	844	0	0	0	844	2,014	2,500	1,900
6310 - Hall Electric	1,275	0	0	0	1,275	179	2,300	1,400
6320 - Hall Water	396	0	0	0	396	294	300	525
6330 - Hall Insurance	1,576	0	0	0	1,576	1,450	2,200	1,735
6340 - Hall Consumables	229	0	0	0	229	166	200	500
6350 - Hall Refreshment	141	0	0	0	141	148	200	200
6360 - Hall Cleaner	4,690	0	0	0	4,690	3,222	4,000	5,400
6380 - Office - Equipment	0	0	0	0	0	2,344	0	0
6390 - Ministry	331	0	0	0	331	256	300	300
6400 - Gifts and Grants	0	0	0	0	0	100	100	100
6500 - Publicity	1,381	0	0	0	1,381	0	500	1,500
6550 - Scout HQ Expenditure	-793	0	0	0	-793	1,832	0	200
6600 - Mission and Outreach Grants	0	5,200	0	0	5,200	5,400	5,000	5,000
6700 - Depreciation	0	0	0	0	0	11,599	0	0
Charitable activities Totals	156,283	75,556	0	0	231,839	184,119	377,443	272,187
Governance costs								
6395 - Safeguarding	123	0	0	0	123	97	395	250
Governance costs Totals	123	0	0	0	123	97	395	250
Resources used Grand totals	157,025	75,556	0	0	232,581	184,724	378,338	273,237
Expenditure Totals	157,025	75,556	0	0	232,581	184,724	378,338	273,237
Net Totals	4,914	-50,719	0	0	-45,805	14,276	-221,448	-88,797

Finance: Nigel Daniels Treasurer

Introduction:
During the year ending 31 December 2025, Christ Church received income, including legacies, of £186,776 (versus £199,000 in 2024) whilst expenditure totalled £232,581 (versus £184,724 in 2024). This resulted in a deficit of £45,805 (versus a surplus of £14,276 in 2024).
Analysis of the deficit shows that there was the investment in improving the Church Hall at a cost of £62,085 and a legacy of £24,837.
If the above 2 items are excluded, then the deficit becomes £8,557.

This shows that regular standing order donations and trading income from the Church Hall are insufficient to cover normal every day running costs. Therefore, we are using our reserves to cover the deficits as well as to fund the larger, irregular maintenance and improvement costs.
In 2026, it is anticipated that there will be necessary and costly repairs to the Church stonework.

The balance sheet at the end of 2024 records the total net worth of Christ Church as £530,332 compared with £577,167 at the end of 2024.

Planned Giving and Other Income
Christ Church is heavily dependent on voluntary financial contributions from our members, most of whom donate via standing orders through their bank, for which we are eternally grateful. Standing orders generated £72,064 (£77,568 in 2024) . We were able to claim from HMRC a total of £19,168 in gift aid (£22,071 in 2024).
Planned Giving forms a major source of our income. If you have not already done so, please consider joining our Planned Giving Scheme.
One off donations totalled £8,019 (£26,220 in 2024), some of which was gift aided.
Income generated from Church Hall hire was £22,421 (£20,930 in 2024). In 2024 £10,096 was received from Little Hands Nursery for 2 terms. Hall improvements in conjunction with the efforts
of our Office Administrator in promoting and managing the Hall hire, have effectively replaced much of the income lost from the Nursery.
Income from Church hire was £508 (£883 in 2024).
The Scouts have continued to pay rent of £2000 for the Scout Hut.
Investment interest on cash balances held with NatWest and Churches, Charities and Local Authorities Investment Management Limited (CCLA) amounted to £19,456 (£23,909 in 2024).
No rent was received for The Greenway as we had a Curate in residence until recently but hopefully we will be receiving rent during 2026.
Legacy income of £24,837 was gratefully received (£2,008 in 2024).

Legacy income has been vital in keeping our Church solvent during and following the covid crisis.
As mentioned above, our day to day spending and expenditure is in deficit so we need to utilise our reserves.
These reserves have largely been built up by legacy income and are steadily reducing . We ask you to kindly consider leaving a legacy in your will.
A gift to the Church is normally deducted from the value of an estate when inheritance tax is calculated thereby reducing the amount of inheritance tax payable.
There are some leaflets on legacy giving at the back of the Church. More information is available at www.churchlegacy.org.uk or by phoning the information line on 08445 870875.

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It is always important to take independent advice over such matters.

Expenditure.
Our Parish Share was £90,153 (£89,155 in 2024). This supports our clergy and ministry, as well as being part of the support to those parishes in the Diocese who are suffering from reduced income and are less well blessed with funds than ourselves. The Parish Share is expected to rise to £93,597 this year.
Salary costs were £26,309 for the Office Administrators and Youth and Families Worker (£19,841 in 2024).

Missions
Donations and emergency appeals to our Missions partners amounted to £5,200.

Funds
The General Fund at the year-end is £102,946 and the Living Well Fund (intended for repairs and capital projects) is £427,386 . These will decrease after any expenditure on Church repairs and the Pod.

Investments
In November 2018, £30,000 was invested in the Charities Ethical Investment Fund (COIF) managed by Churches, Charities and Local Authorities Investment Management Limited (CCLA). This was valued at £46,289 at the end of 2025 (£47,319 at the end of 2024). Although this was an unrealised loss over the year of £1,030, overall we have seen an unrealised gain of £16,280 on the original investment, since 2018.

Unrealised gains and losses represent the movement in market values during the year and are credited or charged to the statement of financial activities based on the market value at the year end.

Statement of Financial Activities (SOFA)

These financial statements were approved by the PCC of Christ Church, Epsom Common on XXXX 2025 and signed on its behalf by the.
The Income and Expenditure Analysis for 1 January 2025 to 31 December 2025 and proposed budget have not been included in this report. A print out or email copy of this report is available on request from PCC Secretary Caroline Daniels
pcc@christchurchepsom.org.uk.

The accounts also do not incorporate the financial statements of the Vicar and Churchwardens' Trust, which handles the legacies from Eden and Dennis King and also Mildred Freeman.

Accounting Policies
The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with Church Accounting Regulations 2006, together with applicable accounting standards and the SORP 2015. The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention. The financial statements include all transactions, assets and liabilities for which the PCC is responsible in law.
They do not include the accounts of church groups that owe their main affiliation to another body, nor those that are informal gatherings of church members.

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Funds
Designated Funds are part of the unrestricted funds which the PCC has earmarked for a particular project or use, without restricting or committing the funds legally. The designation may be cancelled by the PCC if it later decides not to proceed or continue with the use or project for which the funds were designated.
Unrestricted Funds are General funds, which can be used for PCC ordinary purposes.

Incoming Resources
Voluntary income, including donations, gifts, legacies and grants are recognised when there is an entitlement certainty of receipt, and the amount can be measured with sufficient reliability. Investment income is recognised on a receivable basis. Income derived from events is recognised as earned and is accounted for gross.

Resources expended
Expenditure is recognised when a liability is incurred. Grants and donations are accounted for when paid over or when awarded if that award creates a binding or constructive obligation on the PCC.
The Diocesan Parish Share is accounted for when due.

Fixed Assets
Consecrated land and buildings and movable church furnishings
Consecrated and beneficed property is excluded from the accounts by s.96 (2) (a) of the Charities Act 1993. The curate's house is included at the original cost. No value is placed on movable church furnishings held by the churchwardens held in special trust for the PCC and which require a faculty for disposal, since the PCC considers this to be inalienable property. All expenditure incurred during the year on consecrated or benefice buildings and movable church furnishings, whether maintenance or improvement, is written off as expenditure in the SOFA.
Other fixtures, fittings and office equipment and individual items costing £5000 or less are not capitalised.

Payments to Trustees
There were no Payments to Trustees during the year other than for goods or services purchased by Trustees in the course of their duty on behalf of Christ Church.

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Christ Church Epsom Common

Balance Sheet detailed

		As at 31/12/2025	As at 31/12/2024
Fixed assets			
1000: 278 The Greenway		2,935	2,935
1100: Equipment		-	-
1200: Audio,Visual,Lighting		-	-
	Total Fixed assets	**2,935**	**2,935**
Current assets			
3200: Nat West Current account		100	100
3205: Nat West Reserve account		25,244	49,917
3220: Lloyds Bank Fees Account		1,839	1,839
3230: CBF Deposit Fund		446,456	446,356
3240: Investments		46,289	47,319
3260: Floats		100	100
3270: Sundry Debtors		9,428	29,550
Z05: Accounts Receivable		-	-
ZZZ08: Prepayments		-	-
	Total Current assets	**529,455**	**575,181**
Liabilities			
0: .		-	-
3650: Uncleared Cheques		-	-
3670: Hall Deposits		1,000	-
3680: Utilities Creditor		-	-
3690: Sundry Creditors		-	-
6699: Agency collections		1,058	949
Z04: Accounts Payable		-	-
ZZZ09: Accruals		-	-
	Total Liabilities	**2,058**	**949**
	Net Asset surplus (deficit)	**530,332**	**577,167**
Reserves			
Excess/(deficit) to date		(45,805)	14,276
Z01: Starting balances		577,167	560,344
Z02: Gains/(losses) on investment assets		(1,030)	2,547
	Total Reserves	**530,332**	**577,167**

Represented by Funds

General (Unrestricted)	102,946	110,160
Designated	427,386	467,007
Restricted	-	-
Total	**530,332**	**577,167**

Christ Church Epsom Common
Statement of Financial Activities
For the period from 01 January 2025 to 31 December 2025

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total funds	Prior year total funds
Incoming resources				
Incoming resources from generated funds	-	-	-	-
Voluntary income	131,223	-	131,223	134,274
Activities for generating funds	7,045	-	7,045	3,941
Investment income	19,456	-	19,456	23,909
Incoming resources from charitable activities	26,182	-	26,182	32,020
Other incoming resources	2,869	-	2,869	4,856
Total income	**186,776**	**-**	**186,776**	**199,000**
Resources used				
Cost of generating funds	619	-	619	508
Charitable activities	231,839	-	231,839	184,119
Governance costs	123	-	123	97
Total expenditure	**232,581**	**-**	**232,581**	**184,724**
Net income / (expenditure) resources before transfer	**(45,805)**	**-**	**(45,805)**	**14,276**
Transfers:				
Gross transfers between funds - in	44,551	-	44,551	12,092
Gross transfers between funds - out	(44,551)	-	(44,551)	(12,092)
Other recognised gains / losses				
Gains/losses on investment assets	(1,030)	-	(1,030)	2,547
Gains on revaluation, fixed assets, charity's own use	-	-	-	-
Net movement in funds	**(46,835)**	**-**	**(46,835)**	**16,823**
Reconciliation of funds				
Total funds brought forward	**577,167**	**-**	**577,167**	**560,344**
Total funds carried forward	**530,332**	**-**	**530,332**	**577,167**
Represented by				
Unrestricted				
General fund	102,946	-	102,946	110,160
Designated				
Fixed Assets	2,935	-	2,935	2,935
Living Well Fund	424,002	-	424,002	463,423
Missions Appeals Fund	449	-	449	649
Restricted				
Total funds	**530,332**	**-**	**530,332**	**577,167**

There may be minor discrepancies in the totals if the pence are not being shown

Independent examiner's report to the PCC of Christ Church, Epsom Common

I report to the PCC (the trustees of Registered Charity 1127945) on my examination of the accounts of the charity for the year ended 31 December 2025, as set out on the pages attached.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity's trustees, you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ("the Act").

I report in respect of my examination of the Trust's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination, I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

Independent examiner's statement

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination which gives me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

- the accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act; or
- the accounts did not accord with the accounting records; or
- the accounts did not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair' view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination.

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

D. C. Slade

Douglas Slade
33 Pine Walk, Banstead, Surrey

2nd April 2026

THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF CHRIST CHURCH EPSOM

England & Wales - Charity number 1127945

Accounts

CHRIST Church Epsom Common

Annual Report 2024-2025

Prepared for distribution in advance of the Annual Parochial Church Meeting 11 May 2025



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Vicar's Report, Revd Canon Rosemary Donovan

Highlights of 2024-5

This past year has contained many memorable moments for me personally particularly in the year the Church of England was commemorating 30 years since the ordination of women to the priesthood. As Diocesan Advisor for Women's Ministry I was very pleased to produce a video and article that promoted Christ Church as having one of the first female priests in Guildford Diocese notably Canon Mavis Wilson and the latest to be ordained in our current curate Esther. I also led prayers at the Chrism Eucharist and organised a celebration afternoon tea for women in the diocese. Then in November I led the Mothers' Union All Souls service at Guildford cathedral was also installed as an Honorary Canon of the Cathedral and it was lovely to celebrate with representatives from our parish there.





Worship

We continue to give thanks to the many faithful and dedicated members of our congregation who do so much to facilitate meaningful acts of worship to the glory of God. All who set up the church, operate tech, welcome, read, lead prayers and music, offer hospitality, clean, arrange flowers, check the heating, the list is endless, and we are blessed to be part of such a committed and generous community.

It has felt like 5@5 has fully embedded now with some very special seasonal celebrations that included the young people organising a mini-Olympics and line dancing challenge as well as an apple bake off for Harvest. It truly is an all-age celebration; involving food and fellowship often café style to have a more relaxed informal way of worshipping that provides an alternative to the 10 am said or parish





communion.

Bubble Church has gone from strength to strength building up to twice monthly afternoon services which has welcomed many new families over the threshold. We have tried to incorporate elements of Bubble Church into morning services occasionally too and the puppets have proved highly popular. The Christmas Bubble Communion was a special opportunity to unite both congregations and we are hosting our first Bubble Baptism in the Spring.

The now regular summer outdoor worship (a very positive result of the Pandemic) continues to be popular and even had an outdoor Baptism this year. It was also good to welcome speakers from local organisations that are putting faith into action to challenge and inspire us. Bishop Paul, the new Bishop for Dorking joined us on Climate Sunday, to re-commission all our youth and children's volunteers and we were pleased to host the Civic service for our Mayor in September too.

We held a Fruits of the Spirit art exhibition as part of the Thy Kingdom Come wave of prayer with thanks to many of our talented home grown artists. We were delighted to see 2 young people and 3 adults confirmed at the Deanery service in West Ewell.





Eco

Throughout the Season of Creation members of the congregation shared eco initiatives to promote and encourage our on-going commitment to creation care such as water butts and composting as well as Councillor Steve Bridger from the Epsom Repair Cafe. Building on our current practice of outdoor acts of worship we intend hosting 4 seasonal sessions of Forest Church namely Spring: Dawn service; Summer: 5@5; Autumn: Creationtide and Winter: Campfire Carols. This year we have been pleased to have been identified as one of five churches in Guildford Diocese who will be national demonstrator churches able to access advice and grants to assist our commitment to Net Carbon Zero. To this end we are making improvements to draft-proofing the church and insulating the hall as well as upgrading to double glazing and installing solar panels.

Church Development

The PCC has continued to wrestle with increased need for improved facilities and decreased resources due to rising costs. We have been frustrated that plans for the

pod which will add accessible toilets and a permanent hospitality area to the north aisle are taking a long time to come to fruition. In the meantime, we have commissioned a refurbishment of hall facilities to improve space for our employees and for the hosting of discipleship events for both young people and adults.

Outreach

With Rosemary being Mayor's chaplain we have been more visible in our local community particularly at town centre commemorations of Armed Forces Day, the 80th anniversary of D Day and Armistice Day. Churches Together in Epsom in which we play a very active part continues to host an open-air service on Good Friday in the marketplace as well as other seasonal stalls for A Light Party at Halloween and Christmas that are great way of demonstrating our faith. We have maintained our links with local schools and the Epsom Common Association but will sadly miss our partnership with Little Hands Nursery following its closure in the summer. The Age Concern annual Christmas Concert has become a regular opportunity to reach out to many people who don't often attend church alongside the annual memorial service in conjunction with Longhurst funeral directors. Both these events saw the church packed and many commented on the warm welcome and spiritual atmosphere to be found here.

Social

The small but dedicated team who come up with ideas and facilitate the planning of a variety of differing social occasions would love to welcome new volunteers and that can just be to assist with a particular activity as so often it's all hands to the decks and we are grateful for this team ethos at Christ Church. The Spring fair was a great example of us all working together and many enjoyed the organ recital, bell tower tours and puppet shows alongside the many stalls and games, The sheer joy on the faces of proud dog owners when they won a rosette for their prized pup was fantastic to see. Equally the Bonfire party saw a lot of new faces coming onto our site to enjoy the blazing fire, dazzling fireworks and festive food. Small profits were made and the trip to Christ Church Oxford enabled us to participate in a same sex blessing as well as enjoy the delights of this college city.





Discipleship: Revd Sue Curtis

Disciples, in our context, are followers of Jesus. One can be a student who learns about the beliefs of Christianity without being a disciple - one who seeks to live the principles of Christianity in their context and their generation.

Discipleship is relational; courses and programmes can support this, but it is in essence more than that. Our discipleship should inform our identity and our relations with others, seeing all as loved children of God. The Anglican Church roots its beliefs and practices in Biblical understanding, tradition and reason.

Our vicar, Rosemary, supported by Esther, Sofia and the other members of the staff team, pastoral group, MU, prayer ministry and PCC do all they can to foster discipleship amongst new and established Christians, young and older people, those who are active in church, those with busy lives outside church and those who have become more housebound or frail. There is undoubtedly much we can develop but this has been an exciting year.

There have been adult and youth Alpha Courses in 2004. Both courses are being followed up by regular group meetings. Bubble Church is attracting young families, some of whom have not formally been involved in church previously. Peter, Hazel, David and I run long-established home groups. Paul and Denise are running a group monthly, which includes some people who are new to the Christian faith and/ or have been to recent Alpha Courses. During Lent a course was run in church. Esther took a lead on this. We explored what the Bible is, different genres and an overview of the Old and New Testaments. There was a listening course on Saturday 15th Feb run by the Prayer Ministry Team. As we develop as disciples and lead others to follow Christ, listening to each other, the sign of the times and the imperative to love God, the earth and all humanity is transformative.



In March, there was a Confirmation Service in the Deanery. It is exciting when we add those who are making this commitment as disciples to our church community, and we value their fresh insights.

It has been good to access an increasing programme of courses run by Diocese and Deanery, which have been attended by church members.

Tricia Coleman and Esther are planning to work with a team from Christ Church on a course called, ‘The Bereavement Journey’ in May/ June. We are looking forward to Tricia’s Commissioning as a Lay Associate Minister (LAM) on 5th July 2025 at Guildford Cathedral. We value her contribution to deepening discipleship at Christ Church.

Sofia is encouraging families and individuals to come to New Wine in the Summer.

The church owes a debt to all who contribute to our corporate life by their leadership, worship, musical contribution, prayer and presence, and the offering of their time, talents and resources.

We need to remain a place of welcome and inclusion, where questions can be asked freely and ideas shared honestly. This is the responsibility of all of us, as we learn and share together, joining in all that fosters breadth and depth within our church life. There is so much on offer through which we can share and learn together. We need to be committed to participating where we can. Our Christian calling is to embrace the transforming work of God in all we are, and all we do.

Children and Youth Worker's Report: Sofia Welsby



Began mid-April 2024 and has experienced nearly a full year of activities at Christ Church which has been a positive experience.

CC Kids

- meets on Sunday mornings during our 10am service. Young people of all ages meet for about 30min in the adjacent Parish Hall. We have a carpet set out with a mixture of toys, available as a mini crèche, for the very young children. During 2024 we used the Roots teaching material for the lessons, with an extract of a Bible text together with games and activities relating to it. From 2025 we have gone back to basics and are now doing a classic children's Bible story each Sunday, currently from the Old Testament, but will move on to Easter stories during Lent. This has proved popular with good attendance for our Sunday mornings. We also do some game or activity as well as the story during this session. Gill and Katherine continue to be great supporters of CC Kids, along with Will, Olivia and Regina. Thank you.

CC Youth

- meets on Sunday evenings from 5-7pm, generally in the upper Hall. It is aimed for young people aged 12-18 years old. When I joined the youth group was run by our vicar Rosemary, who was preparing the young people to get confirmed. They did that by watching various youth alpha videos and talking about the topics. We have about 12-15 teenagers of varying ages who could come to youth group. The aim is just to find the right time, activities and friendship dynamics that will suit all of them, to make them want to turn up, amongst all the other activities that they take part in. When few people attend, it does not feel much of a group, and it is difficult to get it all going. Some of the teenagers help with Bubble Church, which then makes it a long session if they stay on for youth group afterwards. Also, some families do not have access to transportation, so during the darker part of the year, it might not be so appealing to walk to and from youth group in the wet and the dark. Things might change as we approach spring and summer.

Many of the teenagers come to church on Sunday mornings with their family and younger siblings and hence come along to Sunday school. I am planning on conducting a survey to the youth and their families, to ascertain which days and times of the week they would prefer for the youth club to be and what activities they would like to do.

The format I have adapted since the autumn has been 30 minutes of faith input (we did fruits of the spirit last year and God's blessings this term) followed by the choice of games, pool, an activity relating to the earlier input, or just socialising with their friends for the remaining 1.5hrs. Refreshments are served during the evening too.

Since the autumn we have focused on trying to make the upper hall more appealing and welcoming for young people and other visitors to the upper hall. Our aim is to make the space more homely and loungey feeling; somewhere you would like to invite your friends to come and 'hang out'. Sadly, it all costs money so we have tried to do some various fundraising activities and applied for grants from different places to make this happen. It is still an on-going process.

Another initiative we have started is to collaborate with other churches and youth groups in the Deanery. The idea is that we are lots of small groups of youth and it is nice to meet up with each other, to see that there are other young people who also go to church, that you might recognise from school or other clubs that they go to, but not realising they were Christians too. We went 10-pin bowling in December, we had a joint film night in January, and we will have a worship service 2nd March, followed by crazy golf in April. I am pleased with this initiative, and we hope that it will be fruitful. We are also keeping up to date with events and activities that the Diocese-led Youth Catalyst Project is offering to the young people across the Diocese.

Finally, our great young people continue to take an active role at our 5@5 and other less formal services. The congregation appreciates them being there and it helps the young people to grow in leadership skills, which we are trying to encourage.

Youth Alpha/Youth Home Group

In the autumn, on the back of the Adult Alpha group, Esther initiated the start of a Youth Alpha group that I assisted at. We had 6 attendants, and it was interesting, and it gave the young people food for thought.

Following on from that, in the New Year we started a Youth Home Group that meets twice a month at church (not in anyone's home). So far, we have used a material called Think Tank with covers free-standing topics, a modern-day text and questions, followed by a related bible passage and questions for discussion after that.

It is early days, but the format might be tweaked later. Personally, I think Home groups are very important for all age groups in a healthy and thriving church.

I am helped by a lovely group of volunteers for both the Youth Home group and CC Youth. I am very grateful for their valuable support

Bubble Church

- continues to be a joyful success since its start in January 2024.

With increasing numbers of families and a large team of volunteers we went to twice a month in September 2024. At present we have over forty families who are on our register. 10-15 families attend an average service.

The children are so joyful and engaged, especially with the action songs and the ‘God Spot’ when they’re invited to come up and pray a thank you prayer. Bubble Church encourages the family to worship together and equip families to grow in faith at home. Subsequently, some parents have joined our Alpha courses and are seeking to go deeper in faith themselves.



We have a wonderful team who help everything run smoothly and offer such a warm welcome to families. We continue to pray God will bless this service and all the young families who attend.

Christ Church and the local Schools

We are getting on well with all our local schools, but it is relationships that we want to keep building on. In 2024 the Christ Church leadership team participated in leading regular assemblies at Southfield Park School. In the autumn we had year-2 school visits to our church from both Southfield Park and Stamford Green School, looking at the church and talking about ‘giving’ at church.

Kingswood House School continue to use our church for end of term services/ assemblies/ concerts and all three schools came to us for their Nativity services in December. The events were very well attended.

We also had an open evening at church where staff, students and parents from Rosebery School could attend for prayers, message of condolences and lighting candles following the murder of one of their teachers.

Events and Young Christmas

The youth club started the autumn term with a big BBQ at the vicarage, for all the youth and their families. It was a fun and well attended evening. A special thank you to Craig who was the evening’s grill-master.

At the first weekend in November, we had a Bonfire event, with a big bonfire and fireworks, again kindly hosted in the vicarage garden, followed on by refreshments and children’s activities in the church hall. After a slow start to ticket sales, we were later overwhelmed by attendants, following Tricia’s promotional social media magic. It was a great community event that was very well received.

Our youth upper hall refurbishment project was financially boosted by Christ Church’s first Christmas tree sale in the church car park, in conjunction with Young Ones United Football Foundation & Trees for Youth. It was a first collaboration for both parties, but it was a promising start that we hope will turn into an annual event.



The Posada started on the first of Advent with the figures of Mary, Joseph and a newly knitted donkey (Thank you Wendy) from our church nativity set on a journey, with 24hr stop-overs at different members of the congregation and schools, who volunteered to take part as hosts during advent. The journey ended for the Holy couple

when they reached the stable at our Crib service on Christmas Eve. It was a good activity, with people taking part from regular congregation and families associated with Baptisms, Bubble Church, Wheels and Squeals families, Kingswood House and Stamford Green schools also taking part. I hope this will be an annual event.

All-age family services We had one on the Sunday before Christmas and two Crib services on Christmas Eve, all featuring puppets from Bubble Church. It was the first time the wider congregation got a flavour of what puppet sermons were like. It went down very well.

Uniformed groups (the Scouts)

It was a bumpy year for our uniformed group relations, as we were working on getting a new lease agreed and signed for the rental of the premises. We did however have a joint service at our church for St George's day, with young people from different groups taking part up at the front. It was an enjoyable event. Things are now sorted re paperwork and good relationships are continuing.

CC United Football club

- is up and running again at Stamford Green School, after having had to leave their old training grounds at Blenheim School. David Wedlake can give further information as the Christ Church link person.

Pastoral Care: Sue Matthews and Jo Woolfe

The Pastoral Care Team continues to meet every 6 weeks to review and respond to Pastoral needs. The Ministerial team, Parish Safeguarding Officers attend the meetings, in addition to the lay members of the pastoral team. Prayer for those in need has continued through the prayer chain and intercessions in services. Prayer ministry is offered after the morning service, with at least two people available, who will pray with you, respecting confidentiality. All members of the prayer ministry team are trained and meet regularly with Rosemary for on-going training and support. The Tea Club meets quarterly. The Baptism team continue to work with families in preparation for, and after baptism. The weekly emailed Parish newsletter outlines how to seek pastoral support. Visits to those who have been bereaved or unwell during the year, taking small homemade Christmas cakes, gifts and cards are another much appreciated part of our pastoral care. Future plans for extending support to the bereaved are currently being considered: the Just Listen! Course will be a foundation for this & an Acorn Prayer Ministry course is being planned also. Talking to and welcoming new people coming to services are an important part of our pastoral ministry. We welcome everyone, including those seeking a baptism for children or themselves, couples wanting to get married and people attending due to bereavement. We try to be responsive to their needs and introduce them to a member of the clergy at the end of the service. All members of the team are trained by the Guildford Diocese and also attend update courses including Domestic Abuse Awareness and Safeguarding Leadership. Current team members are Pastoral Assistants: Sue Matthews; Tricia Coleman, Jo Wolfe Pastoral Secretary and Pastoral

Visitor Jane Williams. More people are much needed for these roles. If you would like to join the Pastoral team or the Prayer Ministry team please speak to Sue Matthews.

Missions: David Blacoe

Christ Church continues its budgeted Missions Giving through five funded charities, which are supported for a five year period and have a dedicated Mission Champion. These are:-

- The Children's Society
- Christian Solidarity Worldwide (CSW)
- Spinnaker
- UNiViDa
- Vision Peoples in Mission (VPM)

Additionally one of the functions of the Missions Committee is to identify and request PCC approval to support charities requiring urgent funding from the Mission Emergency Fund. This year we distributed the following payments:

- £200 – VPM emergency feeding appeal
- £300 – Tearfund emergency appeal for the Democratic Republic of Congo

This year's collections at our nominated services (Harvest & Christmas) for specific charities were:

- At the Harvest service, £150 was collected for the Farming Community Network.
- At the Christmas Crib services, £608 was collected for Shelter.
- At the Christingle service, £54 was collected for The Children's Society.

During the year, we have been able to support our Charities through special presentations at the Sunday Communion service, to encourage personal commitment. We were fortunate to have contributions from both CSW and UNiViDa, who sent a special video illustrating the on-going need for pumps to manage flash floods and thanking Christ Church for support and prayers. We are encouraged and grateful for dedicated sermon slots to promote the work and needs of our Mission Partners.

As well as activities related to our funded Mission Partners, as a church we have supported our Missions Partners who no longer receive funding from our church budget, including the Christmas hamper collection for The Besom, and the Lent Appeal for the Bishop of Guildford's Community Fund. However we have been advised that the local Besom unit can no longer support the Epsom area, so there is no current link with Christ Church. An alternate local charity will be proposed for Advent.

Once again, we thank Christ Church PCC and congregation for their continued support for the Missions Group.



Safeguarding: Leslie King, Parish Safeguarding Officer

The last year has been a very difficult time for the Church of England with regards to safeguarding. Safeguarding failings have been considered so serious that the Archbishop of Canterbury had to resign. Some have also argued the Archbishop of York should also resign over an apparent safeguarding issue when he was a Bishop.

The issue of safeguarding filled much of the February General Synod discussions. This ended with a move towards there being a totally external and independent safeguarding system but acknowledging that would take time to set up. Meanwhile Diocesan Safeguarding Officers will still be in place at the Diocesan level while work on constructing a totally independent system for safeguarding, as many wanted to happen immediately, would be the ultimate aim.

The Makin report (into the behaviour of John Smythe); the Scolding report (into the behaviour of Mike Pilavachi (leader of the Soul Survivor event); and the Jay report (into the effectiveness of safeguarding within the church) were all very critical of the Church of England's performance relating to safeguarding.

While most of this has been going on at the national level, it is a reminder to us at Christ Church of the pivotal importance of safeguarding within our own environment.

We have fully committed ourselves to ensure our vigilance: processes, training, commitments, transparency and encouragement are all in place and are all effective. The PCC has a responsibility to oversee safeguarding, and it is always a standing agenda item on each PCC meeting.

Over and above that, we all must recognise that safeguarding is the responsibility of *everyone* in our church. We must all remain vigilant about what may be going on around us, particularly in relation to older and vulnerable adults, and all youngsters, and report any concerns.

On Safeguarding Sunday in November there was an in-depth talk on the difficult and challenging subject of domestic violence. This showed we are committed to facing up to the hard issues. Several helpful information booklets on that have been published by Christ Church and are available to all in the lobby at the church entrance.

Christ Church is totally committed to encouraging anyone who is aware of a safeguarding issue relating to themselves or others, or witnesses anything, or has

any safeguarding concerns to come and speak to the Parish Safeguarding Officers (Les and Maureen King) and/or the church leadership. They will be listened to with empathy, patience and compassion. Our safeguarding pledge is strong and is published in a leaflet also found in the church entrance lobby.

Over the past year there has been one safeguarding issue reported to the PSOs (not against a church member at Christ Church) which was reported to the Diocesan Safeguarding Officer for investigation.

Our main emphasis for the coming year is on ensuring as many folk as possible are trained in the Basic and Foundation courses on safeguarding and assisting those who have difficulty completing these courses online. This also involves ensuring that those who have already been trained take the necessary refresher training. We are also concentrating on ensuring all relevant volunteers and leaders have been DBS checked (note: A Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) check, is a system that helps employers make safer recruitment decisions), and that their certification is up to date.

Church Governance: Jane Williams PCC Secretary

Christ Church, Epsom Common, is an Anglican Church in the Diocese of Guildford. The postal address is: Christ Church, Christ Church Road, Epsom KT19 8NE. Registered Charity number: 1127945.

The Parochial Church Council (PCC): Under Church of England legislation, the PCC is responsible for collaborating with the incumbent in promoting, in the ecclesiastical parish, the whole mission of the Church: pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical. Worship matters are for the incumbent. The PCC is responsible for these premises: Christ Church, its Church Hall and the Curate's house at 278 The Greenway, Epsom.

The PCC has complied with the duty under section 5 of the Safeguarding and Clergy Discipline Measure 2016 (duty to have regard to the House of Bishop's guidance on safeguarding children and vulnerable adults).

PCC membership during 2024-2025

Ex-officio PCC members

Clergy	Vicar	Revd Canon Rosemary Donovan	Chair
	Curate	Revd Esther Holley Hunt	From 07/22
	Associate Minister, OLM	Revd Sue Curtis	
	Reader; LLM	Berwick Curtis	
Church Wardens	Chair Premises	Andrew Hards yr 6	Lay Vice-Chair
	PCC Designated CW for safeguarding	Fay Wedlake yr 3	

Elected PCC members

Name	Year appointed	Additional Roles
David Blacoe	2023, 3yr 2024	Premises, Heating ,NZC project, Missions

David Wedlake	2022, 3 yr	BRC, Christ Church United Rep
Gill Glasspool	2022, 3 yr	Deanery Synod, Children and Families
Jane Williams	2020, 3 yr 2024	PCC sec, BRC, Pastoral Team
Leslie King	2023, 3 yr	Deanery Synod, PCC Safeguarding Officer
Nigel Daniels	2021, 3 yr 2024	Finance committee, Treasurer
Shirleyann Dartnell	2023, 3 yr	Deanery Synod
Sofia Welsby	2024 August	CFW, Deanery Synod Elected Rep
Tom Ellinor	2023, 3yr 2024	Premises, Heating Team and NZC project
Tricia Crawford	2024, 3 yr	Web site, Publicity

Annual Report for 2024 -2025

Together with: The statement of financial activities (SOFA) for the year ended 31st December 2024; The balance sheet as at 31st of December 2024

Review of PCC business from April 2024: Jane Williams

The PCC met 7 times following the 2024 APCM, with average attendance of 82%.
The PCC is supported by the Business and Resources Committee (the required standing committee with some additional delegated powers). The BRC has met on 5 occasions. Other groups met regularly, (each including PCC and non-PCC members), dealing with: Finance; Premises; Heating and Net Zero Carbon Project NZ; Missions and Giving; Evangelism and Outreach; Environmental/ Eco and Children and Youth Support Team. All report to the PCC at regular intervals. Each group is chaired by Revd Canon Donovan or a PCC member.
Seven days in advance of each PCC meeting, the agenda is displayed on the church noticeboard (mandatory). To keep the congregation informed, a summary of each PCC meeting is circulated in the following week's Parish email newsletter. This is also displayed on the PCC noticeboard along with draft minutes of each meeting.
Safeguarding is an agenda item at every PCC meeting. The whole church community is responsible for safeguarding. Les and Maureen King, Parish Safeguarding Officers and DBS Validators, have worked diligently to keep up to date with new developments and requirements. Fay Wedlake is the designated CW for oversight of safeguarding.

We spent time discussing the necessary maintenance to the church fabric, issues related to the Scout Hall lease which are now fully resolved with a satisfactory outcome for both parties. The current lease expires 31/12/2026. Considerable time was devoted to exploring development of the Parish Hall and a Church Pod, providing a servery and accessible toilet. We continue to investigate the Pod Development and ask for prayer for discernment to follow the right path to enhance worship and community outreach.

Sadly, Little Hands Nursery ceased to operate from July 2024. This gave an opportunity to refurbish the Parish Hall, completed March 4, 2025. PCC expressed thanks to James Hunt for overseeing the project and for the very reasonable cost of the works, especially of complete windows and external doors replacement.

Tricia Crawford, a PCC member and long-standing member of Christ Church, is now working 25 hrs. /wk. over 4 days as the sole admin officer. We expressed our grateful thanks to Laura Sims and Laura Taylor for their valued work in the office. Both left during the year to more enhanced roles.

All PCC members attended an Away-Day held at The Octagon Room, St Mary's Church, Headley in November. This proved a valuable time for reflection on the way forward in terms of worship, personal growth in our faith, community engagement and in growing the Kingdom of God on Earth.

In January a group also attended a Diocesan Study Day on Outreach and Discipleship, with a focus on communicating our own personal faith journey to friends, family, our congregation, and people we meet.

Report on the Fabric of the Church and its other Properties - Andrew Hards, Fay Wedlake - Church Wardens

Introduction

Generally, the Church is in good condition but due to aging and deterioration of some of the construction elements, mainly of the high-level stonework and the heating system, significant costly works are anticipated within the next few years. This is consistent with the age and construction of the church building, its services and boundary walls.

The periodic Quinquennial Inspection was carried out in August 2024, as in previous years, by Robert Shaw, an architect approved by the diocese and registered in Conservation Architecture and Historic Buildings Consultancy. Robert commended the church on its devotion to upkeep and stated that, overall, the building and curtilage are in good order for its age and situation but drew attention to the condition of the stonework.

The upkeep of the church, hall, grounds and 278 The Greenway (the Curate's house) are overseen by the small, but dedicated Premises Committee. The Committee manages a planned maintenance programme to ensure that small things are dealt with in a timely manner and record when everything has been completed. This includes routine items such as servicing and safety checks of heating installations, fire extinguishers, electrical installations and equipment, fire alarms, organ and woodworm checks. These are an important element of the Health and Safety of the church and hall.

As in previous years, many checks and repairs continue to be carried out in-house, saving considerable expenditure. The wardens would like church members to note the continued hard work, advice and dedication of Richard Martin also Roger Wedlake and Tom Ellinor who have helped fix several technical problems e.g. the hearing-aid loop, organ console and projector.

Thanks, must again go to the teams of volunteers who work hard and often unseen with the upkeep including the church cleaners, the flower team and the Merry

Mowers who have evolved into a “What’s App “connected gardening group. An autumn clean-up day on 9th November was well attended. Thanks to all who took part.

Thanks also to Martin Shipton for continuing to deal with insurance issues. The church building is insured by the Ecclesiastical Insurance Group in the sum of £17,950,000 with a £500 excess. The hall is similarly insured for £3,333,000 with a £250 excess. EIG normally apply an inflation-indexed increase to these sums at this time of year. During the year, there has been one claim on the policy relating to a collapsed drain.

Main Church

Anticipated repairs - Stonework

As reported at the last APCM, parts of the stonework are clearly spalling, due to weathering and frost damage over the years mainly the high level gable end copings plus some more recent damage to lower areas most obviously the decorative moulding over the hall-facing doors. The Quinquennial Report has flagged up the need to set up a project for remedial work as soon as possible.

Set out below is an extract from the report outlining possible options

4.08 The PCC should organize remedial work within the coming five years. There are four options:

a) To lift and replace the existing stone copings, with new stones, of matching origin and profile, as a like-for-like process.

b) To retain the deteriorating stonework and to clad it with lead sheet as protection and weathering

c) To remove all loose and crumbly stones and to replace only those currently damaged and decayed.

d) To remove all loose and crumbly surface and to make good with lime-based render, as a “plastic” repair.

4.09 Considering these options - in reverse order,
d) is too short-term and would be considered on a Grade 2 building as akin to bodging.
c) would necessitate full scaffolding access and mechanical lifting equipment. It would resolve only the currently deteriorated stone but the remaining stone (qv 4.07) would probably require replacement before too long. It is also likely that removal of intermediate stones from a coping line would disturb the bedding and pointing of the retained stones.
b) involves full scaffolding but not the lifting equipment, stone sourcing and cutting. And is not cheap, but has proved satisfactory, and acceptable in Faculty/DAC/Heritage terms elsewhere.
a) would be ideal, but also the most expensive and lengthy process.
4.10 Pictures of lead-clad coping stones on another Listed Victorian church




As reported at the last APCM, the PCC has previously been advised of the problem and agreed to follow Robert's earlier suggested likely future phased course of action. This involves assessing the degree of damage and drafting a Statement of Need (both already considered by Robert and Andy) for inclusion in an application for DAC approval. Obtain quotations for the most feasible options, with provision for inflation (potential contractors have been identified), and then in Robert's words "draw breath" to consider funding and grant applications.

Obviously, the options will need further consideration and discussion with contractors.

Heating system and Net Zero Carbon Demonstrator Church

The 2024 report advised that the heating system is known to be of limited life in terms of the boiler, radiators and pipework and is inefficient by modern standards. Problems have occurred obtaining spare parts.

A heating team was set up to investigate alternative replacement installations; ways of making the best of the existing system; and other items such as draught proofing. As a result of some in-house fettling, the system is now running as well as it can. Particular thanks to Roger Wedlake and Richard Martin. Recent changes to the faculty system mean that replacement gas boiler installation now requires a full faculty and there are reports that some churches are encountering problems with this.

As reported at the last APCM Christ Church applied to be chosen as a Net Zero Carbon Demonstrator Church. This is a national scheme and for successful applicants, ultimately opens up potential funding for projects to help churches achieve "Net Zero Carbon (NZC)". This includes heating systems and solar panel (PV) installations; the scheme applies to both the main church building and hall.

Christ Church reached "stage one", having been chosen as one of five churches in the Diocese to go forward, from over twenty applicants. Stage one gives access to a Technical Advisory Service, free Fundraising Consultancy support and a cash grant of up to £15,000 + VAT towards professional fees.

The heating team has gradually evolved into a heating and NZC group. The team has obtained fee proposals from two specialist companies (Sure Group and Inspired Efficiency) which should qualify for stage one grant funding and help the church move towards a project proposal that would qualify for stage two funding of up to £50,000 towards actual works. We are being helped by the Diocese and national

NZC church teams. This includes fund-raising advice. A fund-raising workshop will be run at church on May 21st - all welcome with no obligation to get heavily involved.

NZC demonstrator churches must agree to be potential published case studies. We are to some extent guinea pigs in a pilot scheme to help the Church of England achieve its aim of net zero carbon by 2030.

Hospitality and accessible toilet project

At the time of writing the DAC had approved the architect's plan for the next stage in the faculty application process, submission of a petition to Diocesan Registry and public consultation. An update will be given at the APCM

Drain

Part of the foul drain from the church toilet collapsed and was repaired under an insurance claim in August 2024, usual £500 insurance excess applied.

Other items

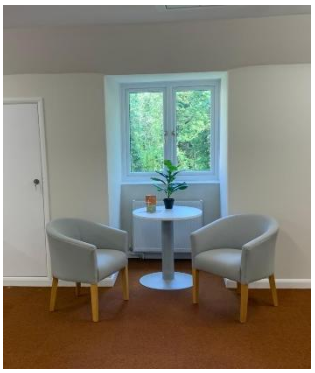
Regular servicing of the heating system, organ and organ blower plus safety checks of fire extinguishers were carried out, as normal.

Parish Hall



The main item to report is the refurbishment project, approved by PCC and carried out during February 2025 by Four Contracting Ltd. Many thanks to James Hunt for arranging and overseeing this project at a beneficial cost.

The principal works were:



- Replacement of all the windows and garden doors and installation of double-glazed panes in the main entrance doors.
- Kitchen improvements
- Removal of the ground floor folding partitions, which were partly damaged.
- Installation of more LED lights
- Redecoration

The total cost was £64,268.

Thank you too to all who helped with cleaning and setting-up following the work and those who generously sponsored much-needed items for the hall.

Separately, the previously minimal loft insulation was upgraded to a modern standard, a new trap and ladder plus a small amount of flooring installed in November 2024 by Surrey Loft Installations at a cost of £4,351 as approved by the PCC. A timely donation covered the cost.

The community accessible defibrillator was installed in August 2024 by Community Heartbeat; this was donated at no cost to the church and approved by the PCC.

The foul drains have been blocked several times mainly by wet wipes and cleared “in house” Additional notices and bins have been provided.

The Grounds

The flint boundary walls, as mentioned in the last APCM, are extensive and aging with several areas of deterioration and varying amounts of lean, requiring regular monitoring and represent a future liability in terms of expenditure. A short section by the main path from the road was at the time of writing due to be repaired when the weather warms up.

278 The Greenway (The Curate House)

The alterations and improvements were fully reported at the previous APCM. Since then, there are no events to report. When the house becomes available for potential letting, the PCC will need to be mindful of the Renters Rights Bill which had its 3rd reading in January 2025.

Report on the Goods and Ornaments 2024-25

1. A number of surplus hymn books and bibles were donated to good causes and the Sanctus Bell, unused for many years, is on loan to another church in the Deanery.
2. 20 Bibles NSRV and 40 hymn books Nov 2024 to St. Peters Church, Burnham,
3. Book aid https://bookaid.org: Terry Davey kindly delivered a donation from Christ Church of 100 Bibles to Book Aid Int.
4. On loan to **St Mary’s Ewell** 100 Hymn Books; Sanctus Bells x2 and bell sack.
5. Christ church retained 150 Bibles and 100 Hymn books.

Deanery Synod Report: Gill Glasspool

Deanery Synod met three times over the year, sharing ideas for the benefit of churches Deanery-wide.

All meetings were chaired by Revd. Canon Rosemary Donovan, Area Dean. Christ Church was represented by elected Synod members: Shirleyann Dartnell, Leslie King, Gill Glasspool and Sofia Welsby. Revd. Esther Hunt has also attended the gatherings and in January, we were additionally joined by Nigel Daniels, Alan Frame and Anne Sturton since members of the wider congregation were encouraged to be at that meeting.

As in previous years, Rosemary provided Area Dean updates at each meeting and any official Deanery business has been conducted: laity elections took place in October, when Sofia Welsby was elected to the Synod in a competitive election. In addition, the Vicar from each church venue leads a time of worship and provides a short update on their ministry and current priorities for their church. These

contributions are always very interesting as they paint clear pictures of local initiatives and trends and help us get to know our local church leaders.

A number of Deanery members supported Rosemary at her installation as an Honorary Canon on Sunday, 24th November at Guildford Cathedral:

Wednesday 5th June 2024: St Mary's Ewell

Focus: Youth, led by Revd. Alastair Etheridge, Diocesan Mission Enabler

Alastair provided a very engaging and provocative talk, introducing the Diocese's Youth Catalyst Project which seeks to, "equip churches, youth ministries and young people to grow a generation of missionary disciples who live out and proclaim the gospel without fear". The Diocese is training more than 40 people to make this happen, in roles for missional leaders, a social media team, 16 new apprentices and 12 established youth leaders. In part, the Project was born in response to the impact of Covid on reducing the number of youth and youth workers engaged in the Diocese. The current trend was for churches to focus on retention rather than missionary outreach. Some of Alastair's main messages were as follows:

- Make sure you know your goal and vision for youth work.
- Be willing to change.
- Be realistic about what you can achieve – it takes time to build things up.
- Work with other churches. Combine groups so that young people get to know a wider group and share resources.
- A dedicated youth space makes a huge difference.
- Well-led small groups are attractive to young people.
- Leaders should be Faithful; Available; Servant-hearted; Teachable = FAST!
- Young people appreciate depth of discussion – don't underestimate them.

Following this meeting, a Deanery Network for Youth and Children's Workers was set up, along with a WhatsApp group to facilitate sharing and co-working across the Deanery. A first meeting was held on 5th October and Christ Church has already run joint youth events with All Saints, Ewell; All Saints Banstead; and Epsom Vineyard Church. Christ Church is additionally creating a dedicated and welcoming youth space.

Wednesday 10th October, St. Mark's Tattenham Corner

Focus: Taking forward issues raised at Church Growth Conference – Revd. David Senior and Matt Ineson.

The Conference had taken place just two days previously, on 8th October at St. Paul's Howell Hill, Clergy, PCC members, staff and ministry teams from across the diocese had gathered for a series of inspirational talks and practical workshops led by Bishop Andrew. Revd. David Senior, Mission Enabler - Stewardship and Evangelism, Guildford Diocese, reported that the conference theme, "Leading your congregation deeper in discipleship", had set everyone on fire for Jesus and he suggested this was likely to encourage and motivate others to discover why this was!

Attending Epsom Deanery for the first time, Mat Ineson, Mission Enabler Team Lead, Guildford Diocese had encouraged those present to consider what had

impacted their personal walk with Jesus, and who had helped them. Members chatted in pairs and then fed back their responses. Mat observed that knowing the things which had helped us find faith (or deeper faith) would in turn help us understand the needs of others. Mat reported that the second round of the Parish Needs Process would target how churches are discipling the core so that they can be empowered in their witness and evangelism.

Tuesday 14th January, St. Paul's Howell Hill

Focus: Funding your Parish in 2025 – Revd. David Senior, Emma Brooker, Geoff Andrews and Alison Moulden

Increased numbers attended this meeting (many via live stream) as it was open to non-Synod representatives involved with funding ministry and mission for their churches. e.g. treasurers, giving secretaries.

Presentations and a question and answer session were introduced and chaired by Revd. David Senior. The presentations highlighted a range of different parish funding sources and focused especially on maximising regular giving through bank accounts.

David's talk addressed:

- **Regular giving from bank accounts** – an annual renewal of giving campaigns can increase total annual giving by over 30%.
- **Legacies** – to be used for "step changes" in ministry rather than to subsidise regular giving.
- **Parish Giving Scheme** – David emphasised the value of joining this scheme, now funded by the Church Commissioners.
- **Digital giving devices** – designed for visitors and special events rather than regular church attenders.
- **External sources for particular purpose** – outside agencies are often keen to partner and provide resources which support social action and community outreach.

Revenue for capital appeals: Emma Brooker, NZC Statutory Fundraising Co-Ordinator at The Church of England outlined 6 steps to success for securing funding for large-scale improvements to their building or fabric.

Bid-writing: Geoff Andrews, Diocesan Strategic Programme Advisor, provided tips for bid-writing and offered lists of potential funders.

Net Carbon Zero Fundraising: Alison Moulden, Diocesan Environment Officer, reminded everyone to make NCZ a priority when making grant applications. In addition, she suggested churches work together across a Deanery, pooling resources. As well as being more efficient, this demonstrates collaboration and is more likely to attract funders. Demonstrating environmental sustainability of a project is also a winner!

Cornerstone: Will Porter, The Kindness of Strangers. Will, himself a worshipper at St. John's Stoneleigh, introduced 'Cornerstone', a new and wide-ranging interactive platform which will be offered free to parishes. Cornerstone, commissioned and

funded by the national Church, is still under development so this was a preview. Cornerstone is a diagnostic platform designed to support parishes as their giving grows. The platform guides individual churches to understand and improve their finances, giving practice and culture of generosity. This is done through insights, graphical presentation of bespoke parish data and flagging up of clear actions for development. Via Cornerstone, churches can choose from dozens of pathways to help focus resources on those areas most relevant to them. Pathways are easy to access via an agile learning environment with supportive templates and tools to make things as easy as possible. Additionally, Cornerstone gives parishes access to a free live database of over 800 grant-making bodies, carefully selected by and for the Church of England. Guildford Diocese was to be one of the first dioceses in the UK to receive free access to Cornerstone and training workshops were to take place on 2 April 2025. A full video recording of the meeting can be viewed at https://www.youtube.com/live/guBzP03AaWA

Finance: Nigel Daniels, Treasurer

Statement of Financial Activities for the period 1 Jan 24 -31 Dec 24

Christ Church Epsom Common Statement of Financial Activities
For the period from 01 January 2024 to 31 December 2024

		Unrestricted funds	Restricte funds	Total funds	Prior year total
Incoming resources					
	Incoming resources from generated	-	-	-	-
	Voluntary income	134,274	-	134,274	205,654
	Activities for generating funds	3,941	-	3,941	4,491
	Investment income	23,909	-	23,909	20,173
	Incoming resources from charitable	32,020	-	32,020	35,294
	Other incoming resources	4,856	-	4,856	7,544
Total income		199,000	-	199,000	273,156
Resources used					
	Cost of generating funds	508	-	508	506
	Charitable activities	184,119	-	184,119	344,459
	Governance costs	97	-	97	241
Total expenditure		184,724	-	184,724	345,206
resources before transfer		14,276	-	14,276	-72,050
Transfers:					
	Gross transfers between funds - in	12,092	-	12,092	93,935
	Gross transfers between funds - out	-12,092	-	-12,092	-93,935
	Other recognised gains / losses				
	Gains/losses on investment assets	2,547	-	2,547	5,610
	charity's own use	-	-	-	-
Net movement in funds		16,823	-	16,823	-66,440
Reconciliation of funds					
Total funds brought forward		560,344	-	560,344	626,784
Total funds carried forward		577,167	-	577,167	560,344
Represented by					
Unrestricted					
	General fund	110,160	-	110,160	69,361
Designated					
	Church & Hall Fund	-	-	-	3,783
	Curate's House Fund	-	-	-	4,614
	Fixed Assets	2,935	-	2,935	14,534
	Living Well Fund	463,423	-	463,423	467,003
	Missions Appeals Fund	649	-	649	1,049
Restricted					
Total funds		577,167	-	577,167	560,344

There may be minor discrepancies in the totals if the pence are not being shown

Balance Sheet detailed

		As at 31/12/2024	As at 31/12/2023
Fixed assets			
	1000: 278 The Greenway	2,935	2,935
	1100: Equipment	-	1,908
	1200: Audio,Visual,Lighting	-	9,691
	Total Fixed assets	2,935	14,534
Current assets			
	3200: Nat West Current account	100	275
	3205: Nat West Reserve account	49,917	47,902
	3220: Lloyds Bank Fees Account	1,839	1,839
	3230: CBF Deposit Fund	446,356	447,599
	3240: Investments	47,319	44,772
	3260: Floats	100	100
	3270: Sundry Debtors	29,550	7,394
	Z05: Accounts Receivable	-	-
	ZZZ08: Prepayments	-	-
	Total Current assets	575,181	549,879
Liabilities			
	0: .	-	-
	3650: Uncleared Cheques	-	-
	3680: Utilities Creditor	-	-
	3690: Sundry Creditors	-	-
	6699: Agency collections	949	975
	Z04: Accounts Payable	-	3,094
	ZZZ09: Accruals	-	-
	Total Liabilities	949	4,069
	Net Asset surplus (deficit)	577,167	560,344
Reserves			
	Excess/(deficit) to date	14,276	-72,050
	Z01: Starting balances	560,344	626,784
	Z02: Gains/(losses) on investment assets	2,547	5,610
	Total Reserves	577,167	560,344
Represented by			
	General (Unrestricted)	110,160	69,361
	Designated	467,007	490,983
	Restricted	-	-
	Total	577,167	560,344

Introduction:

During the year ending 31 December 2024, Christ Church received income, including legacies, of £199,000 (versus £ 273,156 in 2023) whilst expenditure totalled £184,724 (versus £345,206 in 2023): a surplus over the course of the year of £14,276 versus a deficit of £72,050 in 2023.

Whilst in 2023 there was significant expenditure on the updating of the Curate's house, in 2024 very little was spent on property refurbishment and, as a result, there was a small surplus of income over expenditure after several years of deficit.
In 2025 we are invested in renovating the Church Hall and are proposing to update facilities within the Church with the installation of the Pod. There will likely also be repairs and maintenance work on the fabric of the Church building. The regular standing order donations and trading income from the hall will be insufficient to cover this expenditure on our property and therefore we expect to incur a deficit of £221,548. This will be met from our current reserves.
The balance sheet at the end of 2024 records the total net worth of Christ Church as £577,167 compared with £560,344 at the end of 2023.

Planned Giving and Other Income

Christ Church is heavily dependent on voluntary financial contributions from our members, most of who donate via standing orders through their bank, for which we are eternally grateful. Standing orders generated £77,568 which was an increase of £2,016 over that received in 2023. We were able to claim from HMRC a total of £22,071 in gift aid (£20,248 in 2023).
Planned Giving forms a major source of our income. If you have not already done so, please consider joining our Planned Giving Scheme.
One off donations totalled £26,220 (£12,979 in 2023), some of which was gift aided.
Income generated from Church Hall hire was £20,930 compared to £31,166 in 2023. The reduction was due to Little Hands contract ending in August 2024. The newly refurbished hall should hopefully attract new users and replace this lost income.
Income from Church hire was £883 (£1,130 in 2023).
The Scouts have finally signed the lease for the Scout Hut and have paid rent of £6,000 for 2022, 2023 and 2024. Legal expenses have been incurred to secure the new lease, some of which have been recouped from the Scouts in 2025.
Investment interest on cash balances held with NatWest and Churches, Charities and Local Authorities Investment Management Limited (CCLA) amounted to £23,909 (£20,173 in 2023).
No rent was received for The Greenway, this year or last year, and £4,491 was received in grants (£7,237 in 2023).
Legacy income of £2,008 was gratefully received (£91,205 in 2023).
Legacy income has been vital in keeping our Church solvent during and following the Covid crisis.
As mentioned above, our day to day spending and expenditure is broadly in balance however for major repairs and capital projects, we need to utilise our reserves.
These reserves have largely been built up by legacy income and are steadily reducing. We ask you to kindly consider leaving a legacy in your will.
A gift to the Church is normally deducted from the value of an estate when inheritance tax is calculated thereby reducing the amount of inheritance tax payable.

There are some leaflets on legacy giving at the back of the Church. More information is available at www.churchlegacy.org.uk or by phoning the information line on 08445 870875.
It is always important to take independent advice over such matters.

Expenditure.

Our Parish Share was £89,155, (£86,621 in 2023). This supports our clergy and ministry, as well as being part of the support to those parishes in the Diocese who are suffering from reduced income and are less well blessed with funds than ourselves. The Parish Share is expected to rise to £90,152 this year.
The AVL project (to enhance sound and visuals in the Church) was undertaken in 2018 and completed during 2019 and was treated as a capital expense. Depreciation on this, and a photocopier purchased in 2019, was over 5 years and is included in the year at £11,599. These assets are now fully depreciated.
Salary costs were £19,841 for the Office Administrators and Youth and Families Worker, (£10,901 in 2023.)

Missions

Donations and emergency appeals to our Missions partners amounted to £5,400.

Funds

The General Fund at the year-end is £110,160 and the Living Well Fund (intended for repairs and capital projects) is £463,423. These will decrease after expenditure on the Church Hall, Church repairs and the Pod.

Investments

In November 2018, £30,000 was invested in the Charities Ethical Investment Fund (COIF) managed by Churches, Charities and Local Authorities Investment Management Limited (CCLA). This was valued at £47,319 at the end of 2024, as against £44,772 at the end of 2023.

Unrealised gains and losses represent the movement in market values during the year and are credited or charged to the statement of financial activities based on the market value at the year end.

Statement of Financial Activities (SOFA)

These financial statements were approved by the PCC of Christ Church, Epsom Common on March 17 2025 and signed on its behalf by the Revd. Esther Holly Hunt, Chair of the PCC meeting.
The Income and Expenditure Analysis for 1 January 2024 to 31 December 2024 and proposed budget have not been included in this report. A print out or email copy of this report is available on request from PCC Secretary Jane Williams pcc@christchurchepsom.org.uk.

The accounts also do not incorporate the financial statements of the Vicar and Churchwardens' Trust, which handles the legacies from Eden and Dennis King and Mildred Freeman.

Accounting Policies

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with Church Accounting Regulations 2006, together with applicable accounting standards and the SORP 2015. The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention. The financial statements include all transactions, assets and liabilities for which the PCC is responsible in law.

They do not include the accounts of church groups that owe their main affiliation to another body, nor those that are informal gatherings of church members.

Funds

Designated Funds are part of the unrestricted funds which the PCC has earmarked for a particular project or use, without restricting or committing the funds legally. The designation may be cancelled by the PCC if it later decides not to proceed or continue with the use or project for which the funds were designated.

Unrestricted Funds are General funds, which can be used for PCC ordinary purposes.

Incoming Resources

Voluntary income, including donations, gifts, legacies and grants are recognised when there is an entitlement certainty of receipt and the amount can be measured with sufficient reliability. Investment income is recognised on a receivable basis. Income derived from events is recognised as earned and is accounted for gross.

Resources expended

Expenditure is recognised when a liability is incurred. Grants and donations are accounted for when paid over or when awarded if that award creates a binding or constructive obligation on the PCC.

The Diocesan Parish Share is accounted for when due.

Fixed Assets

Consecrated land and buildings and movable church furnishings

Consecrated and beneficed property is excluded from the accounts by s.96 (2) (a) of the Charities Act 1993. The curate's house is included at the original cost. No value is placed on movable church furnishings held by the churchwardens held in special trust for the PCC and which require a faculty for disposal, since the PCC considers this to be inalienable property. All expenditure incurred during the year on consecrated or benefice buildings and movable church furnishings, whether maintenance or improvement, is written off as expenditure in the SOFA.

Other fixtures, fittings and office equipment and individual items costing £5000 or less are not capitalised.

Payments to Trustees

There were no Payments to Trustees during the year other than for goods or services purchased by Trustees in the course of their duty on behalf of Christ Church.

Independent examiner's report to the PCC of Christ Church, Epsom Common

I report to the PCC (the trustees of Registered Charity 1127945) on my examination of the accounts of the charity for the year ended 31 December 2024, as set out on the pages attached.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity's trustees, you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ("the Act").

I report in respect of my examination of the Trust's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination, I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

Independent examiner's statement

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination which gives me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

- the accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act; or
- the accounts did not accord with the accounting records; or
- the accounts did not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair' view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination.

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

D C Slade

Douglas Slade
33 Pine Walk, Banstead, Surrey

7th April 2025

PARISH OF CHRIST CHURCH EPSOM COMMON

Registered Charity No 1127945

Minutes of the Combined Vestry and Annual Parochial Church Meeting April 2024

Held at 10am on Sunday 21 April 2024. Chaired by the Vicar, the Revd Rosemary Donovan. Notes: The Annual Meetings were integrated with Parish Communion held publicly in church and live-streamed on Zoom (as approved by the Diocese). All votes included both those present and those joining via Zoom.

(Open to all Electoral Roll Members)

Attendance

The service was held in Church and live-streamed. 72 adults (age over 16) were present in Church, of whom 57 were eligible to vote. 8 adults were present via zoom. Apologies were received from Devorah and Robert Burns, Hazel Rose and Fay Wedlake.

1. Minutes of the APCM, 16 April 2023,

Included in the 2024 annual report as circulated via website, weekly newsletter and hardcopy in church (from April 9 2024) were approved

2. Election of Churchwardens and PCC members

The following nominees were unanimously appointed to these roles:

Role	Nominee	Proposer	Seconder
Churchwarden 6th and final term	Andy Hards	Leslie King	Jenny Breese
Churchwarden 3rd term	Fay Wedlake	Gill Glasspool	Malcolm Channing
PCC member (2nd 3yr term)	Jane Williams	Roger Morgan	Ruth Grint
PCC member (2nd 3yr term)	Nigel Daniels	Malcolm Channing	Christine Channing
PCC member 3yr term after 1 yr term	Tom Ellinor	Jane Williams	Daniel Allsopp
PCC member 3yr term after 1 yr co-opted	David Blacoe	Fay Wedlake	William Brook
PCC member 3yr term	Tricia Crawford	Joanna Woolfe	Anne Sturton

Rosemary extended thanks to retiring PCC members Daniel Koboe, Lucy Warren and Clair Wright for their valued contribution over the past 3 years.

Thanks were expressed to Andy and Fay for all their hard work and for their willingness to continue as Churchwardens. Thanks were also extended to those

above willing to continue their PCC membership. Tricia Crawford was welcomed and thanked for her willingness to serve.

3. Appointment of other Key Roles

Douglas Slade, retired Chartered Accountant was reappointed as Independent Examiner of the financial accounts for year ending December 2024

Leslie and Maureen King were reappointed as Parish Safeguarding Officers and DBS validators.

Martin Shipton was reappointed as Electoral Roll Officer

All were thanked for their work and willingness to serve

4. Vicar's Review Sunday 21st April 2024

Lectionary texts were Acts 4:5-12 and John 10:11-18

'By what power or by what name did you do this?'

What a great question to ask?

When I look back on the events of last year which were very full, I wonder how we managed to fit everything in. I am constantly amazed by the commitment of our members and your willingness to journey with me and one another to create such a wonderful community here at Christ Church. We cannot do this in our own strength but through faith in the one who lays down his life for the sheep. Our church is Christ's Church not Rosemary's or Andy's or Essien's or Gabriel's I could go on. Christ is our cornerstone the one in whom we put our trust and depend on to make the impossible possible. There is salvation in on one else. We often refer to the church as a body. Bodies have hands and feet, and they work together to enable creativity, hospitality and generosity. On behalf of the staff team and PCC may I say a big thank you to all who contribute to our common life, which includes regular worship, on-going discipleship, pastoral care, stewardship, buildings maintenance and outreach? We do all these things because we want to follow the Good Shepherd and they demonstrate our devotion and willingness to serve Him.

The image of God as our shepherd, and Jesus as our good shepherd, is such a familiar one. But I wonder: is such an old-fashioned image still helpful to us? In biblical times, everyone knew a shepherd. It would have been a very recognisable and useful metaphor. But is that still the case? Yet Psalm 23 is still one of our most beloved psalms and passages in scripture, and Jesus as the Good Shepherd is still one of the most well-known ways of thinking of him, and of picturing him.

So, as I thought about why this is still the case, in this very modern, post-agricultural world of ours, it struck me that the answer is quite simple: We all long for a shepherd. We all know that we need someone to lead us, to protect us, and to guide us. We are a lot like sheep. And sheep need shepherds. The world, then and now, looks for someone to lead, because we need someone to lead us.

I suspect that is why superhero movies are still popular, and probably always will be. Because our world needs heroes. Our world needs leaders. Our world needs good

and faithful shepherds, to take care of us, and to lead us. Our world certainly needs a good shepherd right now. We need someone that we trust to lead us, as a nation and all around the world. We are in uncharted territory. There is no road map for the future. There is no handbook to turn to. We live in the here and now and behave a lot like sheep.

Sheep are what is known as “flock animals.” They like to be together. They don’t do so well on their own. There is safety in numbers, and sheep seem to know this. So, they tend to spend a lot of time together, and they find a lot of benefit from being together. And we as humans are “flock animals” too, are we not? We like to be together. We like to gather in groups. There is this innate drive to surround ourselves with like-minded people, in sports and politics, at work and at school. We tend to flock together. Birds of a feather flock together, as the old saying goes. Congregations, of course, are sometimes called flocks.

We are a community that recognizes that there are important reasons to be together. To worship, to celebrate life’s milestones, or national events, to promote worthy causes and simply for fun as we saw in the PowerPoint of slides as we arrived today.

But what is unique about congregations is that we are not necessarily birds of a feather. I mean, we are all Anglican, and we all live in this community, but beyond that we have several differences. We are different ages, we grew up in different parts of the country, we have different tastes in music, we support different sports teams, and we have widely varying political views. We are not exactly birds of a feather, except that we are all followers of Jesus, and we are all here in Epsom. And so, we are here, flocking together, as best we can.

When you spend any time studying Scripture, it becomes obvious that God’s plan is for us to be together, in a community of faith like this one. You might remember that the first thing Jesus does when he begins his ministry, is to call a group of disciples together. And the early church – after Jesus is crucified and raised – spent a lot of time together. In the Book of Acts, we learn what life was like for those early Christians. In Acts 2:46, we find this description:

“Day by day, as they spent much time together in the temple, they broke bread at home and ate their food with glad and generous hearts, praising God and having the goodwill of all the people.”

Christians are supposed to spend time together. We are not intended to be on our own. That’s why Jesus created the church. That is one of its primary purposes: So that we sheep can come together and be kept safe. And so that we can join in seeking guidance from our shepherd especially in uncertain times. This brings us to the second way that we are like sheep.

It turns out that sheep are very good at hearing, and especially at hearing the voice of their shepherd. A practice typical in Jesus’ time was for shepherds to get together with other shepherds and their sheep during the day. A bunch of shepherds, all together with lots and lots of sheep, usually at some kind of watering hole. It was noisy and chaotic, to say the least. But at the end of the day, the shepherds would

call for their sheep. And the sheep would follow their own shepherds to a safe place to sleep. Amid all that chaos, and all those competing voices, the sheep would hear their shepherd's voice and follow their shepherd. And that is, of course, what we are supposed to do, too: Listen to our shepherd, the Good Shepherd, and follow Him.

There are plenty of competing voices these days, all clamouring for our attention. Voices from our TVs, and our computers, and our phones and tablets, and so on. But there is only one voice that truly matters to our soul. And that is the voice of our Saviour, Jesus Christ. Sheep are good at listening to the voice of their shepherd, and we need to be, too. The way Esther introduced Bubble Church to us and how we prayerfully responded as a community to support it and increase giving to enable a new part time Children and Youth worker is an example of how we are good hearers. We need to continue to listen to the voice of the Good Shepherd guiding and encouraging us in this ministry, as well as in our redevelopment plans and eco church initiatives. We intend holding more whole church prayer meetings and I am really excited about Thy Kingdom Come this year too, as we pray earnestly for the fruits of the Spirit to be present in our community.

There is a third characteristic of sheep that I want to remind us of today, that sheep are natural followers. They don't like to be pushed; they prefer to be led. And it is their shepherd who leads them. We have all probably heard that sheep are not very smart animals, but that turns out not to be true. Sheep supporters claim this was a rumour started by cattle ranchers, because sheep don't behave like cows. Cows are herded from the rear by cowboys. They yell and prod the cows to get them going in the right direction. But when you stand behind sheep and make noises, they just try to get behind you again. So, some cattle ranchers assumed that they were stupid animals. When, in fact, sheep simply prefer to be led. Cows can be pushed. Sheep must be led. And, when you think about it, that's not that stupid. Sheep trust their shepherd and go where the shepherd goes. And they let the shepherd go first, to make sure the way is safe, and then to invite them to follow him.

And isn't that what Jesus is asking of us? To be his followers? He's not going to push us. He's not going to force us. Instead, Jesus just keeps calling us, in many and various ways, and inviting us over and over to follow him. He promises to lead us, to protect us, and even to lay down his life for us. And he invites us to trust him. Trust him and follow him.

As a PCC we have been trying to do that particularly regarding development plans for our site. Regular members will recall conversations with our architect Brendan Tracey about our needs and priorities which have changed as time progress. The pandemic and rising building costs have had a detrimental effect on our finances, and we need to be careful with resources. Consequently, we want to do something that will have large benefits with less risk. One of the major problems with our site is accessibility for those less mobile and the inability to host concurrent events due to safeguarding considerations. Namely we only have an inaccessible loo in the church and no hospitality facilities. The cluttered and unsightly arrangement of tables and boxes in the corner are dissatisfactory and we have proved the need for

improvements. We are in the process of applying for a faculty to change this and so far the DAC is being very encouraging.

What is being proposed is a self-contained pod that could literally fit discretely into the north aisle that would provide both accessible toilets and hospitality facilities.

Slide 1: This shows the floor plan of the church layout, and you can see we are only talking about altering a small area in the corner.

Slide: 2 These 2 photographs show the before and after impact.

Slide 3: Finally, a more detailed cross section looking side on and then front.

These line-drawing images were displayed on the screen and also on the newsletter for several weeks (see link)

https://docs.google.com/document/d/1XVwH7ad_rIrb68eS0K71bIxCup8Ltvy8/edit?usp=sharing&ouid=105666197516741528283&rtpof=true&sd=true

The PCC truly believe the benefits will out way any cosmetic downside and are taking the lead on this. We are aware that it will mean having beautiful windows in the toilets. And that we won't see the glorious Palm Sunday triptych from inside the church anymore so are exploring how to recreate them using light boxes as a feature on the side of the pod. It will enable us to be less wasteful as we can wash up mugs that will be stored easily in cupboards below the servery. We are currently spending about £50 a month on disposable cups, which is also not good for our eco credentials. Please if you can bring you own reusable travel mug. There will be no more setting up an unsafe urn as we can have a dedicated hot water tap and the clutter will be contained.

These plans have evolved through prayerful discernment, listening to one another and to God. It is intended that the hall refurbishment and office improvements would be a second stage with an option to extend further as funds permit.

Nothing stays the same for ever. The only certainty in life is change. This challenged the rulers and elders in Jerusalem causing them to ask questions about authority. We are fortunate today that we elect PCC members to represent and serve the wider community. I pray that you can have confidence in your leaders to manage things well, working for the greater good and long-term future. Please pray for them and get behind them.

We are blessed to have a shepherd, who is good and loving and faithful, who promises to lead us all the days of our life, through the trials and tribulations and whatever this world throws at us. We can help this shepherd by being good and faithful sheep: By continuing to flock together, faithfully listening for his voice, and by following him.

RAD 21/04/25

5. Electoral Roll: Report by the Electoral Roll Officer, Martin Shipton.

Like the national electoral roll, membership confers voting rights and lists the names and addresses of all members, however, only the names are publicly available.

The Church Electoral Roll is the foundation of the structure of synodical government in the Church of England and only those who names are on the Electoral Roll are eligible for election to the PCC and synods. At last year's meeting I reported an Electoral Roll membership of 154 people which was a slight increase on the previous year of 149. This year we welcome 11 new members, but we have lost 28 members. So, membership now stands at 137. Every six years the roll has to be completely recompiled so that means that next year anyone wishing to be on the roll will need to complete a new application form, even if you only have just done so.

At this point I normally say something about the distribution of people on the Roll. I thought I would add a different perspective this year and ask the question – What are the most numerous names on the Roll? Topping the list we have, David with 5 entries and then with 3 entries each Ann, Jane and Jenny.

This past year has seen the death of seven members of our Church Family and from our Electoral Roll

Daphne Baptiste
Kate Wiseman
Sheila Frame
Mary Jordan Chambers

Former members

Kathleen Gregory
Mike Farrell
Sally Stephens

I invite you now to stand as we pause for a moment to remember them. All are sadly missed, and we thank God for our memories of them and all that they gave to us both as individuals and also as a church.

6. Verbal Finance Report: Treasurer Nigel Daniels.

Nigel confirmed the financial statements for the year ending 31 December 2023 had been verified by Independent Examiner Douglas Slade, qualified Chartered Accountant. Nigel thanked Douglas for his guidance and his time given, to do this. Full details are included in the Annual Report. Nigel explained the deficit of £72,050 arose due to extensive necessary improvements to the Curates residence at a cost of £165,580. This was partly offset by the receipt of several legacies and with no cost for a Children and Youth Worker in that financial year. Nigel highlighted the opportunity for legacy giving which greatly contributes to capital projects, major improvements and repairs and keeping the church solvent. Leaflets on legacy giving are available at the back of the church.

Nigel also highlighted the possible rise in expenses for next year by as much as £70,000 due to repairs that may be highlighted in the quinquennial report and the costs of employing a Children and Youth Worker from April 2024. Nigel ended by thanking the Finance Team, June Skinner, Malcolm Channing and Anne Sturton for keeping the church finances smoothly ticking over and for their hard work and support. He also thanked predecessor Alan Frame for his many years of work as

treasurer and for his friendship and guidance as Nigel himself continues in the role of Treasurer

7. Deanery Synod Report: included in Annual report

8. PCC Report: included in Annual Report

9. Annual Report on the Fabric of the Church and other Properties, and on the Church Goods and Ornaments: included in the Annual Report

10. Questions from the Congregation sent in advance

- From Sarah Chorley *I am so pleased that the Bubble Church initiatives have been met with such enthusiasm and thank all those that continue to support this. Is there a plan for children who are too old for Bubble church as the transition from 4pm in the afternoon to 10am may not be particularly attractive?*

Response from Rosemary and Esther

As children get older, they have opportunities to help lead as service assistants, doing sound, refreshments and welcome. They are invited to join 5@5 and 10am services. In time we do anticipate a cross-over between Bubble church and Sunday morning worship, as we, with Sofia, invest in Christ Church Kids. We are praying for the whole Ministry to children and families. We are implementing our plans to grow our engagement with Bubble church families in discipleship and relationship.

In September we had a prayer meeting focussing on children and youth and the worker, who is now in our midst. We prayed over Bubble church, and God has indeed made that door open. We need to continue to pray for these things, for God's guidance and leadership in all these things. So we will hold another prayer meeting on April 29 at 19:30 to support our children and youth ministry.

- From Roger Morgan *I see there's nothing in the Annual Report about the Church's music. Is this important strand of Christ Church provision kept under review by the PCC?*

Response from Rosemary

Music is part of the worship team remit which was acknowledged by me in the report but is not a regular feature of the PCC agenda. Although whenever David, Ruth and Dan who are active members of that team have a particular request we do of course discuss it.

- From Hazel Rose *Would it be possible to have a contemplative service on a Sunday evening?*

Response from Rosemary

We would do this if there was a regular commitment from people to attend. Post Covid there has been little appetite for services in the evening. We tend to do special prayer meetings or seasonal services mid-week.

Rosemary offered to address any other questions relating to the annual report or church activities in a future "talk-about" session in a couple of weeks, if there is a need. Please email Rosemary with your questions.

Jane Williams PCC Secretary 24/04/2024

THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF CHRIST CHURCH EPSOM

England & Wales - Charity number 1127945

Accounts



CHRIST Church
Epsom Common

Annual Report 2023-2024

Prepared for distribution in advance of the Annual Parochial Church Meeting 21 April 2024

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Christ Church Epsom Common Annual Report 2023-2024

Approved by the PCC, March 18 2024

Vicar's Report: Revd Rosemary Donovan

Worship

If the word worship denotes giving worth to something it's right that the main focus of our activities is our worship of God. However, our vision includes *living well* with God, others, and ourselves. The greatest commandment tells us to love God with our heart, mind, and strength and to love our neighbours as ourselves. If all we did was gather in a holy huddle on Sunday's and Wednesday's that would not give honour to the awesome God who sacrificed all for us. James 2 states that faith without deeds is dead. Fortunately, our *living well* rule for life is a holistic discipleship program that advocates 24/7 Christianity.

All of our outreach and social activities whether they be Walking for Health, Wheels and Squeals, Alpha, Singalong Grease, or Earth Day each demonstrate something of what we believe in such as our care for mental wellbeing, family life, prayer and study, fun and the planet.

All of life is worship, nevertheless, the times when we gather to praise and celebrate the goodness of God is precious and valuable in itself and we are immensely grateful to all who contribute to our corporate life in whatever small or large way. The sheer numbers of people are not insignificant and testimony to the value and worth we have in each other that we operate as the Body of Christ because the things that unite us are greater than whatever may divide.

Our 10 am Communion remains our main act of worship and is an immensely rich and broad experience with good quality liturgy, music and preaching as well as creative opportunities to engage with God in meaningful ways. We have a faithful midweek congregation who value worship in a quieter service as well as many families who enjoy the monthly fellowship at the Source. After a period of consultation, training, and prayerful discernment we have transitioned Source into Bubble Church which launched in January with great enthusiasm. We hope to see sustained growth in families adopting this as their main act of worship.



Morning Prayer is offered regularly at 9am on weekdays and there are many other opportunities for alternative acts of worship at seasonal times as well as 5@5 which attract different people for fun, food and fellowship.

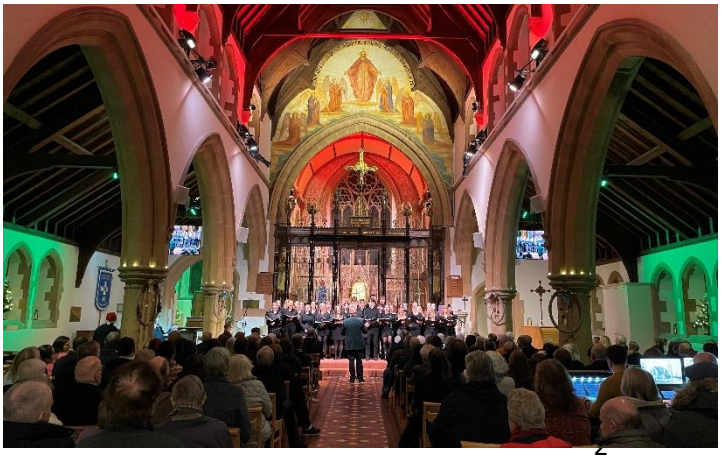
A particular highlight of our worship this year was hosting the Ordination of Esther as priest, which was a first for Christ Church. We were delighted to welcome Diocesan guests to this extra special celebration, which united the vocations of ministry and motherhood in the same service.

Church Development

We have sadly not made much progress with upgrading our facilities. Rising building costs alongside careful stewardship of resources has necessitated that the PCC prioritise needs. Currently, this means swapping focus from the hall to the church and the addition of a self-contained pod to include hospitality and toilet facilities, to enable the church to be hired independently from the hall. Full plans will be shared at the APCM. This means scaling back plans for the hall and landscaping so that it can be done in phases as funds become available and working with our architect and the DAC to improve sustainability of our buildings. To this end we have been put forward by the diocese to apply for a national Demonstrator Church grant that might cover costs that can improve our desires to be net carbon neutral.

Outreach

We have continued to partner with local schools, uniformed groups, CCUFC and the Little Hands Nursery as well as other local charities via CTiE. The Earth Day event saw many other local groups joining in to highlight concern for our planet. We also hosted a number of local crafts-people and charities at our Christmas Fair and were delighted to host a 2nd Age Concern concert in December.



The Missions team will report separately but we have been immensely grateful to our champions who keep us regularly informed on the charitable organisations we support both financially and prayerfully. We are also aware that many of our members volunteer at many other worthy projects in our

community such as Emerge, the Epsom and Ewell Foodbank and Citizens Advice.

Social Events

All of the 5@5 events have been fun occasions to invite family and friends to, but the Coronation, in May, of King Charles III was especially memorable. All guests got stuck into Coronation crafts, which included making crowns, sewing King Charles Cavaliers, and designing a banner to celebrate this unique historical event. All enjoyed with a superb afternoon tea!

The trip to Windsor in September was also greatly enjoyed. The splendid sunshine helped as we watched the pageantry of changing of the guards and got caught up in the excitement of the Royal borough. The self-guided tour of both Chapel and Castle was extremely informative. Many queued to see Queen Mary's dolls house and to pay their respects to our late Queen Elizabeth II laid to rest in St George's. The day concluded with a serene evensong where we had the privilege of seats in the Quire.

We topped the year off with Christ Church big quiz and fireworks on New Year's Eve.

Children and young people

When Esther returned from maternity leave she generously agreed to oversee this aspect of our ministry and to supervise a new worker, when appointed. Gill, Katharine, and Jenny have continued to nurture our young people on a Sunday morning and Rosemary coordinate the youth group and CC Cinema. It has been a joy to welcome new members and see them growing in confidence and faith and particularly to baptise and admit Kayla and Lilly May to Holy Communion at Christ the King. We look forward to their confirmation in due course following Youth Alpha.



After being inspired by a lockdown initiative at the Ascension, Balham, Esther led prayer meetings and a PCC discussion to enable us to become a partner Church. A small team went to training in November and we launch this new service in January. Many people generously donated towards the equipment needed and the Vicar and churchwardens have made a grant from the Kings Fund for ongoing costs. We look forward to seeing the fruit of this investment but have been encouraged by the initial response. Each service follows a simple format and is a lively mix of songs, puppets, and activity with families at in their own bubbles on the floor. There is a great sense of fun especially when the bubble machine blows, and the team of helpers is growing!

We are also pleased to announce the successful recruitment of Sofia Welsby as our new part time Children and youth worker beginning after Easter.

Eco Church

The small team has continued to reflect on small steps we can take to improve on our silver award. We have introduced toilet hippos and a swift box and enjoyed Earth Day at the end of April. Particular thanks to Ro who coordinates this event and continues to support Terracycle. A small amount was raised from the Clothes swap and the vicar using Vinted!

Discipleship: Revd Sue Curtis

'The life of the disciple is not about religious self-improvement but about the freedom of trusting God to be God and taking care of His creation' *Mark Mattes*

Discipleship is taken seriously at Christ Church and is supported by many facets of church life. There is no one-size-fits-all mentality. To grow in Christian commitment, as followers of Christ, is seen in the lives of individuals and in our corporate life. Our Christian calling is to embrace the transforming work of God in all we are and all we do.

Discipleship is not primarily about courses, projects and programs, but is relational: our relationship with God as a supreme creative force, as God in our human situation in Jesus, and embedded deep within our being in the Holy Spirt. This should inform our identity and our relations with others, seeing all as loved children of God.

Over the last few years, some of the faithful disciples in our congregation have died, become more frail or moved away; part of their legacy is the wisdom and patterns of Christian living that have become part of our way of life and our values. The joy is that we are seeing new people joining us, as valued members of our congregation, people of all ages and from a variety of backgrounds. They bring with them new hope, new life and fresh insight.

Discipleship is developed in our worship, our church life together and our sharing in outreach within our community. It is strengthened by working with other partners: for example Churches Together in Epsom (CTiE), work with schools and community groups and work with charitable organisations both globally and locally. It is facilitated by taking the Bible seriously, rooting all we do in prayer, engaging with the best church tradition and with contemporary society.

Our vicar, Rosemary, supported by Esther and the other members of the staff team, pastoral group, prayer ministry and PCC are robust and intentional in fostering discipleship. All who contribute to worship, administration, prayer and outreach, foster a culture of integrity and care where God's love is exemplified in our words and actions. There is undoubtedly much we can develop but there are reasons to be optimistic.

Sermons, music, liturgy, home groups, Growing Leaders Course, Alpha, Bubble Church, prayer groups, Youth Alpha, occasional courses in church or within the diocese, prayer ministry, MU group, casual conversations, preparations for baptisms, confirmation, weddings and funerals – all can foster discipleship. The church owes a debt to all who contribute to our church life by their leadership, prayer, presence and the offering of their time, talents, and resources.

For many the atmosphere of welcome we offer at Christ Church may well be the cementing or start of a Christian journey of commitment to following as disciples of Jesus. We need to remain a place of welcome and inclusion, where questions can be asked freely, and ideas shared honestly. This is the responsibility of all of us, as we learn and share together, joining in all that fosters breadth and depth within our church life. Perhaps 2024 is the year each of us can consider seriously how we can grow in Christian maturity and depth and help others to do the same. There is so much on offer where we can share and learn together. We have a responsibility to participate where we can.

Pastoral Care: Sue Matthews

The Pastoral Care Team continues to meet every 6 weeks to review and respond to Pastoral needs. The Ministerial team, Parish Safeguarding Officers attend the meetings, in addition to the lay members of the pastoral team. Prayer for those in need has continued through the prayer chain and intercessions in services. Prayer ministry is offered after the morning service, with at least two people available, who will pray with you, respecting confidentiality. All members of the prayer ministry team are trained and meet regularly with Rosemary for ongoing training and support. The Tea Club meets quarterly and is well supported. The Baptism team continue to work with families in preparation for, and after baptism. The weekly emailed Parish newsletter outlines how to seek pastoral support.

All members of the team are trained by the Guildford Diocese and also attend update courses including Domestic Abuse Awareness and Safeguarding Leadership. Current team members are Pastoral Assistants: Sue Matthews; Jo Wolfe Pastoral Secretary and Pastoral Visitor Jane Williams. The team expressed thanks to Devorah Burns, on her retirement, for her dedicated work over many years. More people are much needed for these roles. If you would like to join the Pastoral team or the Prayer Ministry team please speak to Sue Matthews.

Current contact details:
Sue Matthews - pastoralsue@christchurchepsom.org.uk
Jo Woolfe - pastoraljo@christchurchepsom.org.uk
Jane Williams - pastoraljane@christchurchepsom.org.uk

Missions: David Blacoe

Christ Church now directs its budgeted Missions Giving through five funded charities, which are supported for a five year period and have a dedicated Mission Champion. These are:-

- The Children's Society
- Christian Solidarity Worldwide (CSW)
- Spinnaker
- Univida
- Vision Peoples in Mission (VPM)

Additionally in 2023, the church made a final donation to OrphanAID, as championed by Greg Edwards. Subsequently, he has stepped down from the Missions Group. The PCC recorded its grateful thanks for all the work by Greg, chairing the Group over a number of years.

Additionally one of the functions of the Missions Committee is to identify and request PCC approval to support charities requiring urgent funding from the Mission Emergency Fund. This year we distributed the following payments:

- £250 - Epsom and Ewell Refugee Network
- £250 - Red Cross appeal for Libyan Flood victims
- £250 - Red Cross appeal for Morocco victims
- £200 – UNiViDa Flood appeal

This year's collections at our nominated services (Harvest & Christmas) for specific charities were:

- At the Harvest service, £145 was collected for the Epsom Food Bank.
- At the Christmas Crib service, £473 was collected for Crisis.
- At the Christingle service, £80 was collected for The Children's Society.

During the year, we have been able to support our limited resources by promoting our Charities to the congregation through speaker invitations at the Sunday Communion service, to encourage personal commitment. We were fortunate to have excellent contributions from The Children's Society, CSW and UNiViDa and have been encouraged and grateful for dedicated sermon slots to promote the work and needs of our Mission Partners.

As well as activities related to our funded Mission Partners, as a church we have supported our Missions Partners who no longer receive budgeted funding from our church including the Christmas hamper collection for The Besom, and the Lent Appeal for the Bishop of Guildford's Community Fund.

Once again, we thank Christ Church PCC and congregation for their continued support for the Missions Group. *The Missions Group Champions*

Safeguarding: Leslie King

Christ Church's two Parish Safeguarding Officers are Les and Maureen King, with church warden Fay Wedlake providing support and supervision. Les is a member of the PCC which has a standing agenda item on Safeguarding at each PCC meeting. This agenda item allows the PCC to maintain oversight on all aspects of safeguarding. Les has provided PCC members with a comprehensive document covering their important role and responsibilities regarding safeguarding.

DBS Checks

Maureen's main role is to check on those in roles that require DBS checks, and to ensure they apply for a check if they have not had one, and reminding those who are already checked but who now need their 3 yearly renewal check. Maureen then follows up and verifies the details provided by applicants so the checks can be finalised and a DBS Certificate can be awarded to applicants.

PCC Meetings

Les spoke at the June 2023 PCC meeting about the importance of Safeguarding and vigilance for us all in Church communities. He gave examples from his former role as a Senior Police Officer and also of serious safeguarding issues taking place in Churches in recent years. He described an example of grooming of a whole congregation by an abuser who held a leadership role within their Church Community. This was a true story that was dramatized in a 4-part series BBC1 ("The Sixth Commandment"). Later Les spoke on a Sunday morning, encouraging the congregation to watch the programme.

Les also reported that a lot of work has been done improving the documentation and recording systems for oversight of DBS checks, safer recruitment and ongoing safeguarding training for individuals in keeping with current Diocesan requirements.

At the September 2023 PCC meeting Fay reported Christ Church has attained Level 3 for Safeguarding Standards on the Diocesan Safeguarding Dashboard. This is the highest level, which we plan to maintain through a rolling programme of fulfilling the requirements.

At the November 2023 PCC meeting the 16 PCC members present confirmed 'Our Safeguarding Pledge': "Our Promise to you, as the Church Leaders, is we will listen, hear, respect and believe and genuinely care for anyone who reports abuse to us."

Safeguarding Sunday and Christ Church's "Safeguarding Pledge"

Les King shared Christ Church's "Safeguarding Pledge" with the congregation on Safeguarding Sunday (19th November). He also designed a leaflet for all members of the congregation to take and read the pledge which includes the six principles that Christ Church leadership are committed to. Another leaflet was made available in response to the CofE's recently-published 'Five National Standards for Safeguarding'. These two leaflets were distributed on Safeguarding Sunday, and made available in the Church Lobby and included in the Parish Weekly Newsletter for the following week.

At the January 2024 PCC meeting Les was able to report there had been no safeguarding issues, apart from a single incident that was dealt with effectively at the Parish level and was not sufficiently serious to require escalation to the Diocesan level.

He also reported that safeguarding training and renewal of DBS checks is ongoing satisfactorily. He also stated the Diocesan Safeguarding Team had issued details of a new way for any individual to report any safeguarding concern to them, and ensured this was displayed on the Safeguarding notice area in the Church Lobby and Church Hall. The new telephone number is 01483 790379.

Level 3 for Safeguarding Standards and Safeguarding Hubs

An important aspect of Christ Church achieving the Level 3 for Safeguarding Standards is it gives access to the CofE "Safeguarding Hubs" (which are only available at Level 3). We can now access Stage 1 of the Hub, with Stages 2 and 3 still being developed. Each stage provides tools to help parishes meet all the CofE's safeguarding requirements. The three tools available at Stage 1 help with safer recruitment and people management. Future tools will help parishes with other areas of safeguarding. These tools are very useful. Les and Maureen recently took part in a very informative zoom meeting with the Diocesan team and other PSOs to learn more about the Parish Safeguarding Dashboard and the Safeguarding Hubs.

Publicity

Publicising safeguarding is a vital part of ensuring full awareness of it within the church. Christ Church makes real efforts to publicise safeguarding matters – much of which is covered above, and posters and leaflets are displayed in the entrance lobby, the church hall and the vestry.

In Summary

Fay, Les, Maureen and the Diocesan Safeguarding Team are all happy that Christ Church is progressing well in all the requirements of safeguarding (publicity, training, DBS checks etc.) that are placed upon us as a parish.

Church Governance: Jane Williams PCC Secretary

ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2023 -2024

Together with:

- The statement of financial activities (SOFA) for the year ended 31st December 2023
- The balance sheet as at 31st of December 2023

Christ Church, Epsom Common, is an Anglican Church in the Diocese of Guildford. The postal address is Christ Church, Christ Church Road, Epsom KT19 8NE. Registered Charity number 1127945.

The Parochial Church Council (PCC)

Under Church of England legislation, the PCC is responsible for collaborating with the incumbent in promoting, in the ecclesiastical parish, the whole mission of the Church: pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical. Worship matters are for the incumbent. The PCC is responsible for these premises: Christ Church, its Church Hall and the Curate's house at 278 The Greenway, Epsom.

The PCC has complied with the duty under section 5 of the Safeguarding and Clergy Discipline Measure 2016 (duty to have regard to the House of Bishop's guidance on safeguarding children and vulnerable adults).

PCC membership during 2023-2024

Ex-officio PCC members

Clergy	Vicar	The Revd Rosemary Donovan	Chair
	Curate	The Revd Esther Hunt	From 07/22
	Associate Minister	The Revd Sue Curtis (OLM)	
	Reader Licensed Lay Minister	Berwick Curtis (LLM)	
Churchwardens	Andrew Hards yr 5	Chair Premises	Lay Vice-Chair
	Fay Wedlake yr 2	PCC Designated CW for safeguarding	Lay Vice-Chair

Elected PCC members

Additional Roles	Name	Year appointed
Co-opted April 2022,Heating Team, Missions	David Blacoe	2022 1yr
Premises, Heating Team	Tom Ellinor	2022 1yr
Deanery Synod, PCC Safeguarding	Leslie King	2022 3yr
Finance committee, Treasurer	Nigel Daniels	2021 3yr
Merry Mowers	Daniel Korboe	2021 3yr
Deanery Synod	Shirleyann Dartnell	2022 3yr
Children and Families	Lucy Warren	2021 3yr
PCC sec, BRC, E&O, Pastoral Team	Jane Williams	2020 October 3yr
Children and Families	Clair Wright	2020 October 3yr
Deanery Synod, Children and Families	Gill Glasspool	2022 3yr
BRC, Christ Church United Rep	David Wedlake	2022 3yr

Review of PCC business from April 2023

The PCC met 8 times following the 2023 APCM, with an average attendance of 83%.

The PCC is supported by the Business and Resources Committee (the required standing committee with some additional delegated powers). The BRC has met on 5 occasions. Other groups met regularly, (each including PCC and non-PCC members), dealing with: Finance; Premises; Missions and Giving; Evangelism and Outreach; Environmental/ Eco and Children and Youth Support Team. All report to the PCC at regular intervals. Each group is chaired by Revd Donovan or a PCC member.

Seven days in advance of each PCC meeting, the agenda is displayed on the church noticeboard (a mandatory requirement). To keep the congregation informed, a summary of each PCC meeting is circulated in the following weekly Parish newsletter by email. This is also displayed on the PCC notice board along with the draft minutes of each meeting.

Safeguarding is an agenda item at every PCC meeting. The whole church community is responsible for safeguarding. Les and Maureen King, Parish Safeguarding Officers and DBS Validators, have worked diligently to keep up-to-date with new developments and requirements. Fay Wedlake is the designated CW for oversight of safeguarding.

The PCC also acknowledged the dedicated work of the Premises Committee and the heating team members. Their work has led to an improvement in the church heating. They continue to investigate possibilities for the future heating system.

We have spent time discussing the necessary maintenance to the church fabric, issues related to the Scout Hall lease and the redevelopment of both the Parish Hall and Curate's residence. The latter is now completed.

We thank the Finance Team for their diligent work through the year. Nigel Daniels has embraced the role of Treasurer and is well supported by the team: Alan Frame; Malcolm Channing, Assistant Treasurer; June Skinner, Chair and Anne Sturton.

The PCC thanked Devorah Burns, on her retirement for her work, over many years, as a Pastoral Assistant. We also thanked Greg Edwards for his role on Missions over several years.

We thank retiring PCC members Lucy Warren, Daniel Korboe and Clair Wright for their valued contribution over the past 3 years.

Hall Bookings have increased this year. The Hall is used weekdays by Little Hands Nursery. We now have regular bookings with a local Dance School on two evenings a week.

Two new administrative assistants were appointed in July 2023 .We welcomed Laura Sims and Laura Taylor working together as a job shares, covering 25 hours. Laura Sims is currently kindly covering Laura Taylor's maternity leave. Both have embraced their roles with enthusiasm and efficiency. The PCC has supported the appointment of a part time Children and Youth Worker, Sofia Welsby. We look forward to welcoming Sofia to the Children and Youth Ministry team on April 15.

Several PCC members attended The Church Growth Conference in November 2023, with a focus on reaching out to Children and Families and the wider community.

PCC agendas have included a regular review, throughout the year, of the Church Development Plan and Parish Needs Process. We feel very much that we are working well as a PCC and congregation, moving towards achieving the aims of "Growing Community, Growing Disciples, and Growing Diversity" set out in the Development Plan.

Report on the Fabric of the Church and its other Properties

2023 – 2024, as at 29 February 2024

Andrew Hards, Fay Wedlake: Church Wardens.

Introduction

Generally, the Church is in good condition but due to aging and deterioration of some of the construction elements mainly of the high level stonework and the heating system, significant costly works are anticipated within the next few years. This is consistent with the age and construction of the church building, its services and boundary walls.



The upkeep of the church, hall, grounds and 278 The Greenway (the Curate's house) are overseen by the small but dedicated Premises Committee. The Committee manages a planned maintenance programme to ensure that the small things are dealt with in a timely manner and record when everything has been completed. This includes routine items such as servicing and safety checks of heating installations, fire extinguishers, electrical installations and equipment, fire alarms, organ and woodworm checks. These are an important element of the Health and Safety of the church and hall.

As in previous years, many checks and repairs continued to be carried out in-house, saving expenditure. The wardens would like church members to note the continued hard work, advice and dedication of Richard Martin.

Thanks must again go to the teams of volunteers who work hard and often unseen with the upkeep including the church cleaners, the flower team and the Merry Mowers who have evolved into a "Whats App "connected gardening group.

An autumn clean-up day on 30th September was well attended. Thanks to all who took part.

Thanks also to Martin Shipton for continuing to deal with insurance issues. The church building is insured by the Ecclesiastical Insurance Group in the sum of £17,950,000 with a £500 excess. The hall is similarly insured for £3,330,000 with a £250 excess. EIG normally apply an inflation-indexed increase to these sums at this time of year.

Unscheduled repairs were made to **r**eplace electric heaters in the bell ringers' room: £831.60 inc VAT

Anticipated future major repairs:

Stonework

As reported at the last APCM, previous gutter replacement allowed a close examination of the roof-edge parapet wall coping stones by Andy and Robert Shaw our quinquennial architect. Parts of the stonework are clearly spalling, due to weathering and frost damage over the years. The condition is such that repair could well be a requirement of the next Quinquennial Report which is due this summer. Robert considers that it may well be possible to repair the stonework in situ rather than sourcing complete new stones but a skilled stone mason will still be required. He has experience of this type of work at other churches. His ball-park figure was in the region of £50,000.

The PCC was advised and agreed to follow Robert's suggested likely future phased course of action. This involves assessing the degree of damage and drafting a Statement of Need (both already considered) for inclusion in an application for DAC approval. From initial discussion with the DAC secretary it is likely that repairs can be carried out with Archdeacon's consent rather than a full faculty. After that, obtaining quotations, with provision for inflation (potential contractors have been identified), and then in Robert's words "draw breath" to consider funding and grant applications.

Heating system and associated items

This is known to be of limited life in terms of the boiler, radiators and pipework and is inefficient by modern standards. Problems have occurred with pilot light failure resulting in the boiler failing to

fire up on several occasions. This was rectified, with difficulty, because parts were difficult to source and required adapting on site.

A heating team has been set up to investigate alternative replacement installations; ways of making the best of the existing system; and other items such as draught-proofing. As a result of some in-house fettling, the system is now running as well as it can. Particular thanks to Roger Wedlake and Richard Martin.

This leads us to comment on an application for Christ Church to be chosen as **a Net Zero Demonstrator Church.** This is a national scheme and for successful applicants, ultimately opens up potential funding for projects to help churches achieve "zero carbon". This can include new zero carbon heating systems and solar panel (PV) installations; the scheme applies to both main church buildings. The good news is that we reached to stage one, having been chosen as one of five churches in the diocese to go forward out of over twenty initial applicants. Stage one gives access to a free Technical Advisory Service, free Fundraising Consultancy support and a cash grant of up to £15,000 + VAT towards professional fees. We are applying for stage two funding which gives access to up to £50,000 for actual works. Selection will be on a merit basis and a decision should be known around April-May. If funding is not available this time, there is a good chance of additional funds being available in 2025. Participating churches have taking have to agree to be potential published case studies. We are to some extent guinea pigs in a pilot scheme to help the Church of England achieve its aim of net zero carbon by 2030.

Other items

Regular servicing of the heating system, organ and organ blower plus safety checks of fire extinguishers were carried out, as normal.

The Hall

The main foul drains (toilets and kitchen) required frequent un- blocking. A CCTV inspection revealed several areas of deformation and tree root penetration requiring excavation and replacement. Fortunately our insurers agreed to meet the full cost (not disclosed by them) other than the excess. The work was completed in June 2023 by their appointed contractor Auger and is covered by a guarantee.

The Grounds

The condition of the flint boundary walls was mentioned in the 2019 Quinquennial Report and reported for the following APCM. They are extensive and aging with several areas of deterioration and varying amounts of lean requiring regular monitoring and represent a future liability in terms of expenditure. They will be looked at closely as part of the quinquennial architect's inspection this summer. Isolated damage, possibly vehicle, impact to the wall by the car park was repaired in July 2023 at a cost of £357.60 no VAT

278 The Greenway (The Curate House)

The fabric reports for the two previous APCMs advised that the house had received little in the way of improvement for some time and had relatively low kerb appeal compared with other houses near -by. As previously reported, the PCC were fully engaged in the consideration and approval of

improvements and alterations to make the house a better place to live as well as enhancing the market and rental values.

Work started in March 2023 with practical completion in May and the defects period ending in November. We should all be grateful to Esther and James for agreeing to vacate and for putting up with disruption to their lives especially with new baby Gabriel.

The main works were:

- Improvement of the awkward layout of the bathroom and WC with associated re fitting.
- Conversion of the integral garage to give a utility room, cloakroom and office.
- Creation of a contemporary open plan kitchen/family/dining room.
- New boiler and front door.
- Improved parking.

The PCC was kept updated during the project, having already been involved in contractor appointment and agreement of the cost. The detailed design, specification, planning and building regulations issues and contractor search plus project management including site inspections and payment authorisation was handled by an architect Annette Peters. The work was carried out by Concept 73 Developments. Annette proved to be a great asset when problems were encountered, including disputes with the contractor. The final cost with fees (architect, structural engineer) and VAT as advised in Finance Report was £165,580 (building works £158,859 with VAT)

This is more than anticipated (building works £136,418 with VAT) issues arose as work progressed such as drainage and structural engineer's requirements plus cost of materials. Annette worked hard to keep the variations down as far as possible.

Esther's husband James very kindly agreed to arrange the decorative work for which the PCC is very grateful and again for their co-operation and willingness to vacate the house and arrange alternative accommodation. Thanks also to David Blacoe for helping facilitate on-going fence repairs.

278 The Greenway: before and after



Report on the Goods and Ornaments 2023-4

As reported to the last APCM at the beginning of February 2023, the church had an intruder. There was no sign of a break in and no known missing keys. The safe lock was drilled out and opened but nothing was taken, no signs of ransacking or vandalism. The Police and insurers were notified, door lock barrels and tumblers were changed as a precaution. Richard subsequently kindly arranged replacement of the safe. This cost £2,690 with £1,838 met by insurance. The difference was the excess plus upgrade to an electronic lock to avoid obtaining costly multiple additional keys.

Out of interest, following an arrest by Thames Valley Police a repeat church burglar was convicted of theft from churches and a church school including Surrey, Andy had provided a witness statement in connection with this case.

Otherwise, there is nothing to report. Andy Hards 29/02/2024

Deanery Synod Report: Gill Glasspool

It's been another excellent year of information sharing and discussion, with Revd Rosemary as Area Dean chairing our meetings. Attendance has been good, with representatives present from the Deanery's churches. Christ Church Epsom Common was represented by Shirleyann Dartnell, Gill Glasspool and Leslie King.

The Synod met three times, in June and October 2023 and in February 2024. Each meeting begins and ends with prayer and there is sometimes a reflective song too. At the first meeting of the year's cycle, in June, we also shared a special Communion to mark the appointment of new representatives to Deanery Synod.

A brief synopsis of the main business of each meeting is as follows:

15th June 2023, at St. Paul's Church, Nork

Revd Alex Stevens welcomed everybody to St Paul's and gave a brief update on current activities in the Parish.

Rosemary reported on membership of the Deanery Leadership Team, new members of the Deanery Synod and on current vacancies/appointments and there was an update from the Treasurer.

Focus Topic: Sharing Faith Stories Rosemary interviewed a panel of four Synod members about their personal faith. Questions posed covered a range of themes, including: earliest memories of faith, a favourite scripture passage or life verse and who in the Old Testament would you most like the opportunity to speak to? These questions prompted the sharing of personal stories about how each panel member came to faith and the impact their faith has had on their lives. This discourse was followed by a lively and interesting time of general discussion.

The session was very engaging - it was interesting to hear so many diverse stories of witness. The conversations very effectively demonstrated how we as Christians should be ready to explain our faith to others, in an encouraging and non-threatening way. It was suggested that sharing faith stories in our churches could be a powerful focus for services and meetings.

4th October 2023, at St. John's, Stoneleigh

Revd Geoff Andrew led us in prayer and worship and then provided an update on St John's Stoneleigh. This included news that construction of a new footbridge over the railway line (which essentially divides Stoneleigh in half) was underway. The new bridge would have lift access and provide an easy route across the railway to the church and church centre; hopefully this would make the church more easily accessible for many so this was an exciting development.

During the normal notices, Rosemary mentioned she had recently attended the consecration of Bishop Paul at Westminster Abbey. She now looked forward to welcoming Paul on behalf of the

clergy at a special evensong at the Cathedral the following week.

Focus Topic 1: St. Martin's Epsom Motion with written ballot Rosemary then introduced a motion proposed by the Parochial Church Council of St. Martin of Tours with St. Stephen on the Downs, Epsom, acknowledging that the topic was likely to be emotive and potentially divisive. The motion, presented by Dr Howard Bluett, read:

The Parochial Church Council of St Martin of Tours with St Stephen on the Downs, Epsom and the Epsom Deanery Synod believing that marriage is a covenantal relationship between two people affirming their decision to live together in life-long faithful companionship and mutual care whatever their circumstances are or may become urges the Church of England to amend Canon B5 on Marriage by replacing the word Matrimony with Marriage and removing references to gender and the purpose of marriage which is procreation as has already been done with the Marriage Service in Common Worship in order that people of the same gender may have an identical marriage service to those of opposite genders as the purposes of marriage with the one exception of procreation are not gender specific.

<u>CANON B30 below:</u>
1. The Church of England affirms,
according to our Lord's teaching,
that marriage is in its nature a union
permanent and lifelong,
for better for worse,
till death them do part,
of one man with one woman,
to the exclusion of all others
on either side,
for the procreation and nurture of children,
for the hallowing and right direction of
the natural instincts and affections,
and for the mutual society,
help and comfort
which the one ought to have of the other,
both in prosperity and adversity.

<u>would then read:</u>
1. The Church of England affirms,
according to our Lord's teaching,
that marriage is in its nature a union
permanent and lifelong,
for better for worse,
till death them do part,
of two people,
to the exclusion of all others
on either side,
for the nurture of children,
for the hallowing and right direction of
the natural instincts and affections,
and for the mutual society,
help and comfort
which the one ought to have of the
other,
both in prosperity and adversity.

Arguments in support of and against the motion were eloquently made and carefully minuted. It was explained that Synod members would have four options to vote for:
I agree with the motion and want to cascade to Guildford Diocesan Synod.
1. I agree with the motion but do not want to cascade further awaiting General Synod's LLF process.
2. I disagree with the motion.
3. I abstain.

For the motion to be carried there would need to be a 50% majority in favour. The ballot was anonymous and votes were counted by the Lay Chair and Deanery Secretary.

The Result:

Agree and Cascade	13 votes
Agree and Wait	5 votes
Disagree	9 votes
Abstain	8 votes

Sharing the results, Peter Harvey, Lay Chair, noted that, as the 50% threshold had not been reached, the motion was not carried. However, it was observed that the result and discussions indicated that a future discussion about this issue at Synod would be beneficial.

Focus Topic 2: Christians Against Poverty (CAP) update Harry Lamaison encouraged churches to make referrals to our nearest centre now at St Barnabas. This service was being provided by Howell Hill on behalf of the Deanery. Over 200 referrals had been received since the Centre opened with more than 60 people having become debt-free following their visit.

Harry also recommended the Money Course for those struggling financially, citing alarming examples of the choices people in poverty are forced to make.

Focus Topic 3: Parish Needs Plan Rosemary outlined the four priority areas which had been identified as part of the Parish Needs Process (PNP):

- Children and Youth
- Small Groups
- Stewardship
- Community

Members were invited to split into groups to discuss what they would like from the Deanery and its meetings in future, based around these four areas. The following comments were noted:

1. Lay Children and Youth Workers do not feel supported by the Diocese. Could we explore ways in which we can share best practice and offer support and resources at Deanery Level?
2. Working together to address stewardship would be beneficial.
3. Work on building a Deanery of faith, and fellowship and stewardship will follow.
4. Focus on increased footfall – can we work on sharing best practice in this area?

1st February, 2024 at All Saints, West Ewell

Revd John Marrow welcomed everyone and led a time of worship. He talked through activities at All Saints, commenting that discipleship was key and referencing a number of events run by the church such as Youth Café for secondary school children which takes place once a week after school.

Rosemary updated those present on staffing updates and current vacancies and there was a short Treasurer's report: all were delighted to hear that owing to a healthy cash balance, no Deanery subscription was being sought in 2024.

Focus Topic: Community Engagement Revd Paul Dever of St. Paul's/Barnabas reported on how it had come about that St. Paul's Howell Hill had joined with St. Barnabas to help St. Barnabas continue to serve its community – St. Barnabas had been threatened with closure in 2019. The two main aims for St. Barnabas were to: revitalise Sunday church for young families; and to a build a community hub at St. Barnabas. Importantly, St Barnabas' significant partnerships with local mental health

organisations (e.g. the former Hospital sites, Sunnybank and Love Me Love My Mind) and its focus on supporting the wellbeing of everyone in the local community needed to be preserved.

Main achievements for St. Barnabas to date were:

- Redesigning the worship space and introducing AV for services.
- Rebuilding a community café.
- Developing a strong community hub. Through the creation of the Community Hub, many local projects and charities had become involved in the life of St Barnabas: a Deanery Christians Against Poverty centre had been set up; there's an Advice Café (where people can access help in a welcoming environment); Action for Carers meets weekly; The Good Company runs a Food Bank on Fridays; and a school holidays lunch club runs twice a week during the school holidays. In addition, the established links with mental health organisations continue.

Paul spoke enthusiastically about how churches can engage with and serve their communities by providing valuable local services. He would be delighted to visit churches across the Deanery to share ideas and approaches. In particular, there was a need in the Deanery for a local GP Hub.

Victoria Ashdown, Diocese Mission Enabler, then addressed Deanery members, urging churches to consider engaging with their community more through providing help and services. There are currently 14.4 million people living in poverty in the UK. Reaching out to the poor or marginalised is a Christian act and a really good way of regaining people's trust in the Church of England – a recent survey showed that only 35% of the UK population trusts the Church, compared with 78% trusting the NHS and 50% trusting the Bank of England!

We broke into groups to consider local opportunities for working collaboratively in our unique parishes with organisations already present, e.g. doctor's surgeries, and began to map the many local places, services and initiatives that were already available and in which we might join in.

Victoria suggested surveying our congregations to find out what assets, knowledge and talents we might access and suggested some easy collaboration with other organisations e.g. setting up a Hear Here drop in clinic. (Hear Here is a Diocese of Guildford project in partnership with Sight for Surrey and the NHS, where NHS audiology trained volunteers provide community-based hearing aid maintenance. A Hear Here Clinic, held in a Church or Community building, offers basic hearing aid maintenance and advice to support hearing aid wearers to get the best from their devices.) Through offering such services we can demonstrate the love of Christ and, potentially, also build up trust and faith in our local communities.

In conclusion, I hope this report demonstrates how at Deanery Synod we have engaged in really useful discussions this year which have the potential to inspire valuable and informed action and outreach. Our meetings have also served to inform and build up good working relationships across the Deanery.

Finance: Nigel Daniels Treasurer

Introduction:

During the year ending 31 December 2023, Christ Church received income, including legacies, of £273,156 (versus £ 242,910 in 2022) whilst expenditure totalled £345,206 (versus £250,624 in 2022): a deficit over the course of the year of £72,050 versus a deficit of £7,714 in 2022.

The main reason for the deficit was the investment made in upgrading the Curate's House, at a cost of £165,580. The deficit would have been greater but for the gratefully received legacies of £91,205 (2022 legacies: £85,194). If these 2 items are excluded, we would have been broadly in balance and perhaps this gives a better idea of "everyday" expenditure and income during 2023. However there was very little spent on the church and we were not employing a Youth and Family Worker (YFW).

In 2024, due to the quinquennial inspection of the church and the salary of a YFW, we expect general expenses to rise by £70,000. The balance sheet at the end of 2023 records the total net worth of Christ Church as £560,344 compared with £626,784 at the end of 2022.

Planned Giving and Other Income

Christ Church continues to be heavily dependent on voluntary financial contributions from our members, most of who donate via standing orders through their bank, for which we are eternally grateful. Standing orders generated £75,552 which was an increase of £1,305 over that received in 2022. We were able to claim from HMRC a total of £20,248 in gift aid.

Planned Giving forms a major source of our income. If you have not already done so, please consider joining our Planned Giving Scheme.

One off donations totalled £12,979 (£12,049 in 2022) some of which was gift aided. £4,970 of this was raised during the Stewardship campaign in October 2023.

Income from Church Hall hire increased, with £31,166 being generated (£22,878 in 2022), including the income from Little Hands nursery. Income from the hiring the Church was £1,130.

Investment interest on cash balances held with NatWest and Churches, Charities and Local Authorities Investment Management Limited (CCLA) amounted to £20,173 (£6,324 in 2022). This was due to the sharp rise in interest rates during the year.

There was £7,975 rent received for Greenways in 2022 but nothing for 2023. In 2023 £7,237 was received in grants. £6,237 was for reclaimed VAT in relation to replacement guttering work undertaken in 2022. £1,000 was from the Diocese for "Energy Rebate".

Legacy income of £91,205 was gratefully received.

Legacy income has been vital in keeping our Church solvent.

It also enables us to undertake capital projects, make improvements and repairs. So please consider leaving a legacy in your will.

A gift to the Church is normally deducted from the value of an estate when inheritance tax is calculated thereby reducing the amount of inheritance tax payable.

There are some leaflets on legacy giving at the back of the Church. More information is available at www.churchlegacy.org.uk. Or by phoning the information line on 08445 870875.

It is always important to take independent advice over such matters.

Expenditure

As mentioned above the bulk of expenditure was on the curate's House amounting to £165,580.

We have been partially protected on the costs of utilities as there are some fixed rate contracts in place for some of these utilities. These will need to be renewed at the end of this year and we are currently under discussion over this.
Our Parish Share was £86,621. This supports our clergy and ministry, as well as being part of the support to those parishes in the Diocese who are suffering from reduced income and are less well blessed with funds than ourselves. The Parish Share is expected to rise to £89,155 this year.
The AVL project was undertaken in 2018 and completed during 2019 and was treated as a capital expense. Depreciation on this, and a photocopier purchased in 2019, is over 5 years and is included in the year at £31,199. This depreciation charge will be £11,600 for 2024 after which the assets will be fully depreciated.

Missions

Donations to our Missions partners amounted to £7,250 and included £2500 carried forward from 2022.

Funds

The General Fund at the year-end is £69,361 whilst the Living Well Fund is £467,003.

Investments

In November 2018, £30,000 was invested in the Charities Ethical Investment Fund (COIF) managed by Churches, Charities and Local Authorities Investment Management Limited (CCLA). This was valued at £44,772 at the end of 2023, as against £39,162 at the end of 2022.

Unrealised gains and losses represent the movement in market values during the year and are credited or charged to the statement of financial activities based on the market value at the year end.

Statement of Financial Activities (SOFA)

These financial statements were approved by the PCC of Christ Church, Epsom Common on April 9 2024 and signed on its behalf by the Revd Rosemary Donovan.
The Income and Expenditure Analysis for 1 January 2023 to 31 December 2023 and proposed budget have not been included in this report. A print out or email copy of this report is available on request from PCC Secretary Jane Williams pcc@christchurchepsom.org.uk.

The accounts also do not incorporate the financial statements of the Vicar and Churchwardens' Trust, which handles the legacies from Eden and Dennis King and also Mildred Freeman.

Statement of Financial Activities for the period 1 Jan 23 -31 Dec 23

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Endowment funds	Total funds	Prior year total funds
Incoming resources					
Incoming resources from generated funds	-	-	-	-	-
Voluntary income	205,654	-	-	205,654	196,315
Activities for generating funds	4,491	-	-	4,491	2,279
Investment income	20,173	-	-	20,173	14,299
Incoming resources from charitable activities	35,294	-	-	35,294	26,353
Other incoming resources	7,544	-	-	7,544	3,663
Total income	**273,156**	**-**	**-**	**273,156**	**242,910**
Resources used					
Cost of generating funds	506	-	-	506	384
Charitable activities	344,459	-	-	344,459	250,201
Governance costs	241	-	-	241	38
Total expenditure	**345,206**	**-**	**-**	**345,206**	**250,624**
Net income / (expenditure) resources before transfer	**(72,050)**	**-**	**-**	**(72,050)**	**(7,714)**
Transfers:					
Gross transfers between funds - in	93,935	-	-	93,935	191,642
Gross transfers between funds - out	(93,935)	-	-	(93,935)	(191,642)
Other recognised gains / losses					
Gains/losses on investment assets	5,610	-	-	5,610	(4,817)
Gains on revaluation, fixed assets, charity's own use	-	-	-	-	-
Net movement in funds	**(66,440)**	**-**	**-**	**(66,440)**	**(12,531)**
Reconciliation of funds					
Total funds brought forward	**626,784**	**-**	**-**	**626,784**	**639,315**
Total funds carried forward	**560,344**	**-**	**-**	**560,344**	**626,784**
Represented by					
Unrestricted					
General fund	69,361	-	-	69,361	24,687
Designated					
Church & Hall Fund	3,783	-	-	3,783	2,335
Curate's House Fund	4,614	-	-	4,614	82,259
Fixed Assets	14,534	-	-	14,534	54,405
Living Well Fund	467,003	-	-	467,003	460,799
Missions Appeals Fund	1,049	-	-	1,049	2,299
Restricted					
Total funds	**560,344**	**-**	**-**	**560,344**	**626,784**

Christ Church Epsom Common Detailed Balance Sheet

		As at 31/12/2023	As at 31/12/2022
1000: 278 The Greenway		2,935	2,935
1100: Equipment		1,908	3,816
1200: Audio,Visual,Lighting		9,691	38,982
	Total Fixed assets	**14,534**	**45,733**
3200: Nat West Current account		275	100
3205: Nat West Reserve account		47,902	30,978
3220: Lloyds Bank Fees Account		1,839	1,839
3230: CBF Deposit Fund		447,599	503,987
3240: Investments		44,772	39,162
3260: Floats		100	100
3270: Sundry Debtors		7,394	4,900
Z05: Accounts Receivable		-	-
ZZZ08: Prepayments		-	-
	Total Current assets	**549,879**	**581,065**
0: .		-	-
3650: Uncleared Cheques		-	-
3680: Utilities Creditor		-	-
3690: Sundry Creditors		-	-
6699: Agency collections		975	14
Z04: Accounts Payable		3,094	-
ZZZ09: Accruals		-	-
	Total Liabilities	**4,069**	**14**
	Net Asset surplus (deficit)	**560,344**	**626,784**
Excess/(deficit) to date		(72,050)	(7,714)
Z01: Starting balances		626,784	639,315
Z02: Gains/(losses) on investment assets		5,610	(4,817)
	Total Reserves	**560,344**	**626,784**

Represented by Funds

General (Unrestricted)	69,361	24,687
Designated	490,983	602,097
Restricted	-	-
Total	**560,344**	**626,784**

Accounting Policies

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with Church Accounting Regulations 2006, together with applicable accounting standards and the SORP 2015. The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention. The financial statements include all transactions, assets and liabilities for which the PCC is responsible in law.
They do not include the accounts of church groups that owe their main affiliation to another body, nor those that are informal gatherings of church members.

Funds

Designated Funds are part of the unrestricted funds which the PCC has earmarked for a particular project or use, without restricting or committing the funds legally. The designation may be cancelled by the PCC if it later decides not to proceed or continue with the use or project for which the funds were designated.
Unrestricted Funds are General funds, which can be used for PCC ordinary purposes.

Incoming Resources

Voluntary income, including donations, gifts, legacies and grants are recognised when there is an entitlement certainty of receipt and the amount can be measured with sufficient reliability.
Investment income is recognised on a receivable basis. Income derived from events is recognised as earned and is accounted for gross.

Resources expended

Expenditure is recognised when a liability is incurred. Grants and donations are accounted for when paid over or when awarded if that award creates a binding or constructive obligation on the PCC.
The Diocesan Parish Share is accounted for when due.

Fixed Assets

Consecrated land and buildings and movable church furnishings
Consecrated and beneficed property is excluded from the accounts by s.96 (2) (a) of the Charities Act 1993. The curate's house is included at the original cost. No value is placed on movable church furnishings held by the churchwardens held in special trust for the PCC and which require a faculty for disposal, since the PCC considers this to be inalienable property. All expenditure incurred during the year on consecrated or benefice buildings and movable church furnishings, whether maintenance or improvement, is written off as expenditure in the SOFA.
Other fixtures, fittings and office equipment and individual items costing £5000 or less are not capitalised.

Payments to Trustees

There were no Payments to Trustees during the year other than for goods or services purchased by Trustees in the course of their duty on behalf of Christ Church.

Independent examiner's report to the PCC of Christ Church, Epsom Common

I report to the PCC (the trustees of Registered Charity 1127945) on my examination of the accounts of the charity for the year ended 31 December 2023, as set out on the pages attached.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity's trustees, you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ("the Act").

I report in respect of my examination of the Trust's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination, I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

Independent examiner's statement

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination which gives me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

- the accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act; or
- the accounts did not accord with the accounting records; or
- the accounts did not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair' view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination.

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.



Douglas Slade
33 Pine Walk, Banstead, Surrey

5th April 2024

PARISH OF CHRIST CHURCH EPSOM COMMON

Registered Charity No 1127945

Vestry Meeting 16 April 2023: Minutes

Held at 10am, integrated with Parish Communion. Chaired by the Vicar, the Revd Rosemary Donovan

The meeting was held publicly in church and live-streamed on Zoom (as approved by the Diocese). All votes included both those present and those joining via Zoom.

(Open to all Electoral Roll Members and every resident of the Parish)

1. Minutes of the Vestry Meeting held on 24 April 2022 were approved, as previously circulated via website, weekly newsletter and hardcopy in church from March 31 2023

2. Election of Churchwardens

There were nominations for the two Churchwarden positions.

- Andrew Hards, proposed by Avril Shipton, seconded by Ruth Grint was appointed to his 5th term
- Fay Wedlake, proposed by Hazel Rose, seconded by David Blacoe was appointed to her 2nd term

Rosemary expressed thanks for their willingness to undertake these roles and thanked them for their work over the previous twelve months. Congregation responded with a round of applause in recognition of their work.

Annual Parochial Church Meeting 16 April 2023: Minutes

(Open to all Electoral Roll Members)

1. Attendance

The service was held in Church and live-streamed. 62 adults (age over 16) were present in Church, of whom 56 were eligible to vote. Six children (under 16) were present. 10 adults were present via zoom. Apologies were received from Devorah Burns, Robert Burns and Malcolm Channing. Those attending via Zoom included Anne Chandler, Anne Fraser, Sue and Berwick Curtis (in New Zealand), Diane Mazzacaro, Mike Reeves, Margaret Carter, Avril Shipton, Sheila Frame and Caroline Daniels.

2. **Minutes of the APCM, 24 April 2022**,included in the 2023 annual report as circulated via website, weekly newsletter and hardcopy in church (from March 31 2023) were approved

3. **Electoral Roll:** Report by the Electoral Roll Officer, Martin Shipton.

The Church Electoral Roll is the foundation of the structure of synodical government in the Church of England. Like the national electoral roll, membership confers certain voting rights and lists names and addresses of all members, although only the names are publicly available. Only those who names are on the Electoral Roll are eligible for election to the PCC and Synods. At last year's

meeting I reported an Electoral Roll membership of 149 people. This year has seen the addition of 8 people but we have lost 3 members. So membership now stands at 154.

The number of men on the Roll has increased slightly and there has been a small increase in the number of people on the roll living outside the parish.

2022 – 2023 In parish 57.1%; Out of parish 42.9%

2021 – 2022 In parish 59.7%; Out of parish 40.3%

This past year has seen the death of several members of our Church Family and from our Electoral Roll: John Wilkinson, Diana Tear, Annette Pawson

Former members and those not on the Electoral Roll: Margaret Challis, Doreen Donohue, Susan Bull, Wendy Rowland, Patience Morris, Lorraine Abraham

Martin invited the congregation to stand to pause for a moment to remember them.

All are sadly missed and we thank God for our memories of them and all that they gave to us.

4. **Deanery Synod Report**. Contained in Annual report: Approved
5. **PCC Report**. Contained in Annual Report: Approved
6. **Verbal Finance Report** by Treasurer Alan Frame.

Financial Statements for year ending 31 December 2022 as contained in 2023 annual report: Approved

Alan reported a deficit of £93,000 for the year ending December 2022, which excludes £85,000 from the two legacies received in 2022. Pledged giving, the regular giving by Church members, has reduced by £9,000, largely due to deaths, people relocating and the impact of Covid-19. The cost of necessary repairs to the Parish Hall and Greenway Residence, together with replacement of Church guttering, repairs to masonry and the generally rising costs have taken their toll. Some savings have been made but not enough to balance the budget. The daily church operational costs in 2022 amounted to £350 per day.

The balance sheet looks healthy because Christ Church had received generous legacies totalling £680,000 over the past 10 years. In the previous 10 years, it received £3,500. These legacies have supported the running costs of the Church and enabled improvements to be made. Otherwise, Alan commented, the Church would not have survived financially.

The budget report, with full analysis of income and expenditure in 2022 and budget for 2023, is available by emailing: pcc@christchurchepsom.org.uk.

The next 12 months' balance sheet will be less healthy, due to funds spent on improvements to the Greenway Residence in 2023.

Alan shared how much he had enjoyed his role as Treasurer over the last 23 years. He announced that Nigel Daniels will be taking over as Treasurer from today. During the Financial Report, Alan addressed questions from the congregation, related to finance, and submitted in advance of the meeting.

Questions from Martin Shipton

a) *Although we are fortunate to have significant legacy cash in the bank in recent years, expenditure has significantly exceeded income. What steps is the PCC taking to overcome this shortfall and when does it expect to return to a break even budget?*

In response, Alan Frame made the following suggestions to address this:

- An increase in pledged giving
- A stewardship campaign, for later in the year
- A review of the policy on legacies
- Applying for grants, where possible, for any improvements /developments for capital projects
- Increasing income from lettings, especially in view of anticipated improvements to assets of the Parish Hall and Greenway Residence.
- Alan expressed the hope that a return to a balanced budget be achieved within the next 3 years

b) *Missions' giving has been cut back and the number of societies reduced for this coming year. What is the PCC policy going forward on support for our Mission Partners and their financial support?*

Response from Alan Frame

Alan felt this was a matter for the PCC to decide, dependent on future income.

Questions from David Blacoe

The following clarifications on the "Analysis of Income and Expenditure plus Budgets" are requested:-

c) *Why is the 'Clergy House Maintenance fund' shown as 2023 expenditure when it is clearly a capital project for depreciation over a few years? Could this be covered in part through a secured loan on the property?*

Response from Alan Frame:

Alan explained £85,000 derived from the two legacies received in 2022 had been allocated to the Greenway Development Fund. The additional cost of the Greenaway Residence development will be met from the Living Well fund created through previous legacies. The finance team considered the implications of depreciating this project and concluded that there was no advantage in depreciating this project. Christ Church, as a charity would receive no tax advantage, unlike a corporate company. The duration of the depreciation would be highly debatable and cannot be done over short term, for example over 20-30 years. It made sense to pay for the project from legacy funds.

d) *Is the budget of £15,000 for Little Hands' hire of the Hall anywhere near a commercial rate? This looks to be poor revenue for significant annual usage.*

Response from Alan Frame:

The Finance team has looked at this on several occasions and concluded that the viability of Little Hands is very precarious with decreasing numbers of children enrolled. It was felt that £15,000 was a significant amount to receive annually and increasing the hire fee would jeopardise the financial viability of the nursery.

e) *Why has the budget component of 'Interest' significantly reduced from 2022, when the bank rate has risen so much?*

Response from Alan Frame:

The finance team, in planning the budget, took into account the likely spending on the Greenway Residence, to be in the order of £150,000 including professional fees, which will significantly reduce the funds in accounts earning interest.

f) In the budget, is it logical to assume that that there will be no legacy income in 2023? Can we not allow for an average income over say the past 5 years, without 'counting our chickens'?

Response from Alan Frame:

Alan explained that the Finance team has never budgeted for legacy income. He had already illustrated the vast difference over a 20 year period, with £3,500 of legacy income in the 10 years preceding 2012, and the generous £680,000 received in the period 2012-2022. Alan also commented the uncertainties of probate and the time taken to realise the value of the legacy which was generally a percentage of the estate and which could take a considerable period to conclude. For these reasons, anticipating legacy income was not a practical option.

Alan concluded by saying the Finance team works hard to try to predict a budget for the following year. Work had started on this in October 2022.The challenges faced include: unpredictable expenses in maintaining an old building, increasing financial constraints and running costs. Alan shared how much he had enjoyed his role as Treasurer over the past 23 years, describing it as fun, commenting on how many familiar faces were still present and how pleased he is to see new faces joining the congregation. Alan ended by thanking the Church for the support he has received over the years.

The Congregation responded with resounding applause.

David Blacoe stood to propose a vote of thanks which was thoroughly endorsed by the congregation and subsequently Rosemary, who expressed heartfelt thanks for all Alan's dedication and hard work over the last 23 years.

7. **Annual Report on the Fabric of the Church** and other Properties, and on the Church Goods and Ornaments. Contained in Annual Report: Approved

8. PCC Elections

There were 2 vacancies on the PCC. One for a one year term on the retirement on Gerald Wisden and a 3 year term as Katherine Chambers completed 6 years as a lay representative. Tom Ellinor, proposed by David Williams, seconded by Elizabeth Martin was appointed to the one year term. The three year term remains vacant in addition to a vacant post from 2022.

Retiring members, Gerald Wisden serving for two years, Katherine Chambers serving for 6 years were warmly thanked for their valued contributions.

9. **Appointment of Deanery Synod Representatives**. There were three vacancies. Gill Glasspool, proposed by Avril Shipton, seconded by Carol Bingham, Shirleyann Dartnell, proposed by Sue Ellinor, seconded by Richard Martin and Leslie King, proposed by Jane Williams, seconded by Carol Bridger were appointed to 3-year terms. Retiring reps Merinda D'Aprano, serving for 6 years and Jen Sadler, retiring after 3 years, on grounds of ill health, were thanked for their valued contributions.

10. **Appointment of Independent Examiner**. Douglas Slade, retired Chartered Accountant was re-appointed to examine the accounts for year ending 31/12/2023 and was thanked for his work in examining the accounts for year ending 31/12/2022.

11. **Appointment of Parish Safeguarding Officers and DBS Validation Officers**. Leslie and Maureen King were appointed to these roles. Ro Stretton was thanked for her work over the previous six years. Rosemary thanked Fay Wedlake for covering this role from October 2022 until the formal appointment of Les and Maureen.

12. **Vicar's Report for APCM 16th April 2023:** delivered during the service

1 Peter 1:3-9 *John 20:19- end*

If I were Thomas I would be very disappointed not to have been there when Jesus appeared. I often suffer from FOMO, '*Fear of Missing Out*'. The reality of life is that you can't do everything or be everywhere. There are not enough hours in the day, we do what we can, not what we can't. Consequently, I am sometimes disappointed. It comes from having high expectations. My spiritual director has told me many times that 7 is good enough and aiming for 9 or 10 is just unrealistic when actually 7 is pretty amazing. So, I really get where Thomas is coming from today. He is disappointed to have missed out but actually something even better is round the corner. Jesus appears again and he has an intimate conversation with Jesus that has provided a key teaching point for generations.

I was really encouraged to get a good number of questions for the APCM today. It shows that people are engaged and interested, however I suspect there was also a bit of FOMO – had you missed something? I can assure everyone that nothing is done behind closed doors. PCC summaries are attached to the newsletter for a couple of weeks post-meeting. The Summary and Minutes of each PCC meeting are displayed on the noticeboard as they have always been.

It is a reality of modern life; especially post Covid, that we can only take so much in. I sometimes feel like nothing ever happens and when I do a review with my spiritual director I'm often pleasantly surprised. For me 2022 felt weird, as I said in my introduction to the report. I was full of optimism and hope for change in January last year and then somehow it was December and I wondered where the 12 months had gone! I am aware that so many of us battled illness or grief this past year and that takes its toll leaving very little energy for anything else. The rollercoaster of emotions in celebrating Queen Elizabeth II Platinum Jubilee then mourning her death, just weeks later, also demonstrates what a tough time we have all been through. There have been times when, as a staff team, we have felt totally battered. With personal crisis as well as a wealth of administrative or building related challenges, making progress very disjointed. We have had to cling to the living hope that Peter describes. Ongoing staff changes and premises matters, coupled with financial constraints, will form the basis of this review of the year.

The obvious highlight was welcoming Esther and James and then also baby Gabriel. I felt I really journeyed Esther's pregnancy and am delighted that she has found fulfilment as a mother. We are blessed to have this new family in our midst. This has however caused a major pause in her training and curacy. We have had to develop patience, both she and I, as we greatly enjoy working together and anticipate massive potential here.

As you are aware, David and Jo left over a year later than originally intended, due to Covid and lack of movement in posts. Our long-term aims, to make improvements to 278 The Greenway, were further thwarted by a hiatus in the construction industry. Consequently, when Esther and James needed a place to live early, due to their landlord giving them short notice we were pleased to oblige. However, this meant the window for doing up the house disappeared. We hoped to capitalise on James' experience as a builder, but, with impending fatherhood and his work demands, he was

unable to commit, but has provided very helpful advice and support to the PCC, who wrestled long and hard about what to do.

With Esther's maternity leave, a new window of opportunity opened up, and with their consent and cooperation we were able to appoint an architect and draw up plans. In response to questions from Devorah let me give you more detail on this project.

The works include: creating a new family bathroom; a spacious kitchen /diner to address damp ingress; relocating the boiler which was on its last legs; converting the garage into a study, utility and cloakroom; improving security and 'kerb view' with a new front door and driveway. The funds, available for this, came from a generous legacy of £85,000 from Jessica Walls, which we ring-fenced for this purpose. When we got quotations from 4 separate builders it became apparent that the project was not achievable on this budget. Plans were scaled down and hard negotiations undertaken but nevertheless as time and prices move on, the full cost will probably be in the region of £135,000, excluding professional fees, which will need to come out of other project monies thus reducing that pot. We are 8 weeks in, and the house is progressing nicely. Esther and James have decamped to family, because the house is unliveable until completion, estimated mid/end May. After years of simple cosmetic maintenance this has been a major piece of work and significant investment which we hope will pay dividend in a lovely family home and asset for the parish either to house future Curates or as rentable revenue stream.

Other highlights have been: seeing how our discipleship has deepened through Alpha, the Prayer Course, exploring our holy habits and more recently Talking Jesus. We have seen many newcomers as well as celebrated with seven confirmation candidates. Our weekly worship and post service hospitality is thriving, and I feel we can give praise to God for a living hope because we are '*looking towards an inheritance that can never perish, spoil or fade' (v4)* and that is far more important than a pot of money in the bank for a rainy day. YET in <u>not</u> breaking news it's raining! It's literally been pouring as we've bailed out the boiler room, dealt with tree roots in the drains, crumbling guttering, and stonework. I feel I can empathise with the churches in Asia Minor, to whom St Peter wrote, '*you may have had to suffer grief in all kinds of trials…. to prove the genuineness of your faith*' (v6-7). There is greater worth than gold, and that is the salvation of souls. Hence our focus for this year being: growing faith and outreach.

I pray that we can all unite around our longstanding vision of being a Living Well and living well. We want our premises to be fit-for-purpose, a hub for the local community. We are fully aware that we have experienced major issues with church heating this winter, which Andy will address later. Neither do we want to be embarrassed about our office, kitchen or toilet facilities. We want them to be warm and accessible for everyone. To achieve this, we will need to spend the remaining legacy money along with applying for grants and digging deep ourselves in fundraising. It won't just happen, and we cannot rest on our laurels. The PCC is adamant that legacy money is not for day-to-day running costs. The living church should pay for living ministry, hence the making of tough decisions recently, which Alan will elaborate on. In our Gospel today, Jesus gives three instructions to his disciples, which, in turn, we can imagine him sharing with us. He instructs us to live in peace, to share that peace and be peacemakers in our world, offering forgiveness and hope to others. This is our mission as we seek to live well with God, others, and ourselves. He tells us to receive the Holy Spirit. We know we cannot achieve all we want in our own strength. That's when the FOMO, (fear of missing out) holds us back, we need to be liberated and trust in God's power that raised Jesus from

the dead. We need to testify to this power and have faith. Finally, Jesus tells Thomas and us to '*Stop doubting and believe*'. I know quite often that church folk can be naturally risk-averse and of course things need to be properly researched and reflected upon, but we've been on this hall redevelopment journey for a while now and we need to seize the day and have confidence that a new era is dawning and that there is life in Jesus.

As a church we will keep **knowing** God through prayer and worship. We will keep **growing** more like Jesus in our daily discipleship and keep **going** out in love and service to our local community. This is our calling. This is our Faith. This is our hope.

13. Questions from Congregation sent in advance not addressed in the Vicar's or Finance Report.

From Hazel Rose

g) As a priority, do we need to spend money on a new heating system?

From Liz Pullinger

h) Would it be appropriate to consider a new heating system for the Church rather than putting money towards the new plan for the Hall?

Response from Chair of Premises Committee Andy Hards:

These are good questions and others have no doubt been thinking the same, given the problems with the heating this winter. Basically, the pilot light failed on numerous occasions. It has been replaced, the boiler has been firing up since and should keep going a while longer but it was difficult to obtain spare parts, so yes, we do need to investigate a replacement system. It would not however, be a good idea to rush ahead and spend a considerable sum of money immediately.

Andy attended a Deanery Eco Church meeting on 23 February; the lead speaker was Alison Moulden the Diocese Environment Officer. Alison mentioned that the Church Commissioners have allocated £190 million to help churches achieve "net zero." How this will be distributed has yet to be decided but **Alison strongly suggested that individual churches look at their heating and have a plan and budget ready to apply for finance**. To qualify, a new system will almost certainly have to be non-fossil fuel burning.

Alison also suggested that churches will need to show that they have obtained independent advice on heating and an energy audit rather than free advice from an installer that could be misleading and inaccurate. She recommended registering with Parish Buying (done) to obtain discounted advice.

This will probably cost about £445 potentially less a £100 subsidy plus VAT. Grants may well be available within the Diocese towards the cost and Rosemary has a connection with the person in charge. Alison mentioned that the Church of England appreciates the difficulties and cost of heating large draughty churches and is aware that heat pump installations aren't a suitable option in this situation. So in conclusion, yes we need to investigate a new system but need to do this in a planned, measured way taking further advice, considering very carefully the advantages and disadvantages of the options including factors such as power supply and be ready to apply for any financial aid available. Competition for aid will be intense so we will need to be prepared asap.

If you'd like to chat about the current heating system and its shortcomings which are largely a result of its age and design please have word with me.

(The next Deanery Eco Church meeting will concentrate on church heating, these are open meetings so all welcome. 24 May 7.30 pm at St Martins)

From Martin Shipton

i) *As part of the Living in Love and Faith initiative parishes were encouraged to respond with their views before 30 April 2022. Did Christ church PCC respond and if so what was their response?*

Response from Revd Rosemary Donovan:

LLF questionnaire was for individuals to respond to. I have no idea how people from CC responded. The turnout for the course was poor.

j) *Since the 2020 Vision Project and a hall extension project were launched there have been several architect proposals and discussions. What is the total spend on architect's fees to the present time*

Response from Revd Rosemary Donovan:

Approximately £14K .There is a fees scale within a project brief which is roughly 10% of completed project however as we are only at the design stage. Fees are all that have been spent.

From Jo Wolfe

k) *Question about Funds available for Hall Development:*

Response from Revd Rosemary Donovan:

You will recall we had about £450k ring-fenced in the living well fund for special projects from legacies. With works at the Greenway it will be a reduced amount for the hall redevelopment most likely £250- 300k. This will need supplementing with grants for accessibility and eco credentials as well as fundraising from the congregations.
The PCC has scaled down plans significantly in order to achieve a manageable project which Brendan will present following this service.

14. Closing comment by Revd Rosemary Donovan offering a further open meeting after the morning service on May 21 to answer any further questions which may arise and an invitation to refreshments and presentation in the Parish Hall to attend the presentation and discussion by Architect Brendan Tracey on the revised plans for the Parish Hall Development.

Jane Williams PCC secretary 23/04/2023

THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF CHRIST CHURCH EPSOM

England & Wales - Charity number 1127945

Accounts

Charity Commission number 1127945 The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of Christ Church Epsom Common

Trustees Annual Report and Accounts year ending December 31 2022

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Christ Church Epsom Common Annual Report 2022-2023

Approved by the PCC, March 13 2023

A Message from Revd Rosemary Donovan

The combination of personal life events coupled with national ones seems to have overshadowed this past year for me and it feels like it has come and gone in something of a blur. (Maybe that's the effect of major surgery and a new puppy!) The joy of celebrating the Queen's Platinum Jubilee in June followed by the sadness of her death in September sums up the roller-coaster of emotions that we have all been on.

There continues to be a slow recovery in communal life as the long-term effects of the Covid 19 Pandemic remain with some people still cautious and others struck down with a variety of seasonal aliments that we have been sheltered from in recent times. This makes planning and preparation hard, and we increasingly need a flexible approach with contingency options. This was made harder with changes in personnel in the office and the ongoing sick leave of our Youth and Families Worker.

In July we were pleased to welcome our new Curate, Esther Holley Hunt and her husband James, rejoicing with them on the arrival of their first child Gabriel in October. As a result, Esther has since been on maternity leave, but we look forward to her flourishing in ministry and the exciting proposition of hosting her ordination to the priesthood at Christ Church in October.

Worship

It is always encouraging to receive positive feedback and not a week goes by without someone commenting about how inspiring they found our main morning worship whether that be the sermon or the music or sense of the Spirit moving amongst us. In all things as long as glory is given to God that is most important. It has been good to restart post service hospitality thanks to the coordination of Ruth Grint and a team of willing volunteers. We continue to explore ways of making this more efficient and environmentally friendly.

The addition of a quiet said Holy Communion on the mornings of 5@5 seem to have been popular although the main focus those days will be building community through food, fellowship and café style worship which is growing. The Source has fluctuated a bit due to Jen's absence but sincere thanks to those faithful volunteers that welcome families, join in craft and make tea or cakes.

Additional work commitments have forced Sarah to step down from coordinating baptisms so that ministry too has had to be transitioned. Thanks to Sarah and the rest of the team who assist with preparation and services. Pastoral offices have seen a gradual decline in recent years as other options are available for civil ceremonies, but it is always a joy to celebrate and officiate at life's key moments. We were pleased to host completely on site the wedding of a former Chorister Emily, this year and have mourned the loss of our former

Verger Diana. We were also pleased to baptise 5 adults and they along with 3 further were confirmed by Bishop Andrew at St. Mary's, Ewell on Advent Sunday.

Probably the highlight of the year was celebrating the Queen's jubilee with a party and worship, and we chose to explore her values and faith in our summer series outdoor worship. This was made even more poignant with her death just weeks later. However, we were pleased to offer sanctuary for those who wished to light a candle and sign the Book of Remembrance, and the Thanksgiving service for her life was very well attended. Our Bellringers were able to contribute peels for both the Queen's passing and the accession of the new King Charles. We look forward to both ringing and singing for the King later this year.

Church Development

We have been fortunate to have been gifted with several legacies in recent years and these monies have been ring fenced for redevelopment or special projects that we could never be able to afford ordinarily. Plans for the hall upgrade have been tweaked in the light of the Pandemic and rising building costs and we hope to present them to the wider congregation very soon. There will however be a shortfall as the Greenway project will eat into a portion of the available funds but an upgrade to that property is prudent and could be used as collateral. Although it is hoped that fundraising and grants can be achieved. We have offered the Scouts a new lease, but they are as yet to sign which is disappointing.

Outreach

We were pleased to repeat the Creationtide family fun day in partnership with the Little Hands Nursery and new connections were made. Many people shared in a live screening of the late Queen's funeral. The re-establishment of the ecumenical Good Friday witness in the market place had a good feel and turn out thanks to the community choir coordinated by David Williams.

Members of the Evangelism and Outreach team have attended several training events and we seek to increase our community engagement in the coming year.

Social Events

It has been good to concentrate on rebuilding community through our regular walks and lunches. Strengthening the fellowship aspect at 5@5 with a wonderful afternoon tea for the Jubilee, fun at the holiday at home in the summer, and a spectacular fireworks display in the autumn.

In particular the whole community pulled together to rise over £1700 at the Autumn fair which bought in stallholders from the local community too. Several of the MU were privileged to visit Frogmore House in the summer as the late Queen opened its gardens for charity. We hope to return to Windsor on a coach trip in this coming year.

Children and young people

Sadly, Jen's long term sick leave has put a huge dent in the work she had begun and dwindling finances mean we cannot continue to employ a fulltime YFW. We were not successful in appointing a temporary post holder and look forward to Jen retuning part time after Easter. Massive thanks to Katharine and Gill who continue to maintain CCKids.

The Youth group has had several new members and meets weekly for games, discussion, and films. It was great that 4 young people were confirmed this year and the group facilitated an Easter egg trail on the common for local families to enjoy.

We have hosted shared activities with the Forest School, Wheels and Squeals and uniformed organisation as well as acts of collective worship for our schools. CCUFC looked on the brink of closure in the summer as several founding coaches retired .Fortunately with a lot of prayer and appealing for volunteers from the wider community it has survived. Thanks to David Wedlake for continuing to support our link with the club and we look forward to hosting the annual award ceremony again.

Eco Church

With the C of E pledge to be Carbon Zero by 2030 the climate emergency is a real challenge. Consequently Alison Moulden, the Diocesan Environmental Advisor issued 3 targets to Guildford Churches for 2022.

1. Get a new Eco Church Award
2. Fill in the Energy Footprint Tool
3. Switch to renewable energy

We were delighted to achieve all 3 and were awarded the Silver Eco award in September.

The group organized another popular twilight bat walk in the summer and are in the process of erecting swift boxes and a water butt to improve our grounds. Raising the profile of this essential aspect of ministry remains a strong priority as we believe our unique location compels us to really nail our colours to the mast on this issue as part of our discipleship and response to a loving Creator. Safeguarding the planet is one of the 5 marks of mission and not an optional extra. This is integral to everything we do as we seek to be a Living Well and live well ourselves

Discipleship

Revd Sue Curtis

Discipleship is one of the key threads of our Parish Development plan. The priority is to ensure that we have a strategic approach to discipleship and growing leaders. The action points include promoting new opportunities for deepening discipleship, through courses, quiet days and service. One of the possibilities is participating in a church retreat or Big Day Out.

A disciple is someone who follows the teachings, life, and aims of another until the person becomes like that individual. Discipleship in the Christian sense is the process of become like

Christ. As disciples, we need to follow the teachings and actions of Jesus, allow the Holy Spirit to transform how we live and commit to the work of God in the world.

Many things contribute to helping us grow as disciples of Christ: our worship, prayer, Bible study, care for each other, commitment to working for God's justice and outreach in mission and proclamation.

As a community, Sunday worship, including the worship in songs and hymns, corporate prayer, Bible readings, preaching and the messaging in the liturgy is a main way we develop our knowledge, relationship with God and experience as disciples. In the last year we have had some Sunday sermon series where we have focussed for a specific set of talks on particular topics. These have included a focus on the values of our late Queen in August and on the environment during September.

Our Lent course, this year, looked at *Talking Jesus* and how we share our faith. This has also involved a whole church course in the evening. As disciples, sharing our faith in word, values and actions is a priority.

Last summer some Christ Church members, in different phases of a faith journey, joined with the other local Anglican churches at *The Prayer Course* which helped develop and enrich our openness and receptivity to God.

Working in prayer and action as part of *Churches Together in Epsom* (CTiE) is also important in witnessing to the community where we are united as disciples and broadening our own perspectives.

Home groups are also an important part of developing together as disciples of Christ. Within Christ Church, people meet regularly to get to understand God and know each other better. Meeting in homes, there is an opportunity to explore the Bible, issues of faith, and to discuss current issues from a Christian perspective. This is an excellent chance to share ideas in a safe and supportive environment. In a group situation it is easy to share prayer, social activities, and pastoral care for each other, as trust and friendships develop. Groups are open to all and welcome anyone who can come along. There is a chance to talk and listen and we learn together and develop our response to God's love in a friendly and relaxed way. The groups currently meet on a Tuesday. There are evening groups that meet weekly in term time on Zoom and in person, one group that normally meets monthly in person and a group that meets on a Tuesday, sharing lunch together. Why not give a Home Group a try? It is an excellent way to develop connections within the Christ Church community.

If we are to continue to grow as Christian Disciples, it would be good to expand our group provision, attracting new and younger Christians as well as continuing to nurture and develop those who are established group members. Maybe a different balance of activities would be good and meeting on a different day or time, could help some share in this formative process. What we need are some new leaders. Leadership can be shared; the need is to be an enabler, not an expert.

If you would like to know more, speak to Sue Curtis 01372 210492 or email associateminister@christchurchepsom.org.uk.

Pastoral Care

Sue Matthews

The Pastoral Care Team continues to meet every 6 weeks to review and respond to Pastoral needs. The Ministerial team, Parish Safeguarding Officer and Youth and Family worker attend the meetings, in addition to the lay members of the pastoral team. Prayer for those in need has continued through the prayer chain and intercessions in services. Prayer ministry is offered after the morning service, with at least two people available, who will pray with you, respecting confidentiality. All members of the prayer ministry team are trained and meet regularly with Rosemary for ongoing training and support. The Tea Club meets quarterly and is well supported. The Baptism team continue to work with families in preparation for, and after baptism. The weekly MailChimp parish notices outline how to seek pastoral support. To ensure inclusivity, paper copies of Parish notices are delivered to those without email access. Sue Curtis also emails a simplified version of the notices to those with limited IT access titled 'Keeping in Touch'.

The team now uses a pastoral email address for each Pastoral Assistant, available on MailChimp bulletins. All members of the team are trained by the Guildford Diocese and also attend update courses including Domestic Abuse Awareness and Safeguarding Leadership. Current team members are Pastoral Assistants: Sue Matthews; Jo Wolfe; Devorah Burns and Pastoral Visitor Jane Williams. More people are much needed for these roles. If you would like to join the Pastoral team and or the Prayer Ministry team please speak to Sue Matthews.

Current contact details:
Sue Matthews - pastoralsue@christchurchepsom.org.uk
Jo Woolfe - pastoraljo@christchurchepsom.org.uk
Devorah Burns -pastoraldevorah@christchurchepsom.org.uk
Jane Williams - pastoraljane@christchurchepsom.org.uk

Missions

Greg Edwards

Christ Church directs its Missions Giving through ten championed charities, which are supported for a 3-year period. However, due to financial pressures facing the Church, it has been decided at the PCC level to look at reducing the number of Missions and the subsequent Missions Budget for 2023.

We had a successful 2022/23 year. One of the principle actions on the Missions Committee is to distribute funds out of our emergency funding pot (usually 15% of the Missions budget) to charities that urgently require funding, based on the consensus from the Missions. This year we successfully distributed the following payments:

- £1000 - Visions People in Mission (VPM), Nairobi - Pam Buckingham dedication payment appeal
- £500 - Epsom Refugee Network
- £500 - UNHCR – Pakistan appeal
- £500 - Turkey/Syria Earthquake appeal

One of the positives from this year was larger collections in our nominated services (Harvest & Christmas) for specific charities.

- At the Harvest service, we managed to collect £348 in total including a car boot of goods and donations for the **Epsom Food Bank**
- We also collected a total of £454.52 in the Christmas Crib service, plus a further £130 online which went towards the **Epsom Refugee Network.**

Although the ask is to reduce the number of Missions in 2023 down to 5 members, we have requested PCC approval for us to keep all 10 Missions for the foreseeable future, but not to fund 4 of these Missions in 2023. This will still keep these 4 Missions visible/ known to the congregation. When the Mission Renewal process takes place next year, rather than changing or increasing Mission representatives, we will look at using this process to naturally reduce Missions that aren't actively supported or Missions who wish to step down.

Our vision for the forthcoming 2023 year, is to focus on using our limited resources to carry on our Charitable work, keep our supporting / promoting our Charities to the congregation & start looking at ways of supporting our Missions with less dependence on the Church's finances. Example: Christmas hamper collection for the Besom, individual school fees sponsorship for VPM orphans in Nairobi, the Children Society money collection boxes etc.

Once again, we thank Christ Church parochial team and congregation for their continued support for the Missions Committee.

Safeguarding

Fay Wedlake Church Warden and interim PSO from October 2022, Andy Hards Church Warden

It is exciting that we will all have acquired the same shared understanding that

"Safeguarding is everyone's responsibility"

What is safeguarding and why is it important?

Safeguarding means protecting a person's health, wellbeing and human rights to enable them to live free from harm abuse and neglect.

Ref: Introduction from 'Promoting a Safer Church', The Church of England's Safeguarding Policy Statement cofe-policy-statement.pdf (churchofengland.org)

*The care and protection of children, young people and vulnerable adults involved in Church activities is the responsibility of the whole Church.

*Everyone who participates in the life of the Church has a role to play in promoting a Safer Church for all.

*Safeguarding Policy Statement of the Church of England The Church of England, its Archbishops, Bishops, clergy and leaders are committed to safeguarding as an integral part of the life and ministry of the Church.

Safeguarding means the action the Church takes to promote a safer culture.

*This means we will promote the welfare of children, young people and adults, work to prevent abuse from occurring, seek to protect those that are at risk of being abused and respond well to those that have been abused.

*We will take care to identify where a person may present a risk to others, and offer support to them whilst taking steps to mitigate such risks.

The Church of England affirms the Whole Church approach to safeguarding.

*This approach encompasses a commitment to consistent policy and practice across all Church bodies, Church Officers and that everyone associated with the Church, who comes into contact with children, young people and adults, has a role to play.

*The Church will take appropriate steps to maintain a safer environment for all and to practice fully and positively Christ's Ministry towards children, young people and adults; to respond sensitively and compassionately to their needs in order to help keep them safe from harm.

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Christ Church Safeguarding Policy - Ratified by PCC 2022

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Commissioned by the PCC, I assisted Ro Stretton our Safeguarding Co-ordinator with reviewing safeguarding training in the Parish in line with the current requirements of the Church of England and Guildford Dioceses.

Safeguarding Training Requirements:

✓ = Mandated X = Not Mandated	Core Training			Safer Recruitment and People Management Required for all line managers or if involved in recruitment	Raising Awareness of Domestic Abuse
Role	Basic Awareness	Foundation	Leadership		
Licenced Clergy	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Permission to Officiate (Clergy and LLM)	✓	✓	✓ (PTO version)	X	✓
Licensed Lay Ministers (LLM) and Chapter Members	✓	✓	✓	X	✓
Parish/Cathedral Safeguarding Officer	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Churchwardens	✓	✓	✓	✓ (if in vacancy)	✓
PCC Members	✓	✓	X	X	✓
Employed Youth, Children's, and Families Workers	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Operations Managers and DBS Validators	✓	✓	X	✓	X
Pastoral Workers, Spiritual Directors, Occasional Preachers	✓	✓	✓	X	✓
Employed Worship Leaders and Director of Music	✓	✓	✓	X	X
Church Administrators, Activity Leaders and Helpers, Home Group Leaders, Tower Captains & Vergers	✓	✓	X	X	Recommended for Leaders
Bell Ringers & Sides Person	✓	X	X	X	X
Valid: January 2022 to December 2024	All Core Training must be refreshed once every three years at the highest level			Refreshed every three years	

Ref: https://www.cofeguildford.org.uk/about/safeguarding/safeguarding-training

Our focus is to support people in Christ Church to access the higher levels of Core Safeguarding Training: that is the Basic Awareness and Foundation, Domestic Violence and Leadership

52 Adults of all ages, have successful completed the on line safeguarding training.

There are 66 people on rolling refresher programme.

If you are curious, the modules build on faith, are relevant to both church growth and everyday life settings, accessible via the above web address.

Safeguarding and DBS are both to be refreshed every three years (rather than 5 years)

In the Disclosure and Barring Service (DSB), higher security levels of Enhanced Plus or Enhanced are required for a wider variety of roles. To ensure Christ Church remains Diocesan DSB Compliant.

DBS Review: 48 people eligible – 16 hold valid DBS, 32 need new or renewal of existing DBS.

Welcome to Les and Maureen King to be formally appointed As DBS and Safeguarding Officers

*Safeguarding and DBS linked to "Safer Recruiting" and the "Rolling Safeguarding Refresher and DBS Update Programmes in Christ Church".

"Creating a Safe Space and Safer Culture in Christ Church Epsom".

Thank you so much to Ro Stretton for the much appreciated, hard work you have put into shaping both the Safeguarding and the DSB systems over many years.

Church Governance

ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2022 – Jane Williams PCC Secretary March 2023

Together with:

- The statement of financial activities (SOFA) for the year ended 31st December 2022
- The balance sheet as at 31st of December 2022

Christ Church, Epsom Common, is an Anglican Church in the Diocese of Guildford. The postal address is Christ Church, Christ Church Road, Epsom KT19 8NE. Registered Charity number 1127945.

The Parochial Church Council (PCC)

Under Church of England legislation, the PCC is responsible for collaborating with the incumbent in promoting, in the ecclesiastical parish, the whole mission of the Church: pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical. Worship matters are for the incumbent. The PCC is responsible for these premises: Christ Church, its Church Hall and the Curate's house at 278 The Greenway, Epsom.

The PCC has complied with the duty under section 5 of the Safeguarding and Clergy Discipline Measure 2016 (duty to have regard to the House of Bishop's guidance on safeguarding children and vulnerable adults).

PCC membership during 2022-2023

Ex-officio PCC members

Clergy	Vicar	The Revd Rosemary Donovan	Chair
	Curate	The Revd Esther Hunt	From 07/22
	Associate Minister	The Revd Sue Curtis (OLM)	
	Reader Licensed Lay Minister	Berwick Curtis (LLM)	
Churchwardens	Andrew Hards	Chair Premises	Lay Vice-Chair
	Fay Wedlake	Interim Safeguarding Officer	Lay Vice-Chair

Elected PCC members

Additional Roles	Name	Year appointed
BRC , Eco Team ,Children and Families	Katherine Chambers	2020
Deanery Synod, PCC Safeguarding	Merinda D'Aprano	2020
Finance committee	Nigel Daniels	2021
Merry Mowers	Daniel Korboe	2021
Deanery Synod ,E&O	Jen Sadler	2020
Children and Families	Lucy Warren	2021
PCC sec, BRC, E&O	Jane Williams	2020 October
Merry Mowers	Gerald Wisden	2021
Children and Families	Clair Wright	2020 October
Deanery Synod, Children and Families	Gill Glasspool	2022
Christ Church United Rep	David Wedlake	2022

Review of PCC business

The PCC met 8 times during the year with an average attendance of 75%.

The PCC is supported by the Business and Resources Committee (the required standing committee with some additional delegated powers). Other groups met regularly, (each including PCC and non-PCC members), dealing with: Finance, Premises, Missions and Giving, Evangelism and Outreach, Environmental/ Eco and Children and Youth Support Team. All report to the PCC at regular intervals. The terms of reference of each group were reviewed

in September 2021. Each group is chaired by Revd Donovan or a PCC member, with the exception of Missions Team, chaired by Greg Edwards who also attends the BRC meetings.

Seven days in advance of each PCC meeting, the agenda is displayed on the church noticeboard (a mandatory requirement). A summary of each PCC meeting is circulated in the church MailChimp Bulletin. The summary and draft minutes are also displayed on the PCC noticeboard to keep the congregation informed.

Safeguarding is an agenda item at every PCC meeting. The whole church community is responsible for safeguarding. Ro Stretton, Parish Safeguarding Officer, has worked diligently to keep up-to-date with new developments and requirements. Ro retired from this role in October 2022 with Fay Wedlake covering in the interim with the support of Rosemary pending appointment of Safeguarding Officers in April 2023

The PCC also expressed heartfelt thanks for the work of the Finance Committee during these challenging times, with grateful thanks to Alan Frame to retaking the role of Treasurer in the short term. Thanks were also expressed during the year to our dedicated Music Worship Team, including the Band, Choir and to Dan Allsopp, Band Leader and David Williams, Choir Director and Organist for their resourcefulness in responding to ongoing challenges posed by Covid infection. Thanks also to our dedicated sound desk team. The PCC also acknowledged the dedicated work of Andy Hards and Richard Martin on the Premises team. Richard retired from this role in summer 2022 after 30 years' service.

We met for an at home "away day" in July and spent time reflecting on the Church of England's vision to be 'Simpler, Humbler and Bolder' in its evangelism, worship, and outlook. Several PCC members attended an inspiring conference on Church Growth in November and a two day meeting in January, led by Jacquie Pullinger with a focus on sharing our faith.
We have spent time discussing the necessary maintenance to the church fabric, issues related to the Scout Hall lease and possibilities for redevelopment of both the Parish hall and Curates residence.
Hall Bookings have increased this year. Parish Administrator Sophie Foale has worked hard to promote the Parish Hall for lettings. The Hall is used weekdays by Little Hands Nursery. We now have regular bookings with a local Dance School on two evenings a week. We continue to have monthly lettings by Alpine Garden Society and Epsom Paws for regular dog training sessions. An increasing number of community groups hire the hall for their annual AGM's and the ad-hoc meeting. To name a few we have: Noble Park Estate AGM, Stamford & Horton Residents Association, Epsom Civic Society, and Epsom Common Association. Ad hoc bookings for birthday parties and one off events continue. It is encouraging to see an increase in community use of our premises post Covid.

The pandemic has had an impact not only on church finances, but also on the scope of our activities. We look forward to working with the congregation to fulfil God's plan for us in this community, with the power of the Holy Spirit directing and inspiring us.

Church Wardens' Report on the Fabric of the Church and its other Properties 2022 – 2023

Andrew Hards, Fay Wedlake: Church Wardens. 22 February 2023

Introduction

Generally, the Church is in good condition but aging and deterioration of some of the construction elements meant that several significant repairs were required and some further work is anticipated within the next few years. This is consistent with the age and construction of the main church building and boundary walls

The upkeep of the church, hall, grounds and 278 The Greenway (the Curate's house) are overseen by the small but dedicated Premises Committee.

The Committee manages a planned maintenance programme to ensure that the small things are dealt with in a timely manner and record when everything has been completed. This includes routine items such as servicing and safety checks of heating installations, fire extinguishers, electrical installations and equipment, fire alarms, organ and woodworm checks. These are an important element of the Health and Safety of the church and hall.

As in previous years, many checks and repairs continued to be carried out in house-saving expenditure. The wardens would like the church members to note the continued hard work, advice and dedication of Richard Martin.

Thanks must again go to the teams of volunteers who work hard and often unseen with the upkeep including the church cleaners, the flower team and the Merry Mowers who have evolved into a "Whats App "connected gardening group, thanks to Gerald Wisden for overseeing this.

An autumn clean- up day on 15 October was well attended, thanks to all who took part.

A spring clean- up was planned for 1 April 2023.

Thanks also to Martin Shipton for continuing to deal with insurance issues.

The church is insured by the Ecclesiastical Insurance Group in the sum of £14,780,000 with a £500 excess and the £2,960,000 with a £250 excess for the hall. EIG normally apply an inflation indexed increase to these sums at this time of year.

The Church

As indicated, several significant repairs took place which was fully described in the previous APCM fabric report.

1. The rain water gutters were replaced, downpipes overhauled and repainted and the eaves level woodwork repainted. The work was carried out by DBR Leadwork at a cost of £31,000 plus VAT (thanks to Alan Frame for reclaiming the VAT). The work was supervised by Robert Shaw, our Quinquennial Architect and signed off on 10 August 2022.

2. Following the boiler room flood our insurance claim for drainage repairs was a success saving a significant amount of money. Repairs involving partial drain re lining and partial replacement were carried out by Auger and signed off on 13 June 2022.

Future major repair:

The gutter work involved scaffolding which allowed a close examination of the roof edge parapet wall coping stones by Andy and Robert Shaw. Parts of the stonework are clearly spalling, due to weathering and frost damage over the years. The condition is such that repair could well be a requirement of the next Quinquennial Report which is due in the summer of 2024. Robert considers that it may well be possible to repair the stonework in situ rather than sourcing new stones but a skilled stone mason will still be required. He has experience of this type of work at other churches. His ball park figure was in the region of £50,000, possibly less.

The PCC was advised and has agreed to follow Robert's suggestion of a phased course of action. This involves assessing the degree of damage and drafting a Statement of Need (both already done) for inclusion in an application for DAC approval. From initial discussion with the DAC secretary it is likely that repairs can be carried out with Archdeacon's consent rather than a full faculty.

After that, obtain quotations with provision for inflation (potential contractors have been identified) and then in Robert's words "draw breath" to consider funding and grant applications.



In addition to major works, regular servicing of the heating system, organ and organ blower plus safety checks of fire extinguishers were carried out as normal.

Some additional work was performed during organ servicing to repair the leaking air valve that was causing an annoying hissing noise.

The Hall

Little has been required since the last APCM report.

The boiler pump was replaced following routine servicing.

Additional door hinge finger guards were fitted to reduce the risk of injury and potential claims with the help of Charles Rodrigues of Little Hands.

The Grounds

The condition of the flint boundary walls was mentioned in the 2019 Quinquennial Report and reported at the last APCM. Since then, two areas of damage have appeared facing the car park, possibly due to un-reported vehicle impact. At the time of writing, quotations were in hand with a view to repair to prevent further deterioration. Repair timing is weather dependant.

278 The Greenway (The Curate House)

The Curate Esther Hunt and her husband James moved in, initially as church tenants, during November 2021.

The fabric report for the previous APCM advised that the house has had little in the way of improvement for some time and has relatively low kerb appeal compared with other houses near -by.



As previously reported the PCC had considered and approved a programme of improvements which should make the house a better place to live up to as well as enhancing the market and rental values.

The main items are:

Improved parking, new front door, improvement to the awkward layout of the bathroom and wc, conversion of the integral garage to give an extra room, utility area and ground floor wc plus associated refitting of the kitchen and creation of a contemporary kitchen/family/dining room.

The PCC had significant involvement in the process of approving contractor appointment and agreement of the cost.

The detailed design, specification, planning and building regulations and contractor search were handled for the church by a professional architect, Annette Peters Design. She has gone through the successful quotation in considerable depth with the contractor to bring the cost down as far as possible but it is still a considerable sum reflecting high inflation particularly for building materials. The PCC were fully engaged and considered the options including limiting the scope of the work and even suspending the project before giving final approval.

The architect performed due diligence checks on the contractor including references, arranged the contract and will carry out all supervision with 2 weekly valuations of the work as it progresses.

The contractor is Adam Hayman trading as Concept 73 Developments.

His final quotation was £113,682 plus VAT

Esther's husband James has very kindly agreed to undertake the decorative works at materials cost only for which the PCC is very grateful, also for their co-operation and willingness to vacate the house and arrange alternative accommodation during the work.

Report on the Goods and Ornaments 2022-2023

At the beginning of February, the church had an intruder or intruders. There was no sign of a break in and no known missing keys. The safe lock was drilled out and the safe opened but nothing was taken, no signs of ransacking or vandalism in other parts of the church. The Police and insurers were notified, door lock barrels and tumblers were changed as a precaution and to satisfy insurers. Thanks to Richard Martin for this. Insurers have agreed to meet the cost of a replacement safe and at the time of writing, quotations were being obtained again with the help of Richard.

Otherwise, there is nothing to report

Deanery Synod Report

Gill Glasspool. Christ Church representatives: Merinda D'Aprano and Gill Glasspool

The Synod has met three times over the course of the year, with each meeting taking place at a different church venue and having a different focus. As Deanery Synod Chair, Rosemary has led each meeting, all of which have been well attended by representatives from churches across the Deanery. Discussions have been enthusiastic, engendered a common understanding and facilitated a healthy cross-fertilisation of ideas.

The agenda for each meeting usually includes administrative items, e.g. Deanery and Diocesan updates and Treasurer's Report, and then a focus topic presented by a guest speaker with break out discussions.

Thursday 16th June 2022 at St. Mary the Virgin, Headley

Revd. Harry Latham provided a very interesting introduction, informing us about the church's history and fabric in addition to current church practice and trends: traditional/Eucharistic services are held at St. Mary's but there were plans for new 'gathering' times, these mainly in response to calls from members of the Community Choir who had shown interest in exploring church in a new way.

Focus Topic: Eco-Church, presented by Alison Moulden, Diocesan Environment Officer.

Alison's presentation was comprehensive and packed with information. She covered:

- a brief history of the awareness of climate change;

- the imperative need for Christians to act to protect God's creation;
- a reminder that the Church of England has committed to be Net Zero by 2030 – soon!

Alison noted that in many cases church buildings were not built with energy efficiency in mind but reminded us that there was lots of scope for every parish to become more eco-friendly. Churches were urged to sign up for Eco Church – we already had and, in fact, Christ Church went on to receive our Silver Award later in the year! At the time of the meeting, only 55% of the Deanery had signed up and only two awards had been made (our Bronze Award being one of these). Churches were reminded to fill in the Energy Footprint Tool by 31st July 2022.

Break out groups discussed related issues pertinent to their own church environments and shared success stories. These were captured, with Alison highlighting further eco quick wins.

Thursday 5th October 2022 at Ruxley Church

Revd Fiona Ellingham led the meeting in Creationtide prayer and provided a brief biography of Ruxley Church which was celebrating its 20th year in ecumenical partnership with the Ruxley Methodist Church.

Focus Topic: Mission Presentation from Peter Harwood, Diocese Director of Mission and Sarah Slater, Mission Training Lead.

In his introduction, Peter described the Diocese's goal of helping everyone in our churches to: grow in faith; become lifelong learners; and have the right tools to share our faith with others. Peter then invited us to split into parish groups to consider the question: 'What caused you personally to grow in faith?'

Following feedback, the groups reflected on how their faith was currently being nurtured and responses were considered as a basis for future mission.

Peter advised that the *Transforming Church Transforming Lives* vision (a diocesan vision for growth in our personal faith and as a Church body, which in turn has a positive impact on the flourishing and growth of the communities we serve) had recently been relaunched. The twelve original strategic goals had been slimmed down to three to outline the Mission of the Diocese as a whole. These were:

1. Growing Disciples
2. Diversity (including age, youth, ethnicity, equality)
3. Growing community

Peter asked everyone to consider their calling and the ways in which our own unique talents could be used for mission in future.

Sarah Slater described the Lay Training Pathway, launched earlier in 2022, as lifelong learning for Lay Disciples. The training comprises a suite of resources to support the training of Lay Pastoral Visitors/Assistants, Service Leaders and Occasional Preachers. A flexible

programme means it will meet parish needs whilst addressing the individual skillsets and aspirations of those being trained.

The Clergy Ministerial Development Programme was also described.

Thursday 2nd February 2023 – a zoom meeting

The meeting took place via zoom as the main topic speaker – Fran Pyatt from the Diocesan Safeguarding Team – was unable to attend. The topic will now be addressed at a future date.

Rosemary provided her usual updates and we received a short report from the Treasurer. During this item, it was suggested that the Deanery should consider moving its bank account to a recognised ethical bank. The Treasurer was asked to look into this matter.

Personal Reflections

- Impressively high quality speakers.
- Useful cross-fertilisation of ideas across the Deanery.
- The perfect opportunity to observe different churches and how they make use of their buildings and facilities for large gatherings. Excellent tea and coffee making facilities were enjoyed at both churches!

Finance Report: *Alan Frame*

Introduction:

During the year ending 31 December 2022, Christ Church received income before legacies of £157,716 (versus £ 149,773 in 2021) whilst expenditure totalled £250,624 (versus £210,735 in 2021): a deficit over the course of the year of £92,908 versus a deficit of £50,962 in 2021. Once the legacies which total £85,194 are taken into account the deficit is reduced to £7,714. The 2 legacies given to Christ Church from the estates of the late Jessica Walls and Diana Tear have been allocated to a new Fund which is The Curate's House Fund; this Fund is to finance the refurbishment of the Curate's house on The Greenway.

The balance sheet at the end of 2022 records the total net worth of Christ Church as £ 626,784 compared with £639,314 at the end of 2021.

Planned Giving and Other Income

Christ Church is heavily dependent on voluntary financial contributions from our members, most of who donate via standing orders through their bank. Standing orders generated £74,247 which was a reduction by nearly £9,000 than that received in 2021 This reduction is in the main due to decreases or cessations in the amounts that individuals have given but also, during 2022 there were a significant number of deaths and leavers. We were able to claim from HMRC a total of £20,160 in gift aid during the year thanks to the 68 donors who are able to allow us to claim Gift Aid on their donations.

A further 12 persons donating on a regular basis but not able to Gift Aid make up the 80 who make this valuable contribution to the life of Christ Church on a regular basis. Planned Giving forms our major source of income, some £95,000; we welcome all who are able to join our Planned Giving

Scheme. One off donations increased to £12,000 from £8,000 in the previous year some of which was gift aided.
Trading income picked up during the year with church hall hire leading the way with £23,000 being generated including the income from Little Hands nursery compared to £17,000 the year before.
The surprise of the year was the income from the interest on the investment in the deposit fund with CCLA which amounted to £6,324 due to the sharp rise in interest rates during the year.

Expenditure

As you would expect overall expenditure increased throughout the year beyond our original expectations due mainly to the Russian invasion in the Ukraine. Planned work on the church roof deferred from 2021 had to go ahead at a cost of some £37,400 together with other more routine items of church maintenance amounted to over £42,500 for the year. The Hall and Curate's house together added a further £12,500 to maintenance costs, mainly as a result of architect's fees on the Curate's house and electrical work on the Church hall. We have been partially protected on the costs of utilities as there are some fixed rate contracts in place for some of the utilities. Generally all services have risen in price and together with various repairs to our buildings this has added some £40,000 to expenses over and above that of the previous year. Employment costs fell as Jen's absence from her illness meant that she was unable to work with a reduction in payroll costs of £13,500 from 2021.

The largest expenditure was our Parish Share of £85,455 which supports our clergy and ministry, as well as a part of the support to those parishes in the Diocese who are suffering from reduced income and are less well blessed with funds than ourselves. The Parish Share is expected to rise by around 2% per annum for the next 4-5 years.
The AVL project was undertaken in 2018 and completed during 2019 and was treated as a capital expense. Depreciation on this, and a photocopier purchased in 2019, is over 5 years and is included in the year at £31,200. This depreciation of these items will cease by 2026.

Missions

Donations to our Missions partners amounted to £14,750 a little less than in the previous year but £2,300 remained available at the year end and is carried forward to the current year.

Funds

General Fund at the year-end is £24,687 whilst the Living Well Fund is £460,800 and the Curate's House Fund has a balance of £82,260 all of these Funds are cash assets and held for the most part with CCLA in the CBF Church of England Deposit Fund accumulating £6,300 of interest during the year. I do not expect that the funds put aside in the Curate's House Fund will be sufficient to cover the final cost of the Greenway project; in that case the Living Well Fund will remain the source of any shortfall as it represents the legacies that we have received in earlier years.

Investments

The investment in the COIF Charities Ethical Investment Fund managed by CCLA Fund Managers Limited a wholly owned subsidiary of CCLA Investment Management Limited in November 2018 of £30,000 which was valued at £43,978 at the end of 2021. This investment suffered in the global collapse of all stock markets, caused by the war in The Ukraine. Despite this the valuation of this investment at the year-end was £39,162, an increase of 30.5% from its cost price.

Statement of Financial Activities (SOFA)

These financial statements were approved by the PCC of Christ Church, Epsom Common at its meeting on 13th March 2023, and signed on its behalf by the Revd Rosemary Donovan.

The Income and Expenditure Analysis for 1 January 2022 to 31 December 2022, including the proposed budget for 2023 prepared by the Finance Committee, has not been included in this report. A print out or email copy of this report is available on request from PCC Secretary Jane Williams pcc@christchurchepsom.org.uk.

Christ Church Epsom Common
Statement of Financial Activities
For the period from 01 January 2022 to 31 December 2022

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total funds	Prior year total funds
Incoming resources				
Incoming resources from generated funds				
Voluntary income	196,315		196,315	124,948
Activities for generating funds	2,279		2,279	143
Investment income	14,299		14,299	3,156
Incoming resources from charitable activities	26,353		26,353	18,379
Other incoming resources	3,663		3,663	13,147
Total income	**242,910**		**242,910**	**159,773**
Resources used				
Cost of generating funds	384		384	
Charitable activities	250,201		250,201	210,717
Governance costs	38		38	19
Total expenditure	**250,624**		**250,624**	**210,736**
Net income / (expenditure) resources before transfer	**(7,714)**		**(7,714)**	**(50,963)**
Transfers:				
Gross transfers between funds - in	191,642		191,642	51,499
Gross transfers between funds - out	(191,642)		(191,642)	(51,499)
Other recognised gains / losses				
Gains/losses on investment assets	(4,817)		(4,817)	6,526
Gains on revaluation, fixed assets, charity's own use				
Net movement in funds	**(12,531)**		**(12,531)**	**(44,436)**
Reconciliation of funds				
Total funds brought forward	**639,315**		**639,315**	**683,751**
Total funds carried forward	**626,784**		**626,784**	**639,315**
Represented by				
Unrestricted				
General fund	24,687		24,687	56,066
Designated				
Church Hall & Clergy House	2,335		2,335	11,571
Curate's House Fund	82,259		82,259	2,935
Fixed Assets	54,405		54,405	79,734
Missions Appeals Fund	2,299		2,299	1,549
Property Reserve				20,772
Vestments				0
Vision2020	460,799		460,799	466,688
Restricted				
Total funds	**626,784**		**626,784**	**639,315**

Balance sheet, detailed

Christ Church Epsom Common

Balance Sheet detailed

			As at 31/12/2022	As at 31/12/2021
Fixed assets				
	1000: 278 The Greenway		2,935	2,935
	1100: Equipment		3,816	5,724
	1200: Audio,Visual,Lighting		38,982	68,273
		Total Fixed assets	**45,733**	**76,932**
Current assets				
	3200: Nat West Current account		100	100
	3205: Nat West Reserve account		30,978	37,448
	3220: Lloyds Bank Fees Account		1,839	1,839
	3230: CBF Deposit Fund		503,987	482,749
	3240: Investments		39,162	43,979
	3260: Floats		100	100
	3270: Sundry Debtors		4,900	5,159
	Z05: Accounts Receivable		0	(1)
	ZZZ08: Prepayments		0	(180)
		Total Current assets	**581,065**	**571,193**
Liabilities				
	0: .		0	0
	3650: Uncleared Cheques		0	0
	3680: Utilities Creditor		0	0
	3690: Sundry Creditors		0	6,906
	6699: Agency collections		14	383
	Z04: Accounts Payable		0	533
	ZZZ09: Accruals		0	987
		Total Liabilities	**14**	**8,810**
		Net Asset surplus (deficit)	**626,784**	**639,315**
Reserves				
	Excess/(deficit) to date		(7,714)	(50,963)
	Z01: Starting balances		639,315	683,751
	Z02: Gains/(losses) on investment assets		(4,817)	6,526
		Total Reserves	**626,784**	**639,315**

Represented by Funds

General (Unrestricted)	24,687	56,066
Designated	602,097	583,249
Restricted	0	0
Total	**626,784**	**639,315**

Accounting policies

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Church Accounting Regulations 2006, together with applicable accounting standards and the SORP 2015. The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention. The financial statements include all transactions, assets and liabilities for which the PCC is responsible in law. They do not include the accounts of church groups that owe their main affiliation to another body, nor those that are informal gatherings of church members.

Funds

Designated Funds are part of the unrestricted funds which the PCC has earmarked for a particular project or use, without restricting or committing the funds legally. The designation may be cancelled by the PCC if it later decides not to proceed or continue with the use or project for which the funds were designated.
Unrestricted Funds are General funds, which can be used for PCC ordinary purposes.
The accounts also do not incorporate the financial statements of the Vicar and Churchwardens' Trust, which handles the legacies from Dennis King and Mildred Freeman.

Incoming Resources

Planned giving, collections and donations are recognised when received. Tax refunds are recognised as accruals when the incoming resource to which they relate is received. Grants and legacies are accounted for when received. All other income is recognised when it is received and accounted for gross.

Resources expended

Grants and donations are accounted for when paid over, or when awarded, if that award creates a binding or constructive obligation on the PCC. The diocesan parish share is accounted for when due. Amounts received specifically for missions are dealt with as restricted funds. All other expenditure is generally recognised when it is incurred and is accounted for gross.

Fixed Assets

Consecrated land and buildings and movable church furnishings
Consecrated and beneficed property is excluded from the accounts by s.96 (2) (a) of the Charities Act 1993. The curate's house is included at the original cost.
No value is placed on movable church furnishings held by the churchwardens held in special trust for the PCC and which require a faculty for disposal, since the PCC considers this to be inalienable property. All expenditure incurred during the year on consecrated or benefice buildings and movable church furnishings, whether maintenance or improvement, is written off as expenditure in the SOFA. Other fixtures, fittings and office equipment and individual items costing £5000 or less are not capitalised.

Payments to Trustees

There were no Payments to Trustees during the year other than for goods or services purchased by Trustees in the course of their duty on behalf of Christ Church.

Independent examiner's report to the PCC of Christ Church, Epsom Common

I report to the PCC (the trustees of Registered Charity 1127945) on my examination of the accounts of the charity for the year ended 31 December 2022, as set out on the pages attached.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity's trustees, you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ("the Act").
I report in respect of my examination of the Trust's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination, I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

Independent examiner's statement

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination which gives me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

- the accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act; or
- the accounts did not accord with the accounting records; or
- the accounts did not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair' view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination.

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.



Douglas Slade
33 Pine Walk, Banstead, Surrey

17th March 2023

Minutes of the Vestry and Annual Parochial Church Meetings for the Parish Of Christ Church Epsom Common

Registered Charity No 1127945

Held at 10 am on Sunday 24 April 2022. Chaired by the Vicar, the Revd Rosemary Donovan

Notes: As usual for Christ Church, the Meetings were integrated with Parish Communion, thus removing the need for opening and closing devotions. The meeting was held publicly in church and live-streamed on Zoom (as approved by the Diocese). All votes included both those present and those joining via Zoom.

VESTRY MEETING

(Open to all Electoral Roll Members and every resident of the Parish)

1. Minutes of the Vestry Meeting held on 25 April 2021 were approved, as previously circulated via website, weekly bulletin and hardcopy in church from 14 April 2022

2. Election of Churchwardens

Rosemary expressed heartfelt thanks to John Warburton for his skills and strategic thinking while working in this role for 5 years and as Treasurer in the last 2 years.

There were nominations for the two Churchwarden positions.

- Andrew Hards, proposed by Peter Grint, seconded by Roger Wedlake was appointed to his 4th term
- Fay Wedlake, proposed by Robert Burns, seconded by James Petit was appointed to her 1st term

Rosemary expressed thanks for their willingness to undertake these roles.

ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING

(Open to all Electoral Roll Members)

1. Attendance

The service was held in Church and live-streamed. 56 adults (age over 16) were present in Church of whom 55 were eligible to vote. Six children (under 16) were present. 12 adults were present via zoom

2. Minutes of the APCM, 25 April 2021, as circulated via website, weekly bulletin and hardcopy in church (from 14 April 2022) were approved

3. Electoral Roll: Report by the Electoral Roll Officer, Martin Shipton

The Church Electoral Roll is the foundation of the structure of synodical government in the Church of England. Similar to the national electoral roll, membership confers certain voting rights and includes the names and addresses of everyone eligible for election to our PCC and synods. Each year, the Electoral Roll is reviewed and this year's updating was carried out online with the latest amendment of the Church Representation Rules as agreed by Parliament.

At last year's meeting I reported an Electoral Roll membership of 155 people. This year we have signed up 6 people but lost 12. Membership now stands at 149 people. 60% of the Electoral Roll lives within the parish boundaries and the remaining 40% outside. During the past year two members of our Church Family have died and I invite you to stand as we pause for a moment to remember them: Joyce Munns and Pam Buckingham, both of them longstanding members of the church. We also remember, with thanksgiving, friends and family of members of the congregation who have died. John Munton who died a couple of weeks ago was a long-time member of this church and closely associated with the tower and the bell ringers. All are sadly missed and we thank God for our memories of them and all that they gave to us.

A period of silent prayer followed in their memory.

4. Deanery Synod Report. Approved
5. PCC Report. Approved
6. Financial Statements for year ending 31 December 2022. Approved.

In the absence of a Treasurer, a personal presentation of the financial statement was not possible. Alan Frame submitted a detailed Finance Report which is included in the Annual Report. Rosemary expressed heartfelt thanks for the detailed and dedicated work of members of the Finance committee enabling them to produce the required reports for the APCM: Alan Frame; Malcolm Channing; John Warburton; June Skinner and Nigel Daniels. Special thanks were given to Alan Frame for his detailed financial summary and ongoing oversight of the finance team. Tracy Jones was thanked for her work and for the "Year on Year Income and Expenses Analysis Summary and 2022 Budget proposal". This was not included in the Annual Report but copies are available in paper and email form on request from pcc@christchurchepsom.org.uk

7. Annual Report on the Fabric of the Church and other Properties, and on the Church Goods and Ornaments. Approved

8. PCC Elections

There were 2 vacancies on the PCC. David Wedlake was proposed by Ro Stretton, seconded by Gerald Wisden. David Wedlake was appointed for a 3-year term.

Retiring members, Greg Edwards and Tracy Jones, both of whom had served for 6 years, were warmly thanked for their contributions.

9. Appointment of Deanery Synod Representative. There was one vacancy. Gill Glasspool, proposed by Malcolm Channing, seconded by Robert Burns, was appointed to a 3-year term, joining Jen Sadler and Merinda D'Aprano, serving her final year of the 3 year term.

10. Appointment of Independent Examiner. Ronald Byer was re-appointed and thanked for his work

11. Appointment of Parish Safeguarding Officer. Ro Stretton was re-appointed in her absence but had agreed to continue in this role for a further term.

12. Vicar's Review of the Year: delivered during the service.

Vicar's Report APCM 2021-22

Acts 5:27-32. John 20:19-end.

"We are witnesses of these things", said the disciples about the life, death, and resurrection of their friend and leader Jesus.

"We are witnesses of these things", for as the Father sent the Son, so the Son sends us.

"We are witnesses of these things" as we teach in the name of Jesus and share the good news.

How have we been witnesses to these things in this past year? Another year that has been fraught with confusion as we have sought to navigate our way out of a global pandemic? How we have longed for Jesus to come through the doors and stand with his arms open wide reassuring us of his peace. Would he have just used his eyes to smile, or offered an inane wave at a camera, or sent a Mexican wave to the back? I'm not sure it matters as his very presence was enough to calm the disciples' doubts and fears especially when he breathes on them and says, '*Receive the Holy Spirit*'. It's a few weeks until Pentecost but I'd like us all to take a big breath today. The Annual Church meeting is exactly a breathing point, an opportunity to pause, to look back with gratitude and forward with hope.

Lets' just focus on our breathing now. Breathing out all the distractions, frustrations, interruptions, and downright annoying things of this past year and breathing in the Holy Spirit. Breath out, breathe in, breathe out,… Receive the Holy Spirit.

I feel better already. Keeping our focus on God is always going to be better but that's been hard when there have been so many demands made on us this year. Reconnecting with

family, friends, other social groups as well as church community. Personally, there have been times when I have felt like the Israelites wandering in the desert and I know I've not been the only one. Also like the Israelites I have wanted to be faithful but nevertheless at times also felt like giving up. The direction of travel has been unclear and that is hard because it feels aimless and lacks clarity. Consequently, the PCC refocusing our vision to be in line with the broader Church of England strapline of Humbler, Simpler, and Bolder was really helpful. Ultimately, it's been a year of waiting on God and we all know God's timing and solutions are not the same as human ones.

Running a church has felt like hard work, rather than the joy and privilege it previously did. Mainly because even though some restrictions gradually got eased, the nature of our 'business' if we view it like that contained higher elements of risk - public gathering, enclosed spaces, singing, sharing fellowship. In my experience church people are naturally cautious and adding a pandemic into the mix greatly increased this. It has only been in recent weeks that we have seen a return to pre pandemic numbers in church for which I rejoice and praise God.

I also praise God for all the wonderful things that have happened this past year and I've got some lovely photos to share with you.

We have found new ways of worshipping mainly outside and that has been joyful, in the summer, at Morning Prayer and through use of installations like the Easter Garden or the new icon. We continued to improve our digital offering and appreciated that church is not just about Sunday but our homes, schools, places of work or connection. The Source has seen new families and 5@5 has been experimental too.

Despite saying goodbye to David and Jo Fox Branch in August we were able to launch the Eco handbook and learn more about the effects of climate change on our doorstep with a very informative walk led by Stewart Cocker as part of the season of creation. This also saw us developing connections with the nursery and local families at the forest fun day. The Pet service is always a highlight with 15 dogs a parrot and a gecko joining with us in worship. Allowing worship to be more natural and outward looking will undoubtedly lead to growth and another source of joy despite the ER figures is the number of new people accessing worship and events at Christ Church. We were able to engage creatively with some different social events last summer too - bat watching, visiting the memorial Wood at Langley Vale, along with the monthly walk for health so it's certainly not been a fallow time.

We have been building on our community links with the scouts, schools, and other churches. The cake and cordial tent drew attention along with our regular fence ministry postings as we seek to keep evangelism high on our agenda. This is an area to continue to develop and anyone wanting to get more involved in community outreach, please do speak to either me or Jane Williams.

We've been able to celebrate our young people growing in faith and the turnout for Alpha was brilliant and I hope for many life-changing.

However, you have to take the rough with the smooth and it's not surprising with all these wonderful things going on (and there are many more images on the board at the back) that the Devil or evil one will get upset. Now I know some people find talking about spiritual warfare uncomfortable, but I genuinely believe that this is why this last year has felt hard. The leadership team in particular has been under attack. After the Fox Branches moving on to pastures new, we then lost Helen who resigned in the autumn, Jen went off sick at Christmas, and John, Andy, Berwick and Sue have all had family issues to contend with. With my back operation too, we have not been at full capacity. I am grateful for the support of PCC members, the Finance Team, and David Williams in particular who undertook extra responsibilities to help us through.

So how do we pick ourselves up and put aside the doubts and fears that like Thomas we must inevitably all be feeling? Will it require a miracle? Will it require concrete proof? Or do we trust in the words of scripture that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God and that by believing we may have life in his name?

That's encouraging, isn't it? That's what we all want, life in his name, and life in all its fullness, Christ Church to be a Living Well and living well? That's the aim, that's the hope, and hope is the point of faith - being certain of those things we cannot see.

The future is exciting. We have the follow up to Alpha, the Prayer Course beginning in 2 weeks' time (there will be a trailer later). We have a new Curate arriving in July. We have some great events planned for the summer including celebrating the Jubilee. We have an exciting partnership developing with the Scouts and an opportunity to reimagine our whole site to make it sustainable long term.

There is a lot to give thanks for, lots to keep praying about, but most importantly let us not forget to breathe. To receive the Holy Spirit and then through the Spirit's power we can believe and have life in Jesus name. Amen.

13. Questions from Congregation sent in advance.

One question was submitted by Martin Shipton:

The Summary Minutes of the last PCC meeting recorded an entry:

Re-development of Parish Hall, Link to Church (Site A) Scout Hut (Site B)

● PCC approved instruction of Quantity Surveyors Synergy (£3,550+vat) to work with PT Architects to prepare

Separate costing for elements of Site A proposals, costing for Site B proposals. PTA will progress with feasibility layouts for Site B (£7.5K agreed by PCC 09/21). We will then be in a position to produce business plan and agree in discussion with congregation, diocese and other partners what is feasible.

Can the meeting be given a summary of what proposals and what is involved?

Rosemary's Response:

The short answer is not really, as the proposals are not fully worked through but to keep members up to date this is a summary of where we are at:

The congregation and wider community were consulted at Christmas 2019 when we presented a model of a significantly improved and extended parish hall linked to the church. The plan at that point was to put all activities under one roof and regenerate the scout hut site to provide car parking and easier access to the Common. Further discussions with the architect and PCC led to a pre-planning application being made to the Council in December 2020 to see how amenable they would be to developing both the parish hall (Site A) and Scout hut (site B), the latter being an improved Youth centre and residential accommodation to provide an income stream for the church.

However, with the pandemic and its financial implications, priorities have changed and we are not sure that the previous scheme is still viable. Consequently, we are in negotiation with the Scouts as potential partners who understand that we need to make the whole site financially sustainable. The QS will help us to determine what is achievable. The architect is due to come back to us with a revised scheme for Site A as well as more worked out plans for site B very shortly. Hopefully there will be more to share later in the year.

14. Any other business. None

Jane Williams PCC secretary 02/05/2022



THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF CHRIST CHURCH EPSOM

England & Wales - Charity number 1127945

Accounts

CHRIST Church

Epsom Common

Annual Report 2021-2022

Prepared for distribution in advance of the Annual Parochial Church Meeting

24th April 2022



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Christ Church Epsom Common Annual Report 2021-2022, approved by the PCC, April 4 2022, and signed by Revd Rosemary Donovan (PCC Chair).



A Message from Revd Rosemary Donovan

This annual report is actually just a snapshot of life at Christ Church, as so many of our members are faithfully giving of themselves in a variety of unsung ways. However, volunteer fatigue is something that we and all churches are struggling with post pandemic. There has been much research done, with an average national drop-off of a third of church membership, and 25% of churches recording a real impact in children's and youth work. Despite these difficulties, I have been encouraged, when I looked through my photographs of last year, to see so many good new initiatives as we seek to be a Living Well and *living well.* I thank everyone for playing their part, however great or small, and praise God to belong to such as welcoming and caring community.

During this year we have bid farewell to David and Jo Fox Branch as they have gone to pastures new. David was appointed priest in charge at St. Mary's Westerham in August 2021. We wish them every success and happiness and are grateful for the contribution they made to the life of this community. We look forward to the ordination on July 3 2022 of our new curate Esther Hunt and look forward to welcoming her and her husband to our fellowship.

Worship

Revd Rosemary Donovan

Returning to in person worship in the church building and at Easter was a real joy. Just to be together, even if singing was behind masks and only receiving communion in one kind. The fact that so many bought flowers and plants to contribute to the Easter Garden in the outdoor chapel was a great witness - the sun shone, God was praised - enough said!

Morning Prayer in the outdoor chapel and the summer series on the front lawn continued this most public witness and enabled those who felt less comfortable with indoor settings to restore some confidence about public worship although Zoom remains an option.

However, confidence has come in fits and starts and the relaxing of government regulations undoubtedly bought increased infections as more individuals and households have been affected. As a church we have continued to make assessing risk a high priority, maintaining sanitizer, increased spacing and communion by intinction. Face masks are a matter of personal choice and only recently have we been able to facilitate after-church hospitality. Some traditional rituals no longer seem appropriate as we navigate a changing landscape and seek to be more outward-looking. Nevertheless, the fellowship has remained buoyant, maintaining Lockdown attendance figures, and welcoming many new members.



Other highlights in worship include admitting Will to Holy Communion at a candlelit 5@5 which, despite its slow start, has potential to allow inter-generational fellowship and worship to develop creatively. We also hosted Epsom Deanery's confirmation service in September and gave thanks that Olivia, Charlotte, Sophia, and Henry were able to make this next step of faith.

Our long tradition of being a broad church is really celebrated with a blended approach to music thanks to our dedicated choir and band, who put in long hours of rehearsing and recording under the able leadership of David and Dan. Alongside this, the careful liturgical skills of the staff team who curate beautiful seasonal services as well as special services for specific times of the year.

Every act of worship relies on a massive support team particularly as we have also sought to maintain a mixed ecology of worship including live streaming and special recordings for YouTube. Special thanks to Craig for making numerous videos and PowerPoints, and to Andy who is a tower of strength behind the scenes as Sacristan and Verger. Merinda and James as occasional preachers continue to inspire and encourage. All the sidespeople, readers, intercessors, sound technicians and Zoom hosts, are greatly valued for their contribution in helping to facilitate a positive worship experience for so many.

My personal highlight of the year is always my anniversary at Pentecost, and it was so special to be able to dedicate the stunning icon made by Cari in memory of my Dad. I hope that it will be an aid to worship for generations to come.



Discipleship

Revd Sue Curtis

Our vision for 24 /7 discipleship is encapsulated in our desire to be a place where people both live well and are like a well of refreshment for the community. Our maturing as Christians is underpinned by a commitment to live well with God, ourselves and others.

Many things contribute to helping us grow as disciples of Christ: our worship, prayer, Bible study, care for each other, commitment to working for God's justice and outreach in mission and proclamation. All form part of this.

As a community Sunday worship, including the worship in songs and hymns, corporate prayer, Bible readings, preaching and the messaging in the liturgy is a main way we develop our knowledge, relationship with God and experience as disciples. In the last year we have had some Sunday sermon series where we have focussed for a specific set of talks on particular topics. These have included a Lent course looking at The Pastoral Principles of respectful and honest exchanges with each other. This was in 2021 and it was a precursor to 'The Living in Love and Faith' Course in March this year that explores faith, love, inclusion and sexuality. Last summer we looked at how we are blessed by God in a series called Son Blest which reminded us of those things for which we are thankful.



This spring many Christ Church members, in different phases of a faith journey, have joined with the other local Anglican churches at an Alpha Course, which focusses on the main fundamentals of the Christian Faith. The churches are following up the Alpha course with The Prayer Course run at St. Barnabas on Wednesdays in May and June.

Home groups are also an important part of developing together as disciples of Christ. Within Christ Church, people meet regularly to get to know God and each other better. Meeting in homes, there is an opportunity to explore the Bible, issues of faith, and to discuss current issues from a Christian perspective. This is an excellent chance to share ideas in a safe and supportive environment. In a group situation it is easy to share prayer, social activities and pastoral care for each other, as trust and friendships develop. Groups are open to all and welcome anyone who can come along. There is a chance to talk and listen and we learn together and develop our response to God's love in a friendly and relaxed way. The groups meet on a Tuesday. There are three groups that meet weekly in term time in the evening, currently on Zoom, one group that normally meets monthly in person and a group that meets on a Tuesday, sharing lunch together. Why not give a Home Group a try? It is an excellent way to develop connections within the Christ Church community.

If you would like to know more, speak to Sue Curtis 01372 210492 or email associateminister@christchurchepsom.org.uk.

Church Development

Revd Rosemary Donovan

Making our whole site sustainable and pointing to the amazing God we serve, remains a priority. Specific needs such as equal access to toilet and hospitality facilities for both church and hall users as well as increased accessibility to the office facilities are key considerations. However, any plans we had pre-pandemic need to be revised, to be relevant to church life now. We continue to work with our appointed architects *Philip Tracey* to develop both Site A (the hall and proposed link) and Site B (the scout hut) in order to realise their full potential. We have also appointed a Quantity Survey, *Synergy* to help us cost out the resources needed for any development. With the long-standing lease on the Scout Hut expiring in December 2021 we are now entering into negotiation regarding rent and management of these premises as from June 2022. We obviously seek to continue a good working relationship with the Scout Association and want our whole site to be of benefit to the wider community.

Outreach

Revd Rosemary Donovan

As previously mentioned under worship, we are trying to make the most of our outdoor space as a physical presence in the local community. Adding the bunting, kindly loaned by Jenny McGeachy, really drew the eye over the summer. We also experimented with a Saturday morning free refreshments tent, '**Cake and Cordia**l'. This enabled many conversations and new connections to be made and the cake, given away to walkers and cyclists on the Common, was greatly appreciated.

We have continued to make the most of our fence ministry. Jen instigated a sheep trail last Easter and continues to build on her community networks with local schools and the uniformed organisations. We were pleased to host the first large scale investiture of new beavers, cubs, and their leaders in the summer and some also came to our Remembrance Day service. We also worked collaboratively with the Little Hands Nursery to facilitate a family friendly forest school afternoon in Creationtide and were delighted with the turnout.



Links with 'Churches Together in Epsom' has seen members volunteering with '*Emerge Advocacy'*, a Christian based charity offering support to young people attending hospital with mental health issues and self-harm and the '*Hope into Action'* Housing project. All members are encouraged to be sharing their faith within the connections they have and joining in with Epsom Alpha will hopefully increase confidence in this.

Pastoral Care

Sue Matthews

The Pastoral Care Team continues to meet every 6 weeks, in person or on zoom, to review and respond to Pastoral needs. Rosemary, Sue Curtis, Parish Safeguarding Officer Ro, and Youth and Family worker Jen, attend the meetings in addition to other lay members of the pastoral team. Whilst prayer ministry after services had to be suspended due to Covid, prayer for those in need has continued through the prayer chain and intercessions in services, with consent. The Tea Club meets quarterly and is well supported. The Baptism team continue to work with families in preparation for, and after baptism. Those unable to attend Church are offered Home Communion. The weekly MailChimp parish notices outlines how to seek pastoral support. To ensure inclusivity, paper copies of parish notices are delivered to those without email access. Sue Curtis also emails a simplified version of the notices to those with limited IT access titled 'Keeping in Touch'. Prayer Ministry after services will restart in the near future. Pastoral Visiting is now possible where safe to do so. Pastoral care is offered by many in the Church including House Group leaders.



The team now uses a pastoral email address for each Pastoral Assistant, available on MailChimp bulletins. All members of the team are trained by the Diocese. Current lay team members are Jen Sadler, Berwick Curtis, and Pastoral Assistants: Sue Matthews; Jo Wolfe; Devorah Burns and Pastoral Visitor Jane Williams.

Missions

Greg Edwards

Christ Church directs its Missions Giving through ten championed charities, which are supported for a 3-year period. Although this is not a Missions renewal year, we saw some changes in Mission personnel supporting the Besom and The Church Army, Marylebone Project. Chris Purdy decided to stand down from his support of the Besom to which Merinda D'Aprano has assumed the role. Likewise, Mike Reeves who has been a long-term supporter for the Marylebone project handed over the reins to Gerald Wisden. So a big thanks you to Chris and Mike, and a warm welcome to Merinda and Gerald.

Although COVID has scuppered many of the earlier physical in-Church collections, we ended the year with a strong Christmas Service collection of £300 to the Epsom branch of Hope into Action, which was gratefully received. Unfortunately, our Harvest collection to our beneficiary, The Fishermen's Mission was still 100% online, which made it difficult to monitor the exact overall monetary collections that were donated.

One of the actions on the Missions Committee is to distribute funds out of our emergency funding pot (usually 15% of the Missions budget) to charities that urgently require funding, based on the consensus from the Missions. This year we successfully distributed the following payments:

- DEC (Indian Covid Appeal) £500.00
- The Trussel Trust - Bolton £250.00
- Emerge Advocacy - Epsom £250.00
- Tearfund - Afghanistan £750.00
- Tearfund - Haiti appeal £750.00

Some of the positives from this year were the brilliant online and in-service presentations for UNIVIDA, Hope into Action and Wycliffe Bible Society (presented by James Petit). We also continued supporting the annual Christmas hamper appeal for the Besom, which between the various churches in Epsom/Ashtead, collected over 80 hampers for those families and single men/woman supported by the Besom.

Our vision for the forthcoming 2022 year is to focus on local-/ country-wide charities that require support as they emerge from the pandemic. Our other primary focus is on the Missions renewals process and administration that needs to take place, in order to renew / welcome new Missions for 2023.

Once again, we thank Christ Church parochial team and congregation for their continued support for the Missions Committee.

Social Events

Revd Rosemary Donovan

This past year has only seen a limited number of social activities due to the pandemic. The monthly 'Walk for Health' gave those, who enjoy rambling, an opportunity for fellowship and a pub lunch. Thanks to Sue and Berwick Curtis for organising this regularly. Outdoor events are increasingly popular. We were pleased to organise a fabulous trip to the Memorial Wood at Langley Vale which was a splendid summer afternoon and a deeply poignant visit. We have also been able to do some catering as part of 5@5 including a summer BBQ that was supported by Dan's jazz band. The MU Book Sale was also a good fundraising event for the link branch in Sierra Leone and the bi-annual Bonfire party was able to resume in the Autumn.



Children & Young People

Revd Rosemary Donovan

There is no official report from Jen Sadler as obviously she is off sick at the moment. She thanks everyone for their kindness, prayers, and love during this time. We pray she will be restored to full health as soon as possible and able to continue the great work begun.

We thank Katharine and Olivia Chambers, in particular, for stepping in to support **CC Kids**. Gill Glasspool and Sarah Chorley for being so flexible in supporting this. Thanks also to the team they faithfully support in the **Crèche** and **The Source,** with welcome and cake especially Clair and Rita who are overseeing craft. Sue and I will continue to offer a monthly **CC Cinema** and hope to get a few youth activities organised for the summer term.

Earlier in this report I have highlighted the continued outreach to **schools**, **uniformed organisations** and **Little Hands** alongside **Wheels and Squeals**. Jen has been instrumental in providing amazing pastoral support to our families during the pandemic with activity bags and regular emails and we look forward to many more opportunities for creative engagement with them and the local community when she returns.

Environment Group

Revd Rosemary Donovan

With David Fox Branch's departure to pastures new in August, the leadership of the Eco team has been more *ad-hoc* but we seek to build on the good foundations David laid, in particular by embedding the principles contained in the Eco Handbook. We have improved recycling facilities and try to buy only recycled or compostable consumables for use at events. We have switched to a green energy provider and continue to help the church grounds be a haven for wildlife.

The season of Creation was supported by an informative sermon series as well as the popular and well-attended Pet Service which included a wide variety of very well-behaved pets ranging from a lizard, a parrot and 15 dogs. This year we also organised the family friendly Forest School afternoon and a walk on Epsom Common led by Stuart Cocker, local ranger who highlighted many significant signs of climate change on our immediate environment.

Our location on Epsom Common is a source of great joy and there are many opportunities for appreciating it like the monthly Walk for Health, but this year also saw an enjoyable and uplifting bat walk at dusk during August. This group is always open to new members and new ideas so please feel free to highlight anything which might us all play our part in saving our planet.

Safeguarding

Ro Stretton, Parish Safeguarding Officer

Policy

The Diocese has introduced an online "Parish Dashboard" which highlights areas where actions need to be completed. We are green for most areas, but with training and Risk Assessments still outstanding. The relevant policies for the 'Reporting of Serious Incidents to the Charity Commission' and the 'Recruitment of Ex-Offenders', in line with Diocesan guidance' have been approved.



DBS Checks

These are now being completed online with i.d. verification happening in person as before. The Diocese has changed its policy to three yearly checks so the backlog is gradually being tackled.

Training

This remains an area of concern with widespread apathy and reluctance from church volunteers to complete training. Another new Diocesan training pathway has been implemented for 2022 which significantly changes training requirements for many volunteer roles, as well as the Leadership module

moving to a 3 hour (split into two sessions) online programme via Zoom and including pre and post training written work. As well as being more onerous for volunteers, it has also significantly added to the Parish Safeguarding Officer (PSO) workload. Therefore, the Vicar and PCC have approved Fay Wedlake to assist as Safeguarding Training Co Coordinator. The remit for this role is to help navigate training needs and encourage timely completion of training. The PCC remain responsible for training being up to date and the PSO continues to have an overview of the process.

Concerns

All concerns raised have been appropriately dealt with. The church community is reminded to continue to be vigilant and raise any concerns, however small, with the Clergy, PSO or Diocesan Safeguarding Officer as they see fit.

Thanks go to Jane Williams for the enormous amount of work she has done in ensuring that policies have been approved and for maintaining frequent communication between the PCC and PSO.

Church Governance

ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2021 – 22: Jane Williams PCC Secretary March 2022

Together with:

- The statement of financial activities (SOFA) for the year ended 31st December 2021
- The balance sheet as at 31st of December 2021

Christ Church, Epsom Common, is an Anglican Church in the Diocese of Guildford. The postal address is Christ Church, Christ Church Road, Epsom KT19 8NE. Registered Charity number 1127945.

The Parochial Church Council (PCC)

Under Church of England legislation, the PCC is responsible for collaborating with the incumbent in promoting, in the ecclesiastical parish, the whole mission of the Church: pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical. Worship matters are for the incumbent. The PCC is responsible for these premises: Christ Church, its Church Hall and the Curate's house at 278 The Greenway, Epsom.

The PCC has complied with the duty under section 5 of the Safeguarding and Clergy Discipline Measure 2016 (duty to have regard to the House of Bishop's guidance on safeguarding children and vulnerable adults).

PCC membership during 2021-2022

Ex-officio PCC members

Clergy	Vicar	The Revd Rosemary Donovan	Chair
	Curate	The Revd David Fox-Branch	To 31 July 2021
	Associate Minister	The Revd Sue Curtis (OLM	
	Reader Licensed Lay Minister	Berwick Curtis (LLM)	
Churchwardens	John Warburton	Interim Treasurer	Lay Vice-Chair
	Andrew Hards	Chair Premises	Lay Vice-Chair

Elected PCC members

Additional Roles	Name	Year appointed
BRC , Eco Team ,Children and Families	Katherine Chambers	2020 2nd term
Deanery Synod, PCC Safeguarding	Merinda D'Aprano	2020
Finance committee	Nigel Daniels	2021
Chair of Missions	Greg Edwards	2019 2nd term
Deanery Synod	Jane Hards	2020
Finance committee	Tracy Jones	2019
Merry mower	Daniel Korboe	2021
Deanery Synod ,E&O	Jen Sadler	2020

Children and Families	Lucy Warren	2021
PCC sec, BRC E&O	Jane Williams	2020
Merry Mower	Gerald Wisden	2021
Children and Families	Clair Wright	2020

Review of PCC business

The PCC met 8 times during the year with an average attendance of 85%. Meetings were held via Zoom with the exception of three in-person meetings in September, November 2021 and March 2022 during the Covid 19 pandemic.

The PCC is supported by the Business and Resources Committee (the required standing committee with some additional delegated powers). Other groups met regularly, (each including PCC and non-PCC members), dealing with: Finance, Premises, Missions and Giving, Evangelism and Outreach, Environmental/ Eco and Children and Youth Support Team. All report to the PCC at regular intervals. The terms of reference of each group were reviewed in June 2021 and finalised in September 2021. Each group is chaired by Revd Donovan or a PCC member. Many thanks go to Jim Smith for his work as Chair of the Premises Committee over a number of years. Andy Hards took over this role in November 2021.

Seven days in advance of each PCC meeting, the agenda is displayed on the church noticeboard (a mandatory requirement). A summary of each PCC meeting is circulated in the church MailChimp Bulletin. The summary and draft minutes are also displayed on the PCC noticeboard to keep the congregation informed.

Safeguarding is an agenda item at every PCC meeting. The whole church community is responsible for safeguarding. Ro Stretton, Parish Safeguarding Officer, works diligently to keep up-to-date with new developments and requirements. Under her guidance the PCC regularly reviews the Safeguarding Diocesan Dashboard to ensure that we comply with the required standards. Many thanks to Ro for her hard work in this area, which has become increasingly demanding and time-consuming.

The PCC also expressed heartfelt thanks for the work of the Finance Committee during these challenging times, in the absence of a Treasurer in post. Thanks were also expressed during the year to our dedicated Music Worship Team, including the Band, Choir and to Dan Allsopp, Band Leader and David Williams, Choir Director and Organist for their resourcefulness in maintaining a high standard of music for worship and special services throughout the Pandemic. Thanks also to our dedicated sound desk team. The PCC also acknowledged the dedicated work of Andy Hards and Richard Martin in the Premises team for identifying and sorting the flooding issue.

PCC meetings have been restricted by challenges posed by the pandemic. However, we met for an away day in July and spent time reflecting on the Church of England's vision to be 'Simpler, Humbler and Bolder' in its evangelism, worship, and outlook. We have spent time focusing on necessary maintenance to the church fabric, issues related to the Scout Hall and possibilities for redevelopment. The pandemic has had an impact not only on church finances, but also on the scope of our activities. We look forward to working with the congregation to fulfil God's plan for us in this community, with the power of the Holy Spirit directing and inspiring us.



Church Wardens' Report on the Fabric of the Church and its other Properties 2021 – 2022

Andy Hards As at 28 March 2022

Introduction

Andrew Hards, John Warburton: Church Wardens

Generally, the Church is in good condition but aging and deterioration of some of the construction elements mean that several significant repairs are required.

The upkeep of the church, hall, grounds and 278 The Greenway (the curate's house) are overseen by the small but dedicated Premises Committee chaired for part of the year by Jim Smith.
Thanks to Jim for his many years of service to Christ Church and recent help obtaining a "pro bono" survey of the Scout HQ site saving the church a good sum of money.

The Committee manages a planned maintenance programme to ensure that the small things are dealt with in a timely manner and record when everything has been completed. This includes routine items such as servicing and safety checks of heating installations, fire extinguishers, electrical installations and equipment, fire alarms, organ blower bearings and woodworm checks. These are an important element of the Health and Safety of the church and hall.
As in previous years, many checks and repairs continued to be carried out in house saving expenditure and the Wardens would like the church members to note the continued hard work, advice and dedication of Richard Martin.

Thanks must again go to the teams of volunteers who help with the upkeep including the Church cleaners, the flower team and the Merry Mowers. The Merry Mowers have recently evolved into a "What's App"connected gardening group, thanks to Gerald Wisden for setting this up.
A clean- up day was arranged for 2 April 2022, thanks to all participating.
Thanks also to Martin Shipton for continuing to deal with insurance issues.
The church is insured by the Ecclesiastical Insurance Group in the sum of £13,330,000 and the hall for £2,900,000. EIG should be applying an inflation indexed increase to these sums soon.

The Church

As indicated, several significant repairs are required.
The gutters and down pipes are the big item.
The 2019 Quinquennial Report identified these as requiring overhauling and repainting.
When obtaining quotations it became apparent that the gutters in particular have deteriorated beyond this and need to be replaced. This became an urgent requirement when in June 2021 a section of high level gutter fell from the south side of the church above one of the bench seats and damaged the lower roof.
With PCC approval, further quotations were obtained and a Faculty from the Diocese Registrar was granted in December 2021.
The replacement gutters will be powder coated cast aluminium reducing the future maintenance requirement and closely matching cast iron in terms of appearance. Scaffolding is required and the opportunity will be taken to repaint the eaves level joinery. The work will be carried out DBR Leadwork who have undertaken previous repairs at the church. It will be overseen by our Quinquennial Architect Robert Shaw. Architect supervision is a requirement of the National Churches Trust and Wolfson Foundation repairs grant applications submitted in the New Year. Unfortunately, although the Trust and Foundation said we made a strong application it was

declined due to demand and pressure on limited funding. I am continuing to investigate other sources of funding.



The cost quotation was £31,000 plus VAT. (The other quotations were £52,000 and £43,000 both excluding VAT). The VAT should be reclaimable. Given the rapid recent increase in building materials including aluminium products the final cost may work out at more than the quotation which was given last summer, we have budgeted for approximately £41,000.

At the time of writing, scaffolders were due to start work during the week of 28 March and the whole job should take about 6 to 8 weeks.
EIG insurers have been notified.
Next, the main rainwater drain and associated boiler room flooding.
The boiler room suffered several incidents of flooding in late 2021. Richard and I tracked this down to a blocked and damaged drain that takes all the water from the rain water fittings off site. The drain is a 1960's installed pitch fibre pipe, these only have a life of about 50 years and are liable to crushing/distortion. We cleared the blockage which so far has relieved the flooding and installed a back- up pump (no cost to the church). The pipe remains damaged with a risk of further blockages and boiler room flooding.
Fortunately our insurers have agreed to meet the cost of repair so the church should only be liable for the £500 insurance excess plus £1,050 Inc. VAT for an additional inspection chamber which will help us keep the drain clear in the future. The successful claim has probably saved the church at least £10,000.
Hopefully the work will start soon, the contractor (Auger) are in contact with the council regarding access to their woodland under which part of the drain is located. Their estates manager has given consent in principle.
The Diocese was consulted and a Faculty is not required.
Thanks to Richard for all his help, the only person I know with 40 yards of drain rods!

The third main item was electrical work; this did not require a Faculty.
Testing and inspection of the church electrical installation revealed a requirement for works to bring it up to a standard where a "pass" certificate could be issued. With the approval of the PCC, this was completed and certification issued by Osborne & Collins at a cost of £6,906 inc. VAT. This also included replacement of the outside lights.
Thanks to Richard who arranged and looked after this project.

Several of the AV system speakers failed. Fortunately the manufacture agreed that they were faulty and supplied replacement parts under warranty.
This was dealt with “in house”. Thanks to David Wedlake for arranging this and Richard for his help with his access tower and the physical work.
Regular servicing of the heating system, organ and organ blower plus safety checks of fire extinguishers were carried out as normal.
Richard has recently repaired the toilet water heater.

The Hall

Little has been carried out since the last report.
The main item needing attention is the electrical installation which again needs work to obtain a “pass” certificate. This will be carried during Little Hands Easter break by Osborne & Collins at a cost of approximately £550-£600 plus VAT
Richard has again kindly overseen this item.
Usual boiler servicing and safety checks have continued. Richard Martin continues to carry minor repairs and maintenance.

The Grounds

The condition of the flint boundary walls was mentioned in the 2019 Quinquennial Report and reported at the last APCM.
Again, it should be noted that they have deteriorated over the years, will need regular inspection and the church should anticipate a need for repair within the foreseeable future.
The paving was noted to be uneven in places during the December 2021 Access & Safety Audit. This is being monitored and hopefully can be dealt with “in house”.

278 The Greenway (The Curate House)

The Curate Designate Esther Hunt and her husband James moved in as church tenants during November 2021.
No significant repairs have been required.
The house has had little in the way of improvement for some time and has relatively low kerb appeal compared with others near -by.

The PCC considered and approved a programme of improvements which should enhance the market and rental values as well as making the house more up to date and appealing.
The main items are:
Improved parking, new front door, improvement to the layout of the bathroom and wc, conversion of the integral garage to give an extra room, utility area and ground floor wc plus associated refitting of the kitchen.
At the time of writing, an architect had been appointed to assist with the project and produce initial plans then a precise schedule/specification to assist with obtaining like for like quotations and to deal with statutory matters such as Building Regulations.



Report on the Goods and Ornaments 2020-2021

The previously dented silver Ciborium used during communion has been repaired by silver smiths (no cost to the church).

The backing of the green Ordinary Time altar frontal was repaired, many thanks to Jenny Power for her skilful re stitching.

There are no other matters to report.

Deanery Synod Report

Merinda D'Aprano

Under the expert guidance of Rosemary, who is also our Area Dean, the Synod had a busy year.

In June 2021 we were introduced to the '**Living in Love and Faith**' course by **Jane Scofield**, a Diocesan Coordinator from the Dorking Deanery. We were encouraged as a Deanery to consider how we might use the available materials. Christ Church has been pleased to host a Deanery course e in March this year.

In October 2021 we were privileged to invite **Jane Whittingham** who came to talk to us about **'Engaging schools in the post pandemic landscape'**. She spoke of the efforts to make Diocesan policy, of planning through the lens of supporting young people and of enabling children and households to come to faith. There is increased emphasis on inter-generational thinking. Helpful links were provided, and Jen Sadler is already working with many of these resources.

In January 2022 we learned more about inclusion, particularly with reference to racial equality from **Revd Folli Olokose, the Diocesan Minority Ethnic Vocations Champion**. He spoke about encouragement and embracing diversity, loving service, safeguarding creation, and transforming unjust structures. He asked us all to use the acronym UKME (UK Minority Ethnic) rather than BAME (Black and Asian Minority Ethnic). This latter meeting was at Christ Church, and we were able to offer hospitality in the church as well as using the technology to support the talk.

Finance Report

Prepared by Alan Frame

Summary:

During the year ending 31 December 2021, Christ Church received income before legacies of £149,773 (versus £ 158,323 in 2020) whilst expenditure totalled £210,735 (versus £195,641 in 2020): a deficit over the course of the year of £50,962 versus a deficit of £37,116 in 2020. The balance sheet at the end of 2021 records the total net worth of Christ Church as £ 639,314 compared with £683,751 at the end of 2020. Overall the drift in pledged giving and donations continued, now some £40,000 lower that in 2019, coupled with the demise of trading income from hall hire, fees and other events.

Donations and Planned Giving Income

The Church is heavily dependent on voluntary financial contributions from our members, most of who donate via standing orders through the bank. Standing orders generated £83,149 which was just £2,551 less than expected but some £12,000 less than that received in 2020. This reduction is in the main due to decreases or cessations in the amounts that individuals have given but also, during 2020 there were 5 deaths and a further 2 deaths in 2021. There was only one new standing order set up during the year and 2 increases in donations. Other voluntary income totalled £19,198 and was received in the form of donations and a legacy payment of £10,000 in memory of the late Elsie Feltham. Service collections amounted to £1,062, the Blue Envelope scheme fell into disuse during the pandemic as physical collections in church became a challenge. It was decided to discontinue the scheme in 2021 for a number of reasons including ecological. We were able to claim a total of £20,757 in gift aid during the year.

Expenditure

In 2020 we budgeted for a considerable spend on premises repairs and improvements. As it turned out very little of that was achieved. The late vacation of the Curate's house together with the difficulties in getting quotes and contractors caused considerable delays in essential works. The budget for the year for the year on buildings was some £65,000 of which only £28,000 was actually spent.

The largest expenditure was our Parish Share of £83,979 which supports our clergy and ministry, as well as a part of the support to those parishes in the Diocese who are suffering from reduced income and are less well blessed with funds than ourselves. The Parish Share is expected to rise by around 2% per annum for the next 4-5 years.

The AVL project was undertaken in 2018 and completed during 2019 and was treated as a capital expense. Depreciation on this, and a photocopier purchased in 2019, is over 5 years and is included in the year at £31,200 compared with £25,300 in 2020. This is the major change to expenditure from previous years and accounts for the bulk of the 2021 deficit. This depreciation of these items will cease by 2026.

Net staff costs were £45,400 an increase over 2020 reflecting a combination of reduced furlough receipts, increased office costs, increased staff expenses and lower music costs.

Missions

Mission's payments and outreach amounted to £16,964 an increase over the previous year of £2,500 as payments were made for emergency appeals with the balance of funds carried over from 2020.

Funds

The General Fund balance at the 31st December 2021 was £56,065 as funds have been added from the General Fund to the Property Reserve Fund and to the Church, Hall and Clergy House Fund which was negative at year end. It is expected that the budget for improvements at the Curates house in the Greenway will be met by the Vision 2020 Fund which represents the various legacies received in recent years.

Statement of Financial Activities (SOFA)

Alan Frame March 22

Christ Church Epsom Common - 1127945 Statement of Financial Activities for the period from 01 January 2021 to 31 December 2021

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Endowment funds	Total funds	Prior year total funds
Incoming resources	£	£	£	£	£
Incoming resources from generated funds					
Voluntary income	124,948	—	—	124,948	468,376
Activities for generating funds	142	—	—	142	260
Investment income	3,156	—	—	3,156	1,718
Incoming resources from charitable activities	18,379	—	—	18,379	16,572
Other incoming resources	13,146	—	—	13,146	11,208
Total income	**159,773**	**—**	**—**	**159,773**	**498,136**
Resources used					
Charitable activities	210,716	—	—	210,716	195,631
Governance costs	19	—	—	19	9
Total expenditure	**210,735**	**—**	**—**	**210,735**	**195,640**
Net income / (expenditure) resources before transfer	**(50,962)**	**—**	**—**	**(50,962)**	**302,496**
Transfers					
Gross transfers between funds - in	51,499	—	—	51,499	47,698
Gross transfers between funds - out	(51,499)	—	—	(51,499)	(47,698)
Other recognised gains / losses					
Gains / losses on investment assets	6,526	—	—	6,526	3,255
Net movement in funds	**(44,436)**	**—**	**—**	**(44,436)**	**305,751**
Reconciliation of funds					
Total funds brought forward	**683,751**	**—**	**—**	**683,751**	**377,999**
Total funds carried forward	**639,314**	**—**	**—**	**639,314**	**683,751**
Represented by					
Unrestricted					
General fund	56,065	—	—	56,065	104,087
Designated					
Church Hall & Clergy House	11,571	—	—	11,571	—
Fixed Assets	79,733	—	—	79,733	105,072
Greenway	2,935	—	—	2,935	2,935
Missions Appeals Fund	1,549	—	—	1,549	2,659
Property Reserve	20,771	—	—	20,771	10,771
Vestments	0	—	—	0	32
Vision2020	466,687	—	—	466,687	458,193

Christ Church Epsom Common - 1127945 Balance Sheet 31st December 2021

Fixed assets		As at 31/12/2021	As at 31/12/2020
		£	£
	1000: 278 The Greenway	2,935.00	2,935.00
	1100: Equipment	5,565.00	7,632.00
	1200: Audio, Visual, Lighting	65,832.00	99,595.86
	Total Fixed assets	**74,332.00**	**110,162.86**
Current assets			
	3200: Nat West Current account	100.00	139.00
	3205: Nat West Reserve account	37,447.80	50,073.66
	3220: Lloyds Bank Fees Account	1,838.66	1,823.66
	3230: CBF Deposit Fund	482,749.06	482,497.73
	3240: Investments	43,978.61	37,452.39
	3260: Floats	100.00	100.00
	3270: Sundry Debtors	5,159.06	—
	Z05: Accounts Receivable	938.44	4,531.02
	ZZZ08: Prepayments	379.43	345.52
	Total Current assets	**572,691.06**	**576,962.98**
Liabilities			
	0: .	—	—
	3650: Uncleared Cheques	—	—
	3680: Utilities Creditor	—	—
	3690: Sundry Creditors	6,906.12	—
	6699: Agency collections	473.35	12.20
	Z04: Accounts Payable	533.24	2,375.54
	ZZZ09: Accruals	987.00	987.00
	Total Liabilities	**8,899.71**	**3,374.74**
	Net Asset surplus (deficit)	**638,123.35**	**683,751.10**
Reserves			
	Excess / (deficit) to date	(52,153.97)	302,496.28
	Z01: Starting balances	683,751.10	377,999.49
	Z02: Gains/(losses) on investment assets	6,526.22	3,255.33
	Total Reserves	**638,123.35**	**683,751.10**

There may be minor discrepancies in the totals if the pence are not being shown

These financial statements were both approved by the PCC of Christ Church, Epsom Common at its meeting on 14th March 2022, and signed on its behalf by the Revd Rosemary Donovan.

The Year-on-Year Income and Expense Analysis including the proposed budget for 2022 prepared by Tracy Jones has not been included in this report. A printout or email copy of this report is available on request from PCC Secretary Jane Williams pcc@christchurchepsom.org.uk.

The notes, below, form part of these accounts Notes to the Financial Statements for the year ended 31 December 2021

Accounting policies

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Church Accounting Regulations 2006, together with applicable accounting standards and the SORP 2015. The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention. The financial statements include all transactions, assets and liabilities for which the PCC is responsible in law. They do not include the accounts of church groups that owe their main affiliation to another body, nor those that are informal gatherings of church members.

Funds

Designated Funds are part of the unrestricted funds which the PCC has earmarked for a particular project or use, without restricting or committing the funds legally. The designation may be cancelled by the PCC if it later decides not to proceed or continue with the use or project for which the funds were designated.

Unrestricted Funds are General funds, which can be used for PCC ordinary purposes.

The accounts also do not incorporate the financial statements of the Vicar and Churchwardens' Trust, which handles the legacies from Dennis King and Mildred Freeman.

Incoming Resources

Planned giving, collections and donations are recognised when received. Tax refunds are recognised as accruals when the incoming resource to which they relate is received. Grants and legacies are accounted for when the PCC is informed of the amount due and when legally due. All other income is recognised when it is received. All incoming resources are accounted for gross.

Resources expended

Grants and donations are accounted for when paid over, or when awarded, if that award creates a binding or constructive obligation on the PCC. The diocesan parish share is accounted for when due. Amounts received specifically for missions are dealt with as restricted funds. All other expenditure is generally recognised when it is incurred and is accounted for gross.

Investments

In November 2018 the PCC invested the sum of £30,000 in the COIF Charites Ethical Investment Fund managed by CCLA Fund Managers Limited a wholly owned subsidiary of CCLA Investment Management Ltd which is authorised and regulated by the FCA in the conduct of investment business. The asset is valued as at the 31st December 2021 at the mid-market price in the accounts as of this date the investment was valued at £43,978 an increase of 46% since the original investment.

Fixed Assets

Consecrated land and buildings and movable church furnishings

Consecrated and beneficed property is excluded from the accounts by s.96(2)(a) of the Charities Act 1993. The curate's house is included at the original cost.

No value is placed on movable church furnishings held by the churchwardens held in special trust for the PCC and which require a faculty for disposal, since the PCC considers this to be inalienable property. All expenditure incurred during the year on consecrated or benefice buildings and movable church furnishings, whether maintenance or improvement, is written off as expenditure in the SOFA.

Other fixtures, fittings and office equipment

During 2018 Christ Church installed an upgraded Audio, Visual system as well as new and enhanced Lighting. This is being depreciated over 5 years in accordance with the churches policy for items over £5,000. The total cost of this project in 2018 was £116,253. No depreciation was allocated in 2018 as the installation was not fully completed during that year. It was completed in early 2019 the first year in which depreciation commenced.

Individual items costing £5000 or less are not capitalised.

Payments to Trustees

Payments to Trustees during the year other than for goods or services purchased by Trustees in the course of their duty on behalf of Christ Church are as follows. Andy Hards £120 for services as Verger.



Independent examiner's report to the PCC of Christ Church, Epsom Common

I report to the PCC (the trustees of Registered Charity 1127945) on my examination of the accounts of the charity for the year ended 31 December 2021, as set out on the pages attached.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity's trustees, you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ("the Act").

I report in respect of my examination of the Trust's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination, I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

Independent examiner's statement

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination which gives me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

- the accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act; or
- the accounts did not accord with the accounting records; or
- the accounts did not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair' view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination.

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Ronald Byer
7 Parklands Court, Epsom
12th February 2022

Minutes of the Vestry Meeting & The Annual Parochial Church Meeting held in Christ Church at 10 am on Sunday 25th April 2021

Chaired by the Vicar, the Revd Rosemary Donovan

Notes: As usual for Christ Church, the Meetings were integrated with Parish Communion, thus removing the need for opening and closing devotions. The meeting was held publicly in church and also streamed live on Zoom (as had been approved by the Diocese) and all votes included both those present and those joining via Zoom.

Vestry Meeting

1. The minutes of the Vestry Meeting held on 18h October 2020 published in the Christ Church Annual Report 2020-2021 (Annual Report) were agreed as a correct record.

2. Election of Church Wardens: John Warburton and Andy Hards were elected for their fourth and third terms respectively.

Annual Parochial Church Meeting

1. Attendance: there were 28 people present in church including 3 members of the clergy and 45 joining via Zoom.

2. PCC Elections: Lucy Warren, Daniel Korboe, Nigel Daniels and Gerald Wisden were elected to the PCC. The terms will run through to the APCM in 2024.

3. Appointments: Ron Byer was re-appointed to be the Independent examiner; Ro Stretton was re-appointed as Parish Safeguarding Officer.

4. Finance: the accounts for 2020 (published in the Annual Report) were approved by the meeting. The Treasurer, John Warburton, had provided the following statement: "The finances of Christ Church continue to be severely impacted by Covid restrictions, particularly income from Hall and Church bookings including Little Hands, Weddings, ad-hoc collections, fundraising events and some impact on planned giving. The income shortfall versus 2019 is £28, 996. There were considerable cost savings during the year of £20,207 through staffing, some rebate of Parish Share, running cost reduction and deferring some premises work. Unfortunately, this still resulted in a total deficit of £37,116 (versus a 2019 deficit of £28,297). On the positive side, the receipt of a large legacy of around £350,000 means that the balance sheet is strong at £683,751 compared with £377,999 in 2019 with liquid assets of £572,096. Nevertheless, in accordance with good practice, the PCC is committed to funding current expenditure from current income and are considering various ways to address the shortfall through increased income and/or cost savings. These are being considered as part of the 2021 and 2022 budget planning process."

5. Vicar's APCM Report 2020

'Renewing our Vision'

Acts 4:5-12; John 10:11-18

APCMs seem to be coming around at an alarming rate of knots so adding to what I said only 6 months ago has been difficult, but it is always appropriate to take the scriptures as a jumping off point. Peter and John have been put in prison for their preaching and in particular the healing of the crippled man

and they are asked '*by what power or what name did you do this?*' they respond, 'by the power of Jesus, the cornerstone of our faith'.

We know that power today because our church is named after it. Its Christ's church not Rosemary's, not Sue's or David's, not Andy's or Jen's, not Malcolm's or Lucy's, I could go on. We are the gathered Body of Christ in this place and as such are called into fellowship with the Good Shepherd who lays down his life for us, who knows us intimately by name and who seeks out those outside the flock as well. One of the roles of leadership is to keep on telling the sacred story so I have entitled this report '*Renewing our Vision'* because we have not had much opportunity to reflect on vision during this past year as everyone has been caught up in their own bubbles and the future has been so uncertain. Much of what I say many of you will have heard before, some however will not be as familiar and it doesn't hurt to refresh all our memories especially at an annual celebration.

Let's go back to our strapline:

'Christ Church as a **LIVING WELL** Christ Church ***living well.'***

We have been journeying with this vision for several years and it remains our calling and goal. However, we need to pray it through afresh in the light of the past 12 months so consequently we will be having a special prayer meeting as part of Essence of Pentecost.

Nevertheless, we still believe that God wants us as the gathered Body of Christ in this place to enable the people and environment of our parish to **live well with God, one another, and themselves.**

This means providing a resource for the local community in that our facilities can be a safe space for all to come and encounter God for themselves (that's the *Knowing part of our Mission*); here we can access activities and facilities that support and promote that encounter (the *Growing in faith*). As our understanding of church is the members themselves, we seek to be resourceful people actively demonstrating the love of Christ wherever we find ourselves at home, school, work or in leisure pursuits. (Hence us all *Going* out in love and service). We are supported in this understanding through a Rule for Life that seeks to put Christ at the centre of all we do and touches on all aspects of daily life.

In the Rule for life there are **7 holy habits**. Every aspect of our communal life also fits into these key areas. Take a minute to look at the rich variety of community life that we are celebrating today.

Each year the PCC reviews our Mission Action Plan that ties our own Living Well Vision with wider Diocesan goals (Transforming Church, Transforming Lives). Specific areas for focus are identified with smart targets. This year's targets are on the distributed postcard so please hold them and the whole churches' mission and growth in your prayers.

The aspirational aspects of our ongoing Redevelopment project were also developed in line with the holy habits as we considered the facilities and activities we seek to provide for Knowing, Growing and Going. We haven't time to run through this again now, but they were on the display panels produced by the architect.

Nevertheless, the complete fulfilment of our desire to be a destination or hub for the local community has not as yet come to fruition. Obviously, we paused on active project work as we digested the financial and practical implications of Covid 19. We need to review and renew this in the light of the post Lockdown world we now find ourselves in.

Community consultation in 2019 highlighted a need for.

- Meeting space
- Drop in space

- Community hub
- Café
- Events facilities
- Support groups
- Fitness and interest groups
- Business opportunities
- Sustainability
- Accessibility
- Hospitality
- Storage
- Landscaping
- Biodiversity
- Visibility
- Parking

Many of these things are still pertinent perhaps even more so as people crave social interaction post Lockdown.

Further congregational consultation in 2020 prioritised the following.

- Linking hall and church together
- Continuing outreach especially through youth & families work.
- Improving hall catering facilities
- Improving upper hall /office facilities
- Improving outreach through social media /marketing new admin role
- Developing Scout HQ
- Servery in church
- Open Church
- Conserving resources
- Carparking
- Toilets
- Landscaping
- Sacred decoration

We need to discern if these are still our order of priorities. The PCC has obviously already begun reflecting on the challenges and opportunities presented to us over the last 12 months focusing particularly on 3 main areas.

How do we maintain a sense of unity as a church family?

There has been appreciation for the pastoral principles sermon series as it opened up conversations. We need to seek out real priorities, appreciating it is not about differing worship styles but what we believe and how we behave. Our pastoral contact has been important for people especially home deliveries for those without email access. It has been harder to keep young people and families connected – simply being technologically connected does not necessarily help. There is a need to find ways to involve young people. As we move out of lockdown balancing live and virtual worship will also need consideration.

How might we attract newcomers when church re-starts?

There have been newcomers during lockdown. We should maintain our digital footprint – use content as a magnet, use tagging in social media, as well as our roadside banners. Develop the site as a community hub. More outside services and events. The fence ministry, Miss You activities and children's trails on the common have been a great witness and draw.

What are the opportunities of a post-Covid world?

As things open up there will be a hunger for social events. Many more people have been passing through the churchyard, should we open the church more and offer refreshments? We need to increase the use of our digital footprint and signage. We are hoping to hold an Environmental fair as so many more people tuned in to eco issues including more outdoor worship.

These were just the beginnings of our thought processes and the conversations will continue beginning as I said with prayerful reflection during the Thy Kingdom Come week and Pentecost.

Overall, I have been exceptionally proud of the way in which the Christ Church community has rallied and stayed in contact throughout what will undoubtedly go down in the history books as a unique and extremely stressful time. So let us be positive, focusing on what we did achieve most notably continuing to maintain a weekly communion service at 10am which regularly saw 70+ people attending, growing our midweek communion including running the Prayer Course 2.

We have taken leaps and strides into the digital world. I'm not a natural behind a camera and Jen will testify to how many takes it took to produce our virtual tour for schools, but we've done our best with Zoom for worship and meetings, and I am so grateful to all who have supported our technological advancements. We can continue to develop this and hopefully improve our offer even more. Whilst we will be continuing to stream services, I am really looking forward to the day when the whole community is worshipping together again physically in this space or in the grounds as many of us have developed a passion for outdoor worship too.

The church grounds have been a sanctuary not just for wildlife in no mow May but for so many who have sought solace in the outdoor chapel or comfort from our fence ministry. The use of installations both in the grounds and across the common have bought new contacts in ways we could not previously have envisaged. There have been other highlights such as developing a more inclusive welcome statement and new eco church handbook as well as regilding the clock in Richard Shortman's memory.

Christ's church is always a team effort. So many people have contributed to the success of this community that I simply cannot single them all out. I have repeatedly thanked the pastoral team and music department for all they have done, and it goes without saying but I will anyway, say thank you to the staff team for all their unseen work. Juggling the books financially has been no easy task either so particular thanks to John, Tracy, June, Malcolm and Alan are also due. Finally, as we seek to move to electronic bookings via the website, despite a quiet year I would like to extend our gratitude to Lesley Morgan who has faithfully coordinated our hall bookings for many years and deserves recognition and special thanks, so I sent her some flowers yesterday on behalf of us all with our sincere gratitude and thanks.

As we seek prayerfully to re-envision the future let us gather around The Good Shepherd to be knowing, growing and going upwards and outwards in faith.

6. Questions: The following questions were submitted in advance of the meeting;

Recent Notice sheets have referred to there being 4 new PCC places to be filled at the APCM. Will this not leave some vacancies in the 12 such places provided for in the PCC's constitution? If so, what action is planned to fill them?

As last year's APCM was postponed due to Covid Restrictions meaning the term of office for that cohort therefore being reduced the PCC chose not to fill any casual vacancies at that time.

As our 2018 cohort steps down there were 4 new vacancies that we actively recruited for although significantly more people were approached.

There are technically still 2 casual vacancies in the 2019 cohort and 1 unfulfilled in 2020 however we received no further nominations.

The 2020 Church Representation Rules state that if there are more than 100 members on an ER there can be up to 12 elected lay members on the PCC. Despite them being ex officio, the presence of our 3 elected Deanery reps means that we are still have 12 elected members.

As the PCC summaries now published in the Notice Sheet cease to be available when the next weeks' Notice Sheet replaces it, will the PCC reinstate the archive of PCC summaries that used to be available on the website?

No, the PCC discussed this and felt that it was inappropriate to keep a PCC archive on the website. As is customary full minutes are available at the back of church. The immediate summary on the notice sheet being distributed to all members was felt to be a more effective method of communication.

During these difficult times, what one-to-one contacts have members of the Leadership Team been having with members of the congregation to complement the arm's length relationship through the team of pastoral contacts?

The CC Leadership Team have been exemplary and tirelessly kept in contact with their pastoral groups throughout the last 12 months, with frequent phone calls, weekly emails, What's App Chats and socially distant walks. Most of us have even been doing weekly deliveries and doorsteps chats despite Covid restrictions and guidance. We have also responded to requests for shopping, prescriptions and other personal matters, alongside this the Curtis' have faithfully continued to take items to the Foodbank on behalf of us all.

Why is the website's calendar so little used? The 25 April APCM has never been listed on it. At the time of writing (on 16 April) only the 24 April Alpha session is listed for April, and nothing at all is listed for May.

We have not yet fully utilised all the new look website features and as with any new technology it has been a gradual process of learning for both Alistair Wells and Helen Sygrave as administrators. In particularly there does not seem to be capability for reoccurring events thus meaning weekly updates and if someone is on annual leave there is no contingency been planned as yet. This is something we hope to develop in the forthcoming months.

What action is in hand with the Diocese and Scout Association about the current lease on the Scout Hut which expires before long?

This is on the PCC's radar and we are currently exploring options regarding a rolling year on year extension to give greater flexibility for us as well as some security for current hut users.

There are some big changes happening at neighbouring St Barnabas church. There is no mention of this in the reports from the PCC or the deanery synod. How might these changes impact on Christ Church and the neighbouring parishes?

The Annual Report only refers to things that relate to our year at CC however the Area Dean provided the following statement.

"Following an extensive Health and Viability study undertaken by the Archdeacons a creative way forward for the future of St Barnabas was sought and they have entered into a partnership with St. Pauls Howell Hill who have resources to underwrite ministry there. In particular a pioneer Curate is

being placed at St Barnabas from July 2021 and they will begin working towards being one parish with 2 worship centres. If this goes well the formal legal process to dissolve the Epsom Group Ministry and establish a new parish will begin in 2022. There is a Vlog from Paul Dever on the St Paul's website which explains this new relationship further."

In May 2019 there was an open church meeting with the architect to discuss the parish link and hall upgrade. Since then there has been a vision survey in February 2020, an article in the April/May 2020 magazine and the results of the survey in the June/July magazine. This year's PCC report states that, "The Project Team has only met once in the past year as energies and priorities have been elsewhere. The PCC did authorise the submission of a pre-planning application before Christmas and we are awaiting feedback from that."

- *What is happening with the project? and*
- *What is hoped to be achieved by the preplanning application?*

The new PCC will be looking afresh at our Vision in the immediate future to establish what God is calling us to now post Lockdown. This includes examining the aspirations of the project as well as any site redevelopment. Obviously with the Pandemic we are at least a couple of years behind with where we might have liked to be.

The preplanning application is intended to give us a feel of what might be possible given the constraints of a conservation area. Despite frequent requests to the council, we are still awaiting a response, they too are catching up on works.

The minutes of the last APCM record in response to question 7g that: "The website currently carries a summary of actions at PCC as part of CCN, and next year this will be added to the blog." Is it still the intention that these reports will be added to the blog?

The PCC felt that the immediate summary on the notice sheet was a better method of communication as it is proactively emailed / delivered to everyone not just those who sought it out. However, if a particular topic warranted further space for fuller exploration such as the inclusive statement discussion or Faith at Home initiatives then the blog has and will be used.
This is something that can be revisited by the new PCC.

7. Electoral Roll (statement from Martin Shipton our Electoral Roll Officer):
"The Electoral Roll is the foundation of the whole structure of synodical government in the Church of England, it is one measure of the health of the church and contains the names and addresses of everyone who can vote at the Annual Parochial Church Meeting. Following last year's changes to the rules governing the management of the Electoral Roll this year's updating has again been carried out on-line with all documents being published on the church website.
As the Electoral Roll update takes place before the Annual Meeting this report covers only the period from the last Annual Meeting (October 2020) to the present time.
At last year's meeting I reported an Electoral Roll membership of 154 people. This year we have signed up 5 people but lost 4 people. So membership now stands at 155 people.
58.8% of the Electoral Roll live within the parish boundaries and the remaining 41.2% outside."

8. Remembering: The meeting paid their respects to Elsie Feltham and John Finlayson who all sadly passed away since the last APCM.

9. **Thanks**: Finally, the vicar thanked the outgoing PCC members; Anne Sturton, (Chair of Missions) and Alan Frame (Chair of Finance). She also recognised the extra work of the Finance team in juggling an exceptionally difficult year as well as everyone who had continued to make our 'lockdown' worship possible in particular the Pastoral, Music and Tech teams.

Revd Rosemary Donovan (Chair) Craig Donovan (Interim PCC Secretary)

