

# **St Andrew & St Mark Surbiton**

**2020**

**Annual Report of  
the Parochial Church Council  
Churchwardens' Fabric Report  
Financial Statements**

**Registered Charity Number: 1130093**

**Address:** The Parish Office, St Mark's Church, St Mark's Hill, Surbiton, Surrey, KT6 4LS

# The Parish of St Andrew and St Mark, Surbiton

Presented to the the Annual Parochial Church Meeting 23<sup>rd</sup> May 2021

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**PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF  
SAINT ANDREW AND SAINT MARK, SURBITON  
REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020**



## Structure, Governance and Management

### The Parochial Church Council

Members of the Parochial Church Council (PCC) hold office in accordance with the Church Representation Rules – either ex-officio; or by election or appointment at the Annual Parochial Church Meeting; or by co-option.

The following served as members of the PCC for all or part of the period from 1 January 2020 until approval of the financial statements on 14 April 2021:

Naomi Bamford-Hurrell

Anne Barker \*\*\*

Valerie Baxter \*\*\*

The Rev'd Carole Bourne

Gary Buckley

Mary Elliott

Hugh Evans

Helen Goepel \*\*\*

Andrew Horn

The Rev'd Michael Johns-Perring

Anne Knowles – Churchwarden (until 11 Oct 20) \*

Jane Kosa \*

Diana Lewis – Churchwarden

Christopher Madden \*\*

Clare Mannall

Anne Miller \* – Churchwarden (until 11 Oct 20) \*

Andrew Miskin – Treasurer

Toni Mitchell \*\*

## The Parish of St Andrew and St Mark, Surbiton

Dan Nmadu

Rod Pearson – Churchwarden (from 11 Oct 20) \*\*

Katherine Reed – PCC Secretary

Jackie Robbs

The Rev'd Robert Stanier – Chairman

Michael Smith – Churchwarden (from 20 Dec 20) \*\*

Martin Taylor – Churchwarden (until 11 Oct 20) \*

John Wickenden \*

Ian Wilson \*\*\*

Eileen Wingrove \*\*

### Notes:

- \* Denotes a member who left the PCC during 2020
- \*\* Denotes a member who joined the PCC during 2020
- \*\*\* Denotes a member of the Kingston Deanery Synod

The PCC is responsible for making decisions on all matters of general concern and importance to the parish, including deciding how the funds of the PCC are to be spent. All eligible members of the congregation are encouraged to register on the Electoral Roll and to stand for election to the PCC.

### Charitable Status

The PCC has charitable status and the members of the PCC are the trustees. The charity is registered with the Charity Commission under the number 1130093.

### Objectives and Activities

The sole charitable object of the PCC is the promotion of the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to the doctrines and practices of the Church of England. In furtherance of this object the PCC has a statutory responsibility to co-operate with the minister in promoting in the parish the whole mission of the church, pastoral, evangelistic, social, environmental, and ecumenical.

The PCC continues to achieve its primary object by:

- maintaining the whole mission of the church, and supporting the ministry team. This includes the regular provision of opportunities for divine worship, the promotion of the Gospel and of Christian fellowship;
- managing and maintaining the church premises at St. Mark's and at St. Andrew's so that they can be used in a variety of ways both liturgical and secular; and
- supporting the Church of England through donations to the Southwark Diocese Parish Support Fund.

## Public Benefit

The Trustees are aware of and consider the guidance of the Charity Commission on public benefit including, in particular, the specific guidance on charities for the advancement of religion. The charity fulfils its public benefit requirement through the provision of opportunities for public and private Christian worship in its two churches. It provides teaching in the Christian faith. It offers pastoral care to members of the congregation, residents in the parish and others. It supports other charities throughout the world. It organises outreach social activities for church members and others in the community including a Christmas Day lunch for people who would otherwise be alone on Christmas Day. It contributes to the work of the wider Church of England, particularly in the Diocese of Southwark.

Further information about the charity's activities is provided later in this report.

## Day-to-day Management

The PCC has delegated some of its functions (but not its trustee responsibilities) to a number of groups and people who report regularly to the PCC. In addition, certain individuals, including the sacristans and the director of music, fill specific roles in the running of the parish and are authorised to incur expenditure on behalf of the PCC within prescribed limits.

## Sub-Committees

During 2019, the sub-committee structure which had originally been established in 2017, in order better to harness the parish's outstanding volunteer base, was consolidated. These sub-committees continued to meet during 2020 (albeit virtually), and two new sub-committees (the Audio-Visual committee and the Eco committee) were formed. Some of the sub-committees have delegated budgets in support of their work. The sub-committees report regularly to the PCC. A list of all these sub-committees is set out below, and reports from the sub-committees are contained in this Report:

**Table 1: Sub-committees**

Committee	Report at page
Standing Committee	n/a
Audio-Visual	27
Discipleship	14
Welcome	26
Social Action and Charity	19

## The Parish of St Andrew and St Mark, Surbiton

Social Events	n/a
Children and Young People	16
Property Management	23
Lettings	23
Finance and Income	29
Environment ("Eco")	25

### **Risk Management**

The PCC has given consideration to the risks to which the PCC may be exposed, and it considered that the systems which have been established are suitable for the minimisation of such risks, for safeguarding the assets of the PCC, and for the prevention and detection of fraud. A risk register is maintained which is reviewed annually by the PCC.

### **Parish Safeguarding**

We have continued to monitor activities and situations in the church, and Judith Murray and Charlie Bamford as Parish Safeguarding Officers are points of contact alongside the Vicar for anyone with a safeguarding concern. Their photographs and points of communication are on public view in both churches. During the year, the PCC reviewed its safeguarding policy to ensure that it remained consistent with the guidance issued by the diocese.

### **Professional Advisors**

#### **Bankers and Fund Managers**

National Westminster Bank plc, 10 Victoria Road, Surbiton, Surrey KT6 4JY

CAF Bank Ltd, 25 Kings Hill Avenue, Kings Hill, West Malling, Kent ME19 4JQ

CCLA Investment Management Limited, 85 Queen Victoria Street, London EC4V 4ET

#### **Insurers**

Ecclesiastical Insurance Group, Benefact House, 2000 Pioneer Avenue, Gloucester Business Park, Brockworth, Gloucester GL3 4AW

#### **Solicitors**

Winckworth Sherwood LLP, Minerva House, 5 Montague Close, London SE1 9BB

Palmers Solicitors, 89-91 Clarence Street, Kingston upon Thames KT1 1QY



## The Parish of St Andrew and St Mark, Surbiton

### **Architect**

Sue Kent BSc Dipl. Arch RIBA, Inspecting Architect, Howard : Fairbairn : MHK,  
Chartered Architects, Lambourn House, Redlands, Coulsdon, Croydon, Surrey CR5 2HT

### **Organ Maintenance**

B C Shepherd & Sons, Pipe Organ Builders, 1 Mill Ridge, Edgware, Middlesex HA8 7PE

### **Piano Maintenance**

Victor Kee, Piano Tuning and Repairs, 126 Amyand Park Road, St. Margarets,  
Twickenham TW1 3HP

### **Independent Examiner**

Timothy Brown, A.C.A., 50 The Ridings, Surbiton, Surrey KT5 8HQ

## Annual Report

### Overview

2020 was a year markedly different from any previous year, as the parish adapted to life during the coronavirus pandemic.

Words have appeared in our everyday language which we would not have used or even heard of before March 2020 - lockdown, social distancing, self-isolating, WFH (work from home), keyworkers, in person, e-meeting and of course Zoom! As our daily vocabulary has extended so the parish has adjusted to the changes COVID-19 has made to our work and home life. Businesses and organisations have talked of the 'need to pivot' and 'to be agile', 'to be flexible to change' in these unpredictable times.

As the church buildings closed for a time, our church community remained connected, and continued worshipping and meeting because the ministry and admin team was able to 'pivot' and 'be agile' in responding to the restrictions by quickly transferring to 'Online Church'.

The report of the year's activities has been written by the many people who lead or undertake events within the parish. This is an extensive and varied group and the style of this report reflects this. A full list of contributors is at **Appendix 1**.

### Thank you

The extensive, successful and effective range of activities detailed in this report would not be possible without significant help and support from a large number of people, both regular members of the congregation and others who support the church and its work in the community. While these individuals are not named in this report, the PCC acknowledges the roles, scope and functions undertaken and wishes to extend its grateful thanks and appreciation for all those who have contributed, and continue to contribute, to the life of the parish.

## Vicar's Review of 2020

### Summary

2020 was a year like no other. Even now, the implications of the Coronavirus pandemic, the consequent lockdowns, and how these have brought about permanent changes in our lives, are far from fully worked out. I am convinced, however, that in the future, historians of the United Kingdom will see this as the pivotal year of our lifetimes.

The economic impact on the church in 2020 can be seen in our accounts; the impact on worship can be seen through our service registers. Frankly, there is almost no area of church life which has been unaffected by COVID-19. In this, the church is no different from the wider world: you only have to look at the collapse in use of

Surbiton's excellent railway station to see how Surbiton itself is in the process of a seismic change. The demographic make-up of Surbiton will be different in the future.

The spiritual impact on the church is less obvious, but significant nonetheless. In 2020, the Church of England generally had to grapple with decisions about opening and closing buildings in order to prevent the spread of the virus, often at times of major festivals; some parishes were more cautious and guarded about in person church services, others were more willing to take calculated risks in opening. We have tried to pursue a sensible balance. The times when services have been online only have brought into question access to the sacraments; moreover, the absence of singing for so much of the year has been heart-wrenching. Some key parts of worship have been missing.

The saving grace has been new ways of connection made possible by new technology and within that there has burned a dogged spirit, determinedly and often ingeniously finding ways of connecting with each other and remaining a community in unforeseen ways. In certain aspects, our community has risen to the occasion beyond our wildest dreams of what we thought was possible when the first lockdown began. Moreover, some people are finding church accessible in a way they have never done for years, or ever.

### Public benefit

- In a typical year, over 15,000 people visit our church buildings: last year, perhaps only 2,000 came, as not only church services, but concerts and other events were all manifestly disrupted. At one point, there were no groups using the church spaces at all. Priority in terms of physical access to the church was given to two groups, Narcotics Anonymous and Alcoholics Anonymous, to support people facing acute pressures given their previous addiction.
- Within the constraints of lockdown, the Church offered Christian marriage or burial to anyone resident in, or with a qualifying connection to, the parish, who asked, as well as baptism services. The church also offered free marriage preparation to all who came with a request for marriage.
- The annual Winter Nightshelter for homeless people at St Mark's began but had to be cancelled halfway through (those needing shelter were offered beds in permanent hostels).
- The church successfully coordinated a free Christmas lunch with Surbiton High School on Christmas Day for seventy people: this year, not by gathering together but rather by delivering hot lunches to local households who needed one. The church also offered over sixty afternoon hampers to people who were unlikely to see anyone, or see only very few people, that day.
- Charitable events: the church has continued to run events, almost monthly, in support of the 'Charity of the Month', by transferring to online entertainment: Zoom wine tastings, and quizzes.

## The Parish of St Andrew and St Mark, Surbiton

- The parish has continued to support the local state school by providing governorship at St Andrew's and St Mark's Junior School. Congregation members offered a total of over 500 hours of support to the school as Foundation and Diocesan Governors; the student body comprises 330 children. (Congregation members are also governors at other schools.)
- Food bank collection centre. Both church buildings gather food for the Kingston Food Bank which is taken there regularly by volunteers. The Vicar can also act as a sponsor to give food bank vouchers. The church undertook two special collections during the first lockdown, encouraging donations which were no longer being prompted by people's visiting the buildings.
- Care and attention has continued to be given to the churchyards at St Andrew's and at St Mark's to ensure a healthy, green space in an increasingly congested Surbiton.

### Hello and Goodbye

**Picture 1: Michael after celebrating his first mass on 18 October 2020**



Michael Johns-Perring, who joined us as assistant curate at Petertide 2019, was ordained priest at All Saints, Kingston, in October 2020, and it has been wonderful to continue to have him, along with his family, as part of the parish.

Sadly, several members of our congregation died in 2020.

Alan Lewis-Reid died in February. Alan had been a pillar of the 8 am congregation for the last two decades, and an Englishman of the 'old school'. He was unfussy, unpretentious and unfailingly positive, and was much loved.

Andy Christmas, who died in April, in the first wave of COVID, had been part of the St Mark's congregation since his birth. He was a lifelong wheelchair user, and muscular complications meant that speech was not easy for him; his dogged determination to continue to worship at St Mark's, whenever possible, was an inspiration. For much of his adult life, he lived at Fiddlers Green, just off the Ewell Road, a building specially designed for adults who could only live partially independent lives: this had been designed by his mother, Sylvia Christmas, who herself was a major figure at St Mark's. A memorial service is planned for the summer of 2021, having been postponed several times.

John Perry died in the autumn, from cancer. He had been part of the St Andrew's choir for something like sixty years, first as a boy treble and then as a wonderful tenor. There are many other ways he served the church, including as churchwarden, but to

list out the posts in which he served in a way would underplay his significance. It was his sheer, constant presence, genial and yet devout, which set the tone for a generation of worshippers at St Andrew's. He was also a giant figure in the Kingston community more generally, and his funeral was livestreamed to over 200 screens. Had we been able to host it 'normally', the church would have been full to bursting. It is hoped to mark his contribution to St Andrew's singing with a special choral service at some point when social distancing regulations no longer apply.

### **Morning Worship on Sundays: a timeline**

From the start of the year until Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> March, church worship continued more or less as normal. On 15<sup>th</sup> March, the only differences from 'normal' were that we did not shake hands at the peace, and we decided not to offer tea and coffee after the service so as not to be a COVID risk. Looking back, this now seems relatively lax; certainly, it was hard then to believe quite how stringent the first lockdown would soon be.

Seeing that we would soon not be able to meet physically, on 20<sup>th</sup> March, we created a YouTube channel and offered our first online sermon, using Psalm 137 as a guide to lockdown living; on 25<sup>th</sup> March came our second, this time on the Rule of St Benedict for help. 29<sup>th</sup> March was the first time we published a sermon online on a Sunday morning. This has happened almost every week since then.

In terms of Sundays, on 22<sup>nd</sup> March, Mothering Sunday, there was no morning service offered, but rather there was a distribution of daffodils to the homes of people who were mothers or who acted as mothers. On Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> March, the only online material was the sermon.

On Palm Sunday, Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> April, morning worship resumed with two online services, one for children with young families, and one more traditional service, both led from the vicarage, using Zoom. It seemed very novel at the time. There has been regular online worship on every Sunday morning since then.

Throughout April and May, the government requested that no in-person church services be permitted. The Archbishop of Canterbury even forbade clergy from leading online services from within church, in order to show solidarity with others who were not allowed to go to their place of work: he led the Easter service from his kitchen table, for example.

The ban on clergy entering churches ended in June, but services were not permitted until July. They had to be carefully regulated, with no singing, and at least two metres distance between households. We began again on 12<sup>th</sup> July, with people booking their slots by emailing the parish office. At St Mark's, chairs were moved into small clusters, distanced; at St Andrew's, the pews were moved into socially distanced spaces.

These were not, however, physical only services: they were what we have for a time called 'hybrid' services, though aspects of them may become the norm in the future.

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That is to say, that something like two-thirds of the congregation still joined in on Zoom, but a third were in church.

‘Hybrid’ services continued from 12<sup>th</sup> July until 1<sup>st</sup> November, when the government imposed a second lockdown. Once again, worship in churches was forbidden. The choir had only started singing again (socially distanced) that very Sunday. For a month, services were online only.

Services resumed after the end of the second lockdown on 6<sup>th</sup> December in their ‘hybrid’ form. Unfortunately, COVID cases had not declined but only stalled in November: the emergence of a new, more contagious variant was causing a rise in cases that really took off at the end of the second lockdown. Case rates increased throughout December, and after a huge spike in the third week, on Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> December, the government imposed a third lockdown.

The difference with this lockdown, in church terms, was that the government had not mandated a ceasing of in-person church services. However, at an emergency meeting on the afternoon of Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> December, the ministry team and churchwardens took the decision to cancel all physical services till further notice, including all the Christmas services, as well as the planned ‘Christmas journey’ which was due to happen outside. At that point, cases in Kingston stood at c.900 cases per 100,000, and it was felt too risky to continue.

### **Morning Worship on Sundays: method, reasoning and pros and cons**

Faced with the closure of physical space, churches like ours were faced with a blank canvas, limited partly by technological capability, and partly by vision. Some created ‘pre-recorded’ videos, clipped together; others avoided online worship and created packs and leaflets that were delivered to people’s homes; others livestreamed services but had no active participation from viewers at home.

As vicar, I took the view that we should aim for:

- Live worship rather than pre-recorded worship. I felt that a pre-recorded service would be somewhat in competition with ‘Songs of Praise’, which would be broadcast quality and better than any parish could achieve. Keeping it live made errors more forgivable and would create a unified single moment, even if people were inhabiting different physical space.
- Keeping the established Sunday morning timings. Some people liked the idea of worship that was downloadable at any time, and with our YouTube sermons, we have provided that, but overall, I wanted to keep Sunday morning as the primary church “moment” in the week.
- Participation from as many people as possible. This logic extended into ‘hybrid’ services, in which I felt it was important that people at home should be leading in some ways e.g. doing readings, deacon’s liturgy etc. In this way it was clear



## The Parish of St Andrew and St Mark, Surbiton

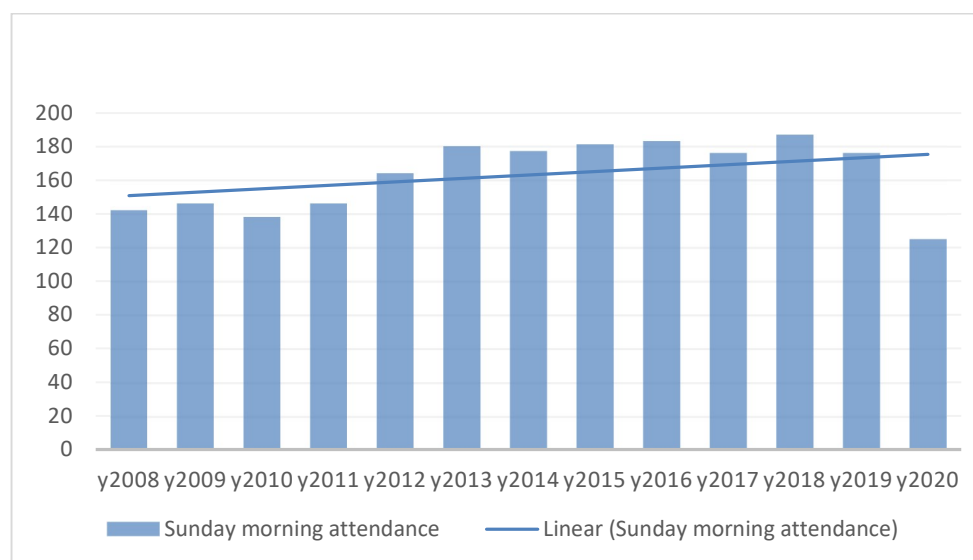
that we were 'one' congregation, rather than a 'superior' inner circle in church, with an 'inferior' outer circle outside church.

- Things to be shorter: it became quite quickly apparent that the average person's attention span at an online service was less than at a physical service: so broadly speaking, we aimed for everything, including sermons and prayers, to be about 20% shorter than we would plan for in a normal situation.

In order to create interactivity between the congregation at home with each other and with the liturgy, we decided that the best platform would be 'Zoom'. At first, it felt unlikely that elderly members in particular would adapt, but in fact, almost everyone learned quite swiftly how to make the links work.

### Attendance

**Chart 1: Sunday morning attendance**



Online worship was in some ways more measurable than physical worship, but not in others. At any one time, the computer records the number of 'screens' tuning in on Zoom, and YouTube and Facebook record the number of views of an online sermon; the computer cannot, however, tell whether people are doing something else at the same time while their screen is on. Marking whether someone has 'attended' a service is almost an existential question: can they have attended the service if they were also doing the ironing or preparing Sunday lunch? In a sense, that only brought into focus that someone can be physically in church while a sermon is being preached, but not actually listening very hard.

At our first Zoom services, we had about 30 screens at the 9.15 am for children, and about 75 screens at the 11 am for adults. The biggest single online-only morning was on 14<sup>th</sup> June, when 10 were following the BCP communion service on Facebook Live at 8 am, there were 30 at the 9.15, 90 at the 11 am, and a further 15 at 'Young Zoomers',

## The Parish of St Andrew and St Mark, Surbiton

a discussion group for children (an initiative which we tried to run, but which, in the end, did not take off as hoped). But on that day, we had 150 clearly participating in parish worship.

On a typical Sunday throughout the summer, that figure was more like 120 to 130. This is a significant drop on previous years, and of the drop, a disproportionate number of children have been affected: we have not been able to offer Sunday Club or physical interactivity at the 9.15 am (or a biscuit after the service!). The 9.15 am service was more negatively impacted than the 11 am, overall.

The above figure does not account for the number of people who watched the sermon at a time other than Sunday morning: typically, the YouTube sermon had about 25 views each week.

For some people, Zoom worship has been dissatisfying. It is impossible to pull off communal singing beyond a slightly chaotic rabble, though that can work very well at times, for our service for young children. More critically, people are absent for the sacrament. Some who had been regular churchgoers since their childhood went for over nine months in 2020 without receiving the sacrament. The intangible, but real, sense of fellowship and hospitality that is brought about by a cup of tea after the service was also lost.

At the same time, for others, Zoom has been brilliant. One person with a medical condition, who finds draughty church buildings bring on coughs and colds, has been able to attend weekly from the warmth of their own home; others, who have moved away from Surbiton perhaps many years ago, have enjoyed logging into our services from afar. At one baptism, a Godparent was able to be present from Australia when she would never have been able to participate in the service in the old days.

The dichotomy of response even continues for the 'post service' moment. For some, the division of people at random into breakout groups after the service has been genuinely enjoyable; it has cut through any cliques and some people have met each other for the first time even though they have been attending the same church service for months or even years. Some, who find starting a conversation with someone difficult, have felt greater confidence in the way they are given an entry into a conversation by just being placed in a breakout room.

While Zoom offered good levels of interactivity for those who were able to attend, it depended on being able to click on the link. The technological side of this was largely overcome; within a few weeks, almost everyone, even those with limited computer expertise, could work out how to do it, and there was a phone link for those who could only use the phone. What was impossible was for people just to 'drop in', as they might do, on a physical service. Growth is difficult to achieve, for a church modelled like ours, where accessibility and openness is at the key. Similarly, our links with the



community and the number of people encountering our church because they had used the buildings dropped massively. This is a definite weakness.

One way we became more open was by streaming our services on Facebook as well as doing Zoom. In the autumn, we started streaming Morning Worship live on Facebook every day, and this was regularly watched by 5 to 10 screens each morning; in fact, attendance was higher than it had been before.

The technology for our first Zoom service was very basic. Thanks to the efforts of various people (see report from the Audio-Visual subcommittee), we were gradually able to improve our offering so that, in church and at home, people were able to see each other, see the text of the liturgy and also watch what was happening at the altar and lectern. This required significant investment in screens, wires, microphones and a huge amount of effort from certain volunteers.

### Evening worship

We continued to offer evening worship until the first lockdown began. Since the autumn, we have reintroduced the 6 pm service, though it has often been an online only service, depending on the lockdown situation. Since the first lockdown, we have not felt able to offer 'Healing' services, since they have depended on physical touch, albeit only hands on a head or a shoulder. These will be reintroduced when appropriate.

Thursday nights at 9 pm was a slot when, during the first lockdown, we trialled offering Compline by Zoom. This at one point was attracting around 30 people and it continued to have a dozen or so worshippers every Thursday until the end of the year.

### Sub Committees

Nearly all the committees continued to meet during 2020, albeit virtually.

### Communication

New forms of communication became more important than ever.

The biggest one was the extended reach of the weekly email, which by the end of the year was going to around 300 addresses. This became the most crucial way through which Zoom codes were disseminated as well as offering a way of communication for church events and prayers.

Our Facebook page became more of a hub than ever before, including sermons, and general parish news. A parishioner's guide to creating an Easter garden had several thousand views.

Our YouTube channel had 98 subscribers at the end of the year. The most watched sermon was one by the Vicar on BlackLivesMatter, which has been watched by 500 people.

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Alongside this, the Vicar sent out printed newsletters roughly every two months by post, partly to reach those who were not online, but also because even those people who are online users enjoy physical content from time to time.

### Adult Christian Study

#### Overview

In 2020, two of our three home groups continued to meet online, at least intermittently, during the lockdowns.

Moreover, during the first lockdown, the Vicar led a three week Zoom course on the Book of Leviticus, which was attended by around 30 participants.

#### Discipleship Sub-Committee

The Discipleship Committee met twice in 2020, once in person before the first lockdown, and once at the end of the year via Zoom. Plans for providing a study and prayer space in church have been put on hold, along with other initiatives flowing from the Prayer Workshop organised in October 2019. The plan for a parish Quiet Day at Wychcroft retreat centre was postponed until June 2021.

### Home Groups

#### Tuesday Evening Home Group

The group started Lent with a plan to look at *I, Daniel Blake*, and managed to watch the film together, but with the onset of the pandemic had to forfeit meeting in person. The group continued to meet online until Easter, but thereafter meetings became more sporadic due to members' work and family commitments. However, the group continued to keep in touch with a WhatsApp group, and met at Christmas, virtually, with drinks and treats. When possible, the group will look at reconvening.

#### Friday Afternoon Group

This group continued to meet through 2020 under Jackie Robbs' leadership. Until March the group met in person for fortnightly prayer and Bible study, looking at the work of the Holy Spirit through Paul's First Letter to the Corinthians. During the rest of the year when the group could only meet remotely, prayer and Bible study were split into separate activities. In a fortnightly Bible study via Zoom, the group covered the Lord's Prayer and the book of Ruth. In alternate weeks the group pooled prayer requests and set a time to pray through them, so they could be in communion even though apart. Numbers remained strong: up to 16 people joined the Bible studies via Zoom. One group member diligently prepared and put together notes for those who could not attend the Zoom studies, and another delivered hard copies. Regular telephone contact was maintained with those without internet.

## Music

Sadly, due to Covid restrictions throughout most of 2020, the activities of both the adult and children's choirs were almost completely curtailed, apart from a short period leading up to Christmas, when the adults were able to sing for some Sunday services culminating in a Lessons and Carols service on 20th December.

Planned trips to sing at Canterbury Cathedral in April (adults) and Guildford Cathedral in May (children) had to be cancelled.

Special thanks must go to those members of the choir who have acted as soloists at the Sunday morning hybrid services during the times when a full choir has not been possible in church. Similar acknowledgements must go to our team of pianists for their input whenever this has been allowed. All of the aforementioned should be heartily praised for their patience and flexibility during what has been a most devastating year for music both within the context of the parish as well as in the wider world.

Several valued members of the adult choir moved away from Surbiton during 2020 so, when choral singing is allowed to recommence, the choir will be very much reduced in numbers. A considerable time of rebuilding will be required over the coming months (and even years) to return the music in the parish to the level it was at before the pandemic struck.

We were, of course, all devastated by the death in October of John Perry, who had been such a loyal servant to our choir, singing both as man and boy since the early 1960s. His funeral took place at St Andrew's on 6th November under the COVID restrictions, but it is hoped that there will be occasions in the not too distant future where all will be able to celebrate the life of John, who made such a huge contribution to our parish, not only musically, but in so many other ways.

## St Andrew's and St Mark's Junior School

SASM Junior School has had another successful year under the leadership of Alison Vigurs, now in her tenth year as head. The school pivoted brilliantly in terms of offering online schooling and was able to offer more 'live' online lessons than any other primary school in the area.

The school preserved Collective Worship every morning, led remotely by staff and once a week by clergy.

People who have served as Foundation Governors this year are: Robert Stanier, Carole Bourne, Ruth Gilmore, Shafaly Khan and Michael Johns-Perring. Diocesan Governors are Anne Barker and Joy Aboim. James Walker served as an Associate Governor but stepped down during the year, given other pressures. The Vicar has continued to serve as chair. The quality of support offered by the parish to the school in this way is a major contribution to the Surbiton community.

## Children and Young People

### Children's and Young People's Committee

The Children's and Young People's sub-committee's terms of reference are to review and develop the ministry of children and young people in the parish aged 0 to 16 years. This includes worship and teaching for children and young people, parents with babies and young children, communication with families, all age social events and Parish Pilgrimages.

The committee normally meets four times a year. In 2020 the committee met only once, in early February. Agenda items included Easter activities, an all-age Prayer Activities day, families at the 9.15 first Sunday of the month Eucharist at St. Mark's, Sunday Club, children's area at St. Andrew's and two questions about the work we do with children and young people as part of the Articles of Enquiry for the Archdeacon's visitation, scheduled for April.

At the meeting there was agreement to go ahead with a Prayer activities day in June, a Beating of the Bounds walk at Pentecost and confirmation of a Parish Pilgrimage to Salisbury cathedral booked for 3 October.

Recent changes to encourage families to sit near the front and participate more at the 9.15 Eucharist at St. Mark's were endorsed, and a suggestion to use a children's Eucharist prayer welcomed.

For Sunday Club the progress of a WhatsApp group was discussed, two new members of the team were welcomed, and the story of Moses suggested for the Lent teaching project.

There was agreement to research more appropriate and practical seating and furniture for the children's area at St. Andrew's.

Regarding the two questions in the wake of the Archdeacon's April visit, there was agreement to commend the Bread Making afternoon as the best thing we have done from a CYP perspective in the last year, and how we engage with older children/young people (age 11 plus) as regards what we would like to achieve next.

Following this meeting, informal consultation with parents regarding the 9.15 am Eucharist service at St. Mark's was being processed and feedback gathered.

Sadly, since March 2020, COVID has brought all meetings, consultations, excursions and activities to a halt. There will be a lot to take forward for the future.

### Sunday Club

At the beginning of 2020, Sunday Club met eight times between 12<sup>th</sup> January and 15<sup>th</sup> March. 47 children attended over these eight sessions with an age range approximately from 5 to 12 years.

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In January and February, the group followed the Roots lessons (<http://www.rootsontheweb.com>) and this included discussing questions such as “What is Church?”, reflecting on “We are all different but all followers of Christ” and finding out about the Holy Spirit at work in us, with reference to the first two chapters from Paul’s first letter to the Corinthians. Sunday Club also looked at the story of the Transfiguration from Matthew’s Gospel and talked about glory.

The Lent project was the story of Moses, as told in Exodus 2-14. This provided an opportunity for some Old Testament teaching, and the story provided lots of drama and excitement to keep the children engaged. There were plans to show extracts from the animated *Prince of Egypt* DVD and to hotseat a character from the story each week, but, sadly, COVID meant it was only possible to manage two of the four scheduled sessions. However, those included the discovery of a baby rescued and an Egyptian murdered, Moses arguing with God, a burning bush and, with Miriam and Moses in the hot seat, storytelling started well.

Grateful thanks go to all the Sunday Club team (and to churchwardens and all who provided technical and other support), and we look forward to starting up again when we can.

### Sunbeams

Our church playgroup, Sunbeams, started the year in the usual way, meeting in St. Mark’s church hall on Wednesday mornings. The main age range of the children attending is 0-3 years, and we followed the usual playgroup format of providing toys and activities to play with, refreshments at half time, and a singing session at the end. In March, following government guidelines, we introduced extra health and safety precautions, but unfortunately on 1<sup>st</sup> April we had to close due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

#### **Picture 2: Sunbeams toilet roll creations**



In the summer term we transferred our activities of story time, singing and craft activity to weekly Zoom sessions. Our toilet roll challenges, masterminded by one of our families, were also put on our Facebook page.

In the autumn term, plans were made for Sunbeams to meet again in the church hall, with small ‘bubbles’ of 5-6 families at each session. Unfortunately, Covid-19 numbers rose again, so for all of the autumn term we were back to meeting on Zoom.

Our outreach to local families, which has been such an important part of running our play group, has been severely curtailed this year. We have found that Zoom is not a good format for the age group we cover, with only a small number of families joining

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us on Wednesday mornings. We have however kept in regular contact with families by email, offering support in a variety of ways, and each Sunbeams family was sent a Christmas card, designed by Michael the curate, from the team.

### Uniformed Organisations

During 2020, the Parish has maintained contact with the local uniformed groups (Beavers, Cubs, Scouts, Guides and Brownies) and we look forward to welcoming them back for parade services as soon as we are able to do so.

### Pastoral Care

2020 presented many new challenges, and pastoral care came to the forefront, particularly from March onwards, as people faced not only a global health emergency, but were separated from their usual support networks of friends and family because of lockdown.

While the ministry team took the lead in our response to the pandemic, the team was supported by many, within our church community, who volunteered to reach out to those who might otherwise have become isolated, particularly during periods of lockdown. A database was created, and volunteers were paired with those needing help. In addition to contacting and helping vulnerable and shielding members of the church community, those on our Christmas lunch list were also contacted. This year has highlighted pastoral care as a ministry that all Christians share in.

Despite the limitations on contact, the aim has been to continue to provide spiritual, emotional, and practical support to others, as far as possible. The ministry team have continued to meet regularly to make sure no-one has been forgotten. In some areas, we have not been able to provide the same level of support as we would expect to give in normal times. The provision of home communion has not always been possible, physical visits to care homes have been limited and ministry at the time of death has also been affected. When it has been permissible, we have aimed to have our churches open for periods of private prayer.

### Outreach and Service to the Community

#### Charity and Social Action Committee

The Committee meets every two months, to encourage, support and empower members of the congregation and others to be open to future initiatives through charity and social action. It oversees initiatives whereby the parish and congregation raise funds or make donations to charitable causes, and ratifies these causes through the PCC. The pandemic and its associated restrictions last year has seen meetings move on to Zoom.



## Activities

The activities co-ordinated by CSAC were limited and modified over the course of the year because of the pandemic. These changes are detailed in the reports coming from:

- Charities of the month
- Food bank
- Christmas lunch

The Night Shelter has been put on hold this year while Joel (at the time of writing) is about to reopen under the auspices of Kingston Churches Action on Homelessness.

There will be further information on Joel once the Centre reopens in 2021. Several members of the congregation have expressed an interest in visiting and leading activities at Joel, which will now focus on those currently with addictions and will have a permanent staff of five professionals.

Kingston Street Pastors' activities were curtailed during most of 2020.

## Fundraising

Monthly fundraising events have continued to prove popular, even taking account of the shift from in-person to online events. As with previous years, our events have enabled generous donations to be sent to support the work of local and overseas organisations. The fundraising events have included online pub quizzes, wine tastings and whisky tastings. As we were unable to have our usual Christmas Fair, we held an online auction and cake sale instead, with auction lots and cakes donated by parishioners. The auction was opened, virtually, by Felicity Kendal and we were ably assisted by a professional auctioneer. As we were unable to hold our usual Christingle services, where money is raised for the Children's Society, the PCC agreed to make a donation to the Children's Society.

## Charitable Giving

The charities in the table below were agreed by the PCC as those to be supported each month in 2020. Each charity was assigned a mentor to lead the relevant events.

This year the PCC had agreed the charities to be supported by the usual range of fundraising events, but those plans were altered radically by Government restrictions to curtail the spread of Covid-19 in March.

However, the technical expertise harnessed to make online church services possible was also used in the pursuit of new ways for fund-raising each month, honouring the support promised to every charity identified. The vicar and curate, and others, devised quizzes, wine and whisky tasting, and other imaginative fund raising, and these made a valuable contribution to the social life of the parish during lockdown. The PCC supplemented the contribution made to certain charities.

**Table 2: Amounts raised by the parish for Charity of the Month, 2020**

Month	Charity	Main Fundraising Event	Total Amount Raised (before addition of Gift Aid)
January	Oxygen	Quiz Night	£1,237.00
February	Shepherd's Hospice (Sierra Leone)	Wine Tasting	£1,537.20
March	Bishop's Lent Appeal	Lent Lunches	£294.40
April	Fiddlers Green	None due to Covid	
May	Christian Aid	None due to Covid	
June	Leprosy Mission	Online Wine Tasting	£559.40
July	Matabeleland Link Diocese	Online Quiz	£989.74
August	Kingston Churches Action on Homelessness and Joel Community Trust	Online Wine Tasting	£732.00
September	Action around Bethlehem Children with Disability	Online Quiz	£681.25
October	United Society	Homegrown Pumpkin Sale	£160.00
November	Fircroft Trust	Online Whisky Tasting	£750.00
December	Children's Society and Welcare	Christmas card delivery and parish donation	£200.00

Source: Parish accounts

## Food Bank

The parish has been supporting the local food bank for at least seven years. There are collection points in each church and the donations are collected and taken, roughly once a month, to the Big Yellow Store in Tolworth, where the local Trussell Trust (<https://www.trusselltrust.org/>) have a storage unit. From there, donations are taken to New Life Baptist Church, where they are sorted and boxed up. Recipients are supplied with a voucher by social services or other support agencies, which are exchanged for a box containing three days' worth of food.

**Picture 3: Harvest Festival display at St Andrew's**



Since the commencement of the pandemic in March 2020, and the closure of both churches for much of the year, opportunities for the congregation to make donations have been much reduced. Nevertheless, during the first lockdown, two collections were arranged from outside St Andrew's, resulting in three boxes full of tins and dried goods. In addition, a total of eight boxes were donated from items given during our Harvest service and before Christmas.



In addition to donations of food, two members of the congregation contributed, respectively, by selling home-grown tomato plants (the proceeds were split between the food bank and Christian Aid, the latter receiving £350), and making and selling face masks, the proceeds of which were donated to the food bank.

Once normal services resume at each church, deliveries to the food bank collection point will resume. All donations are very gratefully received and will continue to help people in need.

### Christmas Day Lunch

In 2020, the parish's Christmas Day Lunch went through an enormous metamorphosis! Although messages about Christmas Day gatherings were confusing for families, it became clear to those organising our usual Christmas Day Lunch that it would certainly not be possible for us to present our usual sit-down three course lunch with all the trimmings, the Queen's message and carols, followed by the distribution of cake and presents.

In 2019, the parish Christmas Day Lunch team worked with Surbiton High School for the first time, and was delighted when the school agreed to work together again. In 2020, however, in view of the restrictions, a meals-on-wheels type delivery of exactly 100 lunches was planned. The plan was supported by our parish administrator, who prepared the invitations and tracked responses, and a parishioner who managed the driver schedule, which meant organising a total of 37 volunteer drivers from the parish and SHS (both staff and parents).

Some organisation was required to deliver hot meals to so many recipients. SHS managed to source bags, donated by Wren Kitchens, to ensure the food was kept hot during delivery. SHS also secured the donation by the school of all the food, and the services of the school chefs. The congregation donated presents, and those that were not wrapped were suitably prepared and placed into 100 Christmas bags donated by Waitrose, who also offered mini Christmas crackers, mini mince pies, and serviettes, which were included in all of the bags. Also included was a slice of cake for each recipient, lovingly baked by the parish's own star baker, who sliced her confection up accurately into 100 portions, all placed into special Christmas cake bags.

All in all, the operation was a resounding success. Everybody who requested a dinner received one, and all recipients were delighted to have a hot dinner delivered to their door, along with a present. The parish office received several notes and calls expressing thanks.

It is hoped to continue providing the Christmas Lunch going forward in partnership with SHS. However, after 10 years, Moira Greenfield is stepping down from leading the organisation of the event, so there is an opportunity for another person or persons to step up to the challenge. Moira says: *"I can recommend it as being the most*

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*satisfying way to deliver Christ's message of love and kindness by creating our own version of Bethlehem in Surbiton."*

### Fellowship in Faith

#### Parish Breakfasts

The last Parish Breakfast was in February 2020. Thereafter, they have had to cease due to COVID, but the team is looking forward to starting up again as soon as this is possible. In the meantime, they would like to thank two of the team who have both moved on to pastures new, but whose hard work, commitment, humour and grace in creating a valuable social event after church on the first Sunday of the month have been deeply appreciated and will be much missed.

#### Mothers' Union (MU)

The branch currently has 29 members. We managed four meetings in St Mark's Church and transitioned to Zoom for the remaining meetings in 2020. Michael Johns-Perring has proved to be a wonderful addition to the parish and also to our MU branch. We heard from Michael on his Christian journey, and in July he also hosted an MU prayer meeting, with a focus on lockdown.

We all know how linen features in the bible, and we had a wonderful Zoom presentation from a parishioner who is an expert on this wonderful fabric. She delivered a very interesting session on how it is produced, alongside a highly relevant update on the sustainability of the material and its importance to the modern fashion industry.

We were unable to have our usual mince pies and coffee after the Christmas Eucharist, but our branch secretary came up with a great idea of delivering a special Christmas tea bag and biscuit to our members instead.

As usual our meetings are open to any member of our congregation. It has been wonderful to welcome so many who have been interested in our talks and who have learned more about the work of the MU.

The branch collects 5p coins to enable families in Southwark Diocese, who have not been able to go on a holiday, to take advantage of a scheme called 'Away From It All' (AFIA). In 2020 we also began to collect 20p coins in Smartie tubes as a fundraiser for Kingston's Hestia Refuge. If you have 5p or 20p coins to spare, we would be happy to add them to our collections. Thank you to members of the parish who already do this.

#### Flying Circus

In the past, the Flying Circus social group has arranged monthly visits to places of interest in and around the London area including gardens, museums and galleries. It has not of course been possible to continue with these during 2020, but the Flying

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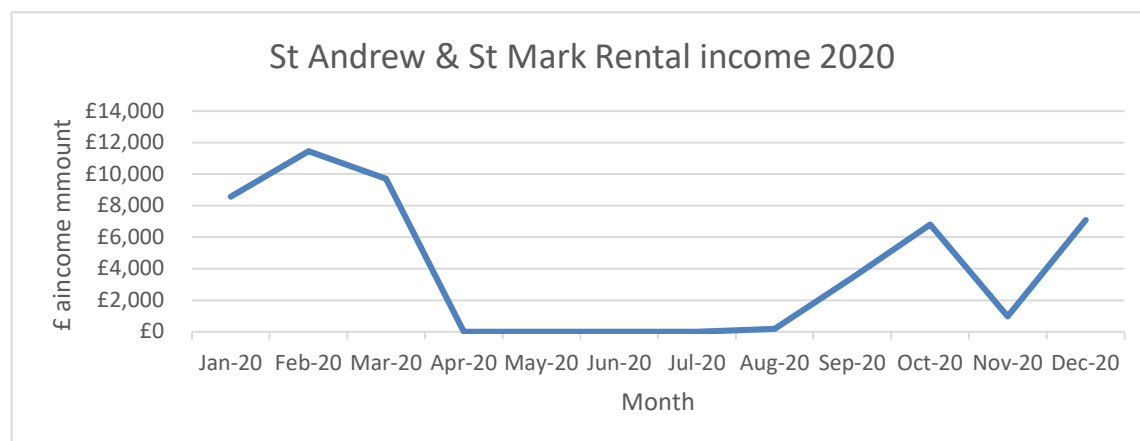
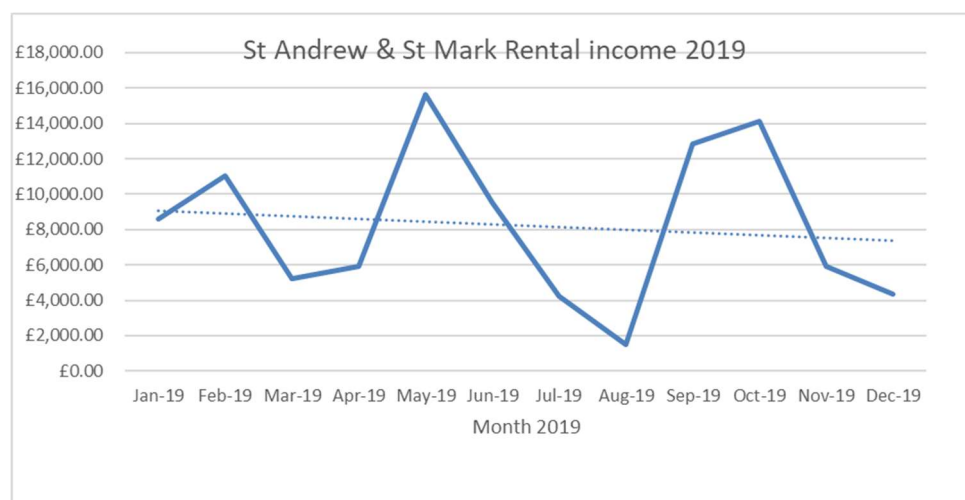
Circus has gone online and enjoyed some excellent virtual visits, including one to the moon!

### Property

#### Lettings

Overall, income from lettings fell by over half (see above). However, the year ended on a slightly positive and hopeful note, with a good core of hires, including Dicky Birds After School Club and various children's groups returning to the hall and rooms by the end of October. A lot of work was put into returning these hires safely to our church buildings with COVID-19 risk assessments, guidelines and new hire agreements being signed. Feedback from hires was that with good communication and structure of COVID-19 rules and assessments from the church, the hirers felt more confident in returning safely. We were also able to respond quickly to enquiries for the use of St Mark's and St Andrew's churches as exam centres in the autumn term 2020. We secured a 6-week schedule of hires at St Mark's Church by Surbiton High School as a public exam centre and a 6-week schedule at St Andrew's Church as an ABRSM exam centre. Income (£8,000) from these two hires helped towards the loss of income from the regular hires who had not returned in the autumn term.

#### **Charts 2 and 3: Rental Income 2019 and 2020**



## 1, The Mall

It is still the intention of the Diocese to buy out the loan made to the parish to enable the purchase of 1, The Mall. The process, which has already experienced delay, has been further delayed due to the economic impact of the pandemic. The way the property is used has not changed. 1, the Mall continues to be the residence of the Curate. In autumn 2020, the Diocese paid to replace all external doors and windows with double glazing.

## Property Management Committee

The current informal arrangement whereby individuals have taken on responsibility for simple maintenance jobs continued in 2020. COVID restrictions precluded many practical activities, but a number of essential projects were identified and these will be actioned as soon as lockdown is lifted. It is intended that the Property Management Group will also be re-formed with a dedicated Chairperson.

## The Gardens

### St Mark's Church

Following instances of anti-social behaviour in the secluded yew path leading to Church Hill Road, the police have been advised and will continue to monitor the situation. The trees have been pruned and excess vegetation has been cleared, making the area very much more open. The approach to the rear of the church hall was also extensively pruned to improve security.

A wildlife friendly border is being created along the front of the church next to the pavement; this will be completed in 2021. The church gardens continue to evolve and various eco-friendly projects are planned for 2021. COVID restrictions prevented us from inviting Surbiton High students back to the garden to help, but it is hoped that this regular event will resume soon.

### St Andrew's Church

Following completion of the repairs to the wall and railings on the Maple Road boundary in 2019 as a result of a road traffic collision, the only remaining outstanding work is for replanting of the shrubs and replacement or improvement of the grass.

## Eco Committee



*Picture 4: Bug Hotel*

The Eco Committee met for the first time in December, under the chairship of the Curate. According to its Terms of Reference, the Committee exists to "To proclaim and protect the gift of God's creation, in the light of the climate emergency". To achieve this, it

leads “on work to reduce the environmental impact of the work and worship of both our churches”. The Eco Committee builds on the work carried out in completing the A Rocha Eco Church Questionnaire. The results of this survey are being fed into a parish Eco Action Plan, which the Eco Committee is putting together.

## Communication and Publicity

### Online church

As referenced in the Vicar’s Report, the ministry team achieved, in a few weeks, a move to online church which in normal times would have taken months. Developments to parish administration systems were also compressed into days and weeks rather than months. At the end of the first lockdown at the beginning of July, services were “hybrid” (both online and in-person). In-person attendance, with limited seats, had to be pre-booked. The need to pre-book seats for the church services and for Track and Trace registers became part of the weekly parish admin, as well as weekly digital communications. At the beginning of the first lockdown in March 2020, the parish office had a database of contacts who received the weekly email from the Vicar. This was not a comprehensive list, and the subsequent development of a Mail Chimp account has produced a database of 405 subscribed individuals of whom 313 receive the Vicar’s weekly email. The “open” rate for this weekly email is high, averaging 72% who regularly open the email with an extra 7% who are moderately engaged, that is sometimes will open the email. This 80% engagement figure means 240 individuals are highly or moderately engaged with the church. This has been an important tool in maintaining and strengthening existing connections, especially with those on the fringes of church, and developing new ones.

The posting of a ‘Lockdown Letter’ written by the Vicar about every three months has necessitated the tightening up of the postal address database. 212 individuals receive this regular letter, and feedback has indicated that a physical letter has been a personal encouragement and a good way of maintaining connection.

### The Welcome Committee

At the beginning of 2020, the Welcome Committee was nearing completion of a project to launch a suite of publicity materials, including banners and leaflets, but this was put on hold in light of the pandemic.

### Communications

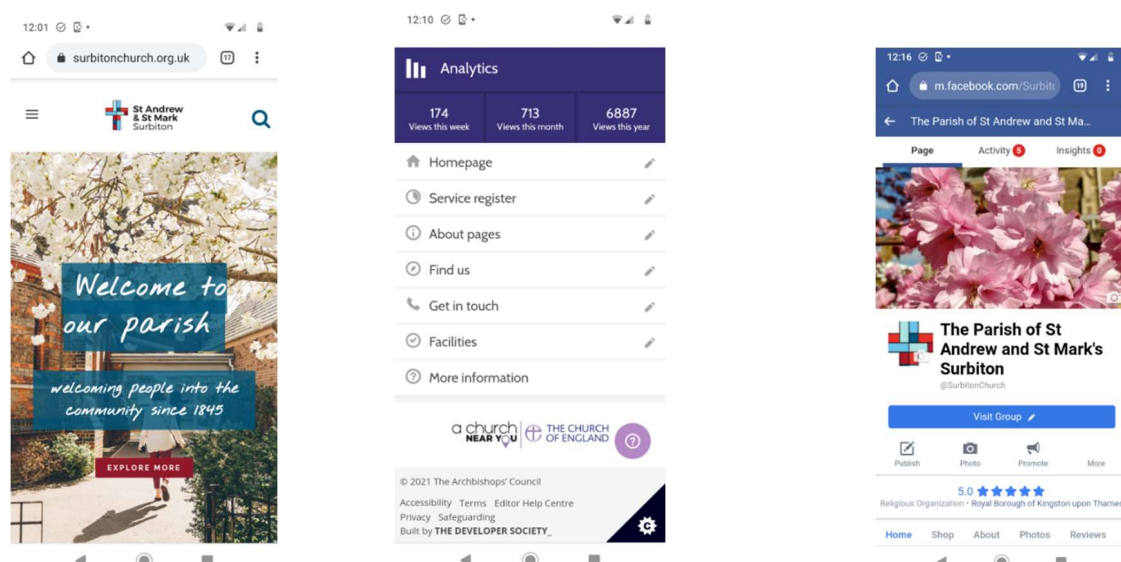
The parish website (<https://surbitonchurch.org.uk/>), A Church Near You (<https://www.achurchnearyou.com/>) and the social media platforms (<https://www.facebook.com/SurbitonChurch/>; @Surbiton\_Church) are increasingly important in effectively communicating fast-moving changes to how we worship and what is offered. At the start of the pandemic, the parish had the beginnings of a good website and social media platforms (Facebook, Instagram and Twitter).

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Maintaining the Facebook page has been an important communication tool, and a high level of engagement is seen, with people liking, commenting, and sharing the posts. Facebook Live has also been used for Morning Prayer and BCP Eucharist services, as well as supplementing the live streaming of the 11 am Parish Eucharist on Zoom.

Parish website analytics confirm that people visiting the parish website are now not searching how to hire the hall for a children's birthday party or how to get in contact about booking a wedding, but for service times, and to find out who we are and how to give to us. Regular updating of the website is crucial in order to provide correct and up-to-date information about services, church opening and other events. The Giving page on the website, with the online donate button, was fully up and running as the first lockdown began in March 2020. With the loss of physical services, there has been an increased number of people giving to the church via this platform.

**Picture 5: Website, analytics and social media**



## The Parish Magazine

Mike Smith stood down as editor of Spire and Tower, the parish magazine, in 2020, after a number of years. The last edition under Mike's editorship was March/April. We are all very grateful for the work and effort that Mike has put into the magazine, which he made an award winning one! We are grateful, as well, to Katie Smith for all she has contributed to the magazine as Creative Layout Editor. Because of the pandemic and the initial closure of our churches, no magazine was published between May and October. The Curate took over as guest editor and produced a November/December edition of the magazine. He is hoping that a willing volunteer might take over the editorship of the magazine in future. The magazine committee has not re-formed since the March/April edition.



## **Audio Visual (AV) Committee**

The newly formed AV Committee met for the first time in December, under the chairship of the Curate. By this point, as detailed in the Vicar's report, both churches had already made great strides in terms of enabling the broadcast of services online, from a standing start in March. At the start of the first lockdown, services went wholly online, with clergy leading from home. Later, services could be broadcast from church. Intermittently, parishioners were able to attend services in person, restrictions depending. By the summer, "hybrid services", via Zoom, could take place at St Andrew's and "paper free" services could take place at St Mark's. According to the Committee's terms of reference, the Committee exists to "lead on work to improve and maintain audio-visual capacity at both church buildings, on behalf of the PCC" and "to recruit to and maintain a body of persons able to operate the AV system during services, each Sunday, and at occasional offices". The AV Committee helps to take forward the missional work of our parish, by increasing the accessibility of our worship.

## **Churchwardens' Report on the Fabric, Goods and Ornaments of the Churches**

This report was made to the Parochial Church Council (PCC) under section 5 of the Care of Churches and Ecclesiastical Jurisdiction Measure 1991 by Diana Lewis, Michael Smith and Rod Pearson as Churchwardens in April 2021; and is also made by them to the annual parochial church meeting on behalf of the PCC.

### **General**

Following major roof repairs at St Andrew's and repairs to the wall and railings on the boundary with Maple Road which were completed in 2019, no new works or even routine maintenance have been carried out during 2020 because of the COVID lockdowns. All that has been possible has been to monitor existing issues with a view to taking action as soon as the lifting of restrictions will allow. It is fortunate that, these apart, both churches are in generally good condition.

The impact of the pandemic is very evident, however; the arrangement of the pews in St Andrew's and the chairs in St Mark's reflect the requirement to arrange seating so that social distancing can be maintained such that separate individuals or households remain two metres apart. It is envisaged that, once the Covid restrictions are lifted, we will be able to restore the seating to its original positions.

Extensive audio-visual equipment has been temporarily installed so that congregants can attend services remotely via Zoom and Facebook. Whilst the AV equipment is not yet a fixture, it is anticipated that the need for hybrid services will continue after restrictions are lifted. The question of a permanent placement for the AV facility will need to be addressed when the time comes.

### St Mark's Church

Although it had been recognised in 2019 that the boilers in St Mark's were in need of either major repair or replacement, it has not been feasible to put the work in hand during 2020 because of the pandemic, and this is something that will need to be addressed urgently in 2021 as soon as circumstances allow.

Likewise, contractors must be instructed, at the earliest opportunity in 2021, to repair the leaking/overflowing junction between the gutter and the rainwater downpipe which is causing the damp on the internal walls in the north aisle. It is suspected that the green roof over the aisle may be contributing to the leak and a regular maintenance regime will be introduced.

During 2020 evidence of rising damp has appeared in some of the columns between the nave and the north aisle. It is particularly marked in the one at the western end. It is not apparent what might be causing it, or indeed whether it is a continuing or has been a one-off occurrence. The extent of the damp has been marked with a pencil, and will be observed over the coming months.

### St Andrew's Church

As with St Mark's, it is the identification of work needing to be done which has been the focus of attention during 2020, and there are two significant items.

It is clear, particularly from the outside, that some of the stained glass panels have become misshapen, and initial investigations have been made to clarify the cause, the scope of any necessary remedial work, and any potential sources of funding for the restoration of the east and west windows.

During the course of the year, the organ blower blew a fuse and the organ was out of service for a number of weeks. Specialist engineers were contacted and extensive investigations were carried out, and a temporary repair was effected such that the organ was restored. Two quotations have been received for the permanent repair and overhaul of the blower, and these were submitted to the PCC for consideration, before COVID restrictions halted progress.

Both these projects will be continued in 2021.

## Finance

### Parish Accounts 2020

#### Income

The PCC budgeted for unrestricted income of just under £250k in line with 2019 before the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic was known. In the event, the recorded unrestricted income fell to £233k (against a comparable figure in 2019 of £239k). This was much less of a fall than might have been expected, with hygiene restrictions



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causing the closing of the church for many months and the cancellation of many rental bookings and normal fund-raising events. Overall:

- Income from lettings fell, with church and hall lettings down by over half (-£60k),
- Sundry collections at services in church were also down by around -£8k, and
- Church activities were fewer (e.g. occasional offices, Christmas Fair etc) contributing a further decline of -£8k.
- This was offset by a significant rise in online donations from parishioners and those further afield, being £14k, and two specific non-repeating incomes arising from:
  - Significant legacies contributing a further £23k, and
  - A grant of £33k in respect of VAT paid on repairs to the tower in 2019.

Collecting for other charities also held up well during the year, remaining at around £10k.

### Expenditure

The PCC budgeted for unrestricted expenditure of £249k. The actual unrestricted expenditure of £215k was down -£16k vs 2019 (against a comparable figure in 2019 of £231k). The PCC's contribution to the diocesan Parish Support Fund was increased by £2k (as pledged in 2019) with insurance and clergy costs remaining broadly unchanged. The decreased activity at the church saw reductions in utilities (-£4k) and church activities (-£14k) including lower expenditure on cleaning, maintenance and musical activities.

### Income against Expenditure

Although somewhat unexpectedly in a pandemic year, a surplus of £19k of income over expenditure was achieved. This would have been a deficit of -£14k without the grant relating to previous years activities, and a deficit of -£37k without the one-off effect of legacies.

### Assets

The PCC continues to hold investments in CCLA which rose in value to just over £550k. during the year.

Around £8k was invested in audio-visual assets to facilitate the delivery of "online church" during lockdown periods.

The PCC continues to hold the value of the halls at St Andrew's and St Mark's on its balance sheet (see note 4 in the accounts in relation to St Andrew's Parish Rooms).

### Big Picture Committee

The Big Picture Committee continued in 2020 to consider strategic priorities for the parish. (Note: in early 2021 it was reconstituted as the Finance and Income committee.)

## Reserves Policy

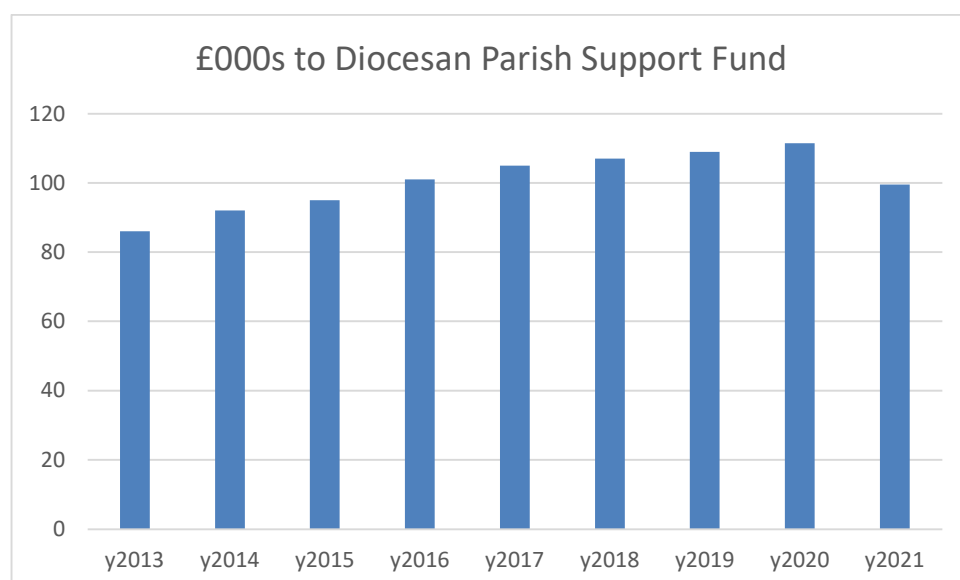
The Big Picture Committee continued to work to determine an appropriate strategy for the management of financial reserves; however, the financial impact of COVID-19 has necessitated fresh consideration of the issues.

## Parish Support Fund for the Diocese

For the first time in many years, the PCC voted in 2020 to decrease the parish's pledged contribution to the Diocesan Parish Support Fund in 2021. While we continue to support parishes elsewhere, we felt that our overall income would not support a contribution at previous levels in light of the significant reduction in our lettings income, which is not expected to pick up until well into 2021.

A stewardship campaign is planned now for the summer of 2021.

**Chart 4: giving to Southwark diocese by the parish**



# The Parish of St Andrew and St Mark, Surbiton

## Financial Statements

Parish of Saint Andrew and Saint Mark Surbiton

Accounts for the year ended 31 December 2020

### Independent Examiner's Report to the P.C.C. of St Andrew's and St Mark's, Surbiton

This report on the accounts of the P.C.C. for the year ended 31 December 2020 which are set out on the following eight pages, is in respect of an examination carried out in accordance with the Church Accounting Regulations 2006 ('the Regulations') and section 145 of the Charities Act 2011 ('the Act').

#### Respective Responsibilities of the Trustees and Independent Examiner

As the members of the P.C.C. you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts and you consider that the audit requirement of section 144 of the Act does not apply and that an independent examination is needed. The PCC's gross income exceeded £250,000 in the prior year and I confirm that I am qualified to undertake the examination by being a qualified member of the ICAEW.

It is my responsibility to:

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

#### Basis of Independent Examiner's Report

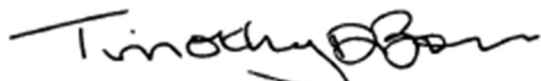
My examination was carried out in accordance with the General Directions given by the Charity Commission and to be found in the Church Guidance, 2006 edition. That examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the P.C.C. and a comparison of the accounts with those records. It also includes considering any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts and seeking explanations from you as trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently I do not express an audit opinion on the view given by the accounts.

#### Independent Examiner's Statement

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention which gives me cause to believe that, in any material respect:

- the accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the 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, except that I draw attention to the disclosure in note 4 to the accounts in connection with the accounting treatment of St Andrew's Parish Rooms with which I concur.



Mr. Timothy Brown, A.C.A. - Independent Examiner  
50 The Ridings  
Surbiton, Surrey, KT5 8HQ

Dated: 14th April 2021

# The Parish of St Andrew and St Mark, Surbiton

## ST. ANDREW'S & ST. MARK'S PCC SURBITON STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020

		Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	TOTAL 2020	TOTAL 2019	Budget 2021
Note		£	£	£	£	£	£
<b>INCOMING RESOURCES</b>							
Voluntary income	2(a)	130,621	10,797	-	141,418	111,827	125,000
Activities for generating funds	2(b)	50,518	-	-	50,518	115,164	73,040
Income from investments	2(c)	15,748	-	-	15,748	15,919	10,000
Church activities	2(d)	1,946	-	-	1,946	5,071	4,650
Other incoming resources	2(e)	34,466	-	-	34,466	24,991	-
<b>TOTAL INCOMING RESOURCES</b>		<b>233,300</b>	<b>10,797</b>		<b>244,097</b>	<b>272,972</b>	<b>212,690</b>
<b>RESOURCES EXPENDED</b>							
Cost of generating voluntary income	3(a)	3,341	-	-	3,341	5,737	250
Shared utilities	3(b)	17,487	-	-	17,487	21,058	21,500
Cost of generating funds	3(c)	572	-	-	572	636	5,000
Church activities	3(d)	167,195	-	-	167,195	177,704	173,250
Governance costs	3(e)	465	-	-	465	576	400
Support costs	3(f)	25,391	-	-	25,391	26,062	28,000
Mission donations	3(g)	-	11,110	-	11,110	8,628	-
Major Works - St. Mark's Church	3(h)	-	-	-	-	-	26,500
Major Works - St. Andrew's	3(h)	-	-	-	-	231,660	
Other resources used	3(h)	-	-	-	-	-	
<b>TOTAL RESOURCES EXPENDED</b>		<b>214,451</b>	<b>11,110</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>225,561</b>	<b>472,060</b>	<b>254,900</b>
Net incoming/(outgoing) resources		18,849	(313)	-	18,536	(199,088)	(42,210)
<b>RECOGNISED GAINS AND LOSSES</b>							
Unrealised gains on investments		55,314	-	-	55,314	85,645	-
<b>NET MOVEMENT IN FUNDS</b>		<b>74,163</b>	<b>(313)</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>73,851</b>	<b>(113,444)</b>	<b>(42,210)</b>
Balance brought forward		2,135,401	6,180	-	2,141,581	2,255,025	2,215,432
<b>Balance carried forward</b>		<b>2,209,564</b>	<b>5,867</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>2,215,432</b>	<b>2,141,581</b>	<b>2,173,222</b>

# The Parish of St Andrew and St Mark, Surbiton

## ST. ANDREW'S & ST. MARK'S PCC SURBITON BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2020

	Note	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Endowment Funds £	TOTAL 2020 £	TOTAL 2019 £
<b>FIXED ASSETS</b>						
Land & buildings	4	1,549,410	-	-	1,549,410	1,549,410
Tangible assets	5	18,722	-	-	18,722	14,720
Long term investments	6(a)	565,858	-	-	565,858	510,543
		<u>2,133,990</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>2,133,990</u>	<u>2,074,673</u>
<b>CURRENT ASSETS</b>						
Short term investments	6(b)	358	864	-	1,222	27,667
Debtors & prepayments	7	16,719	-	-	16,719	22,321
Cash at bank & in hand	6(c)	63,319	5,769	-	69,088	27,112
		<u>80,396</u>	<u>6,633</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>87,029</u>	<u>77,100</u>
<b>LIABILITIES</b>						
Creditors	8	5,586	-	-	5,586	10,192
<b>NET CURRENT ASSETS</b>		74,810	6,633	-	81,443	66,908
<b>TOTAL ASSETS LESS LIABILITIES</b>		<u>2,208,799</u>	<u>6,633</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>2,215,432</u>	<u>2,141,581</u>
<b>THE FUNDS OF THE CHARITY</b>						
Unrestricted	10	2,208,799	-	-	2,208,799	2,134,948
Restricted		-	6,633	-	6,633	6,633
Endowment		-	-	-	-	-
<b>TOTAL</b>		<u>2,208,799</u>	<u>6,633</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>2,215,432</u>	<u>2,141,581</u>

The notes numbered 1 - 12 form a part of these accounts

Approved by the Parochial Church Council on the 14th of April 2021 and signed on its behalf by



Revd. Robert Stanier (Chairman)

# The Parish of St Andrew and St Mark, Surbiton

## ST. ANDREW'S & ST. MARK'S PCC SURBITON NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020

### 1 ACCOUNTING POLICIES

#### Basis of financial statements

The financial statements have been prepared under the Church Accounting Regulations 2006 in accordance with applicable accounting standards and the current Statement of Recommended Practice Accounting and Reporting by Charities (SORP 2005).

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention except for investment assets, which are shown at market value. 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 affiliation to another body, nor those that are informal gatherings of church members.

#### Fund accounting

*Endowment funds* were funds of which the capital had to be retained, allowing only the income to be spent. During the year the PCC took advantage of section 289 of the Charities Act 2011 to resolve that it should be free to spend the capital of its small endowment funds.

*Restricted funds* derive from donations or bequests for a specific purpose. They may only be expended on the purpose for which they were given.

The use of other funds is *unrestricted*, but some are designated by the PCC for particular purposes.

#### Incoming resources

Planned giving, collections and similar donations are recognised when received. Tax refunds are recognised when the incoming resource to which they relate is received. Grants and legacies are accounted for when the PCC is entitled to the use of the resources, their ultimate receipt is considered reasonably certain, and the amounts due are reliably quantifiable. Dividends and interest are accounted for when they fall due for payment. All items are accounted for gross. Rental income from the letting of Church premises is recognised when the rental is due.

#### Resources expended

Donations out of restricted funds intended to benefit other charities are accounted for when sums have been allocated to the charities in question.

The diocesan parish share is accounted for when due.

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

#### Fixed assets

Consecrated and benefice property is not included in the accounts in accordance with section 10(2)(a) and (c) of the Charities Act 2011 unless otherwise specified.

Other land and buildings are included in the accounts at cost and a policy of non-depreciation is currently adopted as they have a very long remaining useful life. An impairment review may be prudent, in the future.

Expenditure on tangible assets is written off as it is incurred where the cost of an asset is equal to or less than £1,000. Where the cost is greater the expenditure is capitalised and depreciated on a declining balance basis over the estimated useful life of the asset. Prior to 1 January 2013 all expenditure on movable church furnishings vested in the churchwardens was written off as it was incurred.

# The Parish of St Andrew and St Mark, Surbiton

## ST. ANDREW'S & ST. MARK'S PCC SURBITON

### NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020

#### 2. INCOMING RESOURCES

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	TOTAL 2020	TOTAL 2019
	£	£	£	£	£
<b>2(a) Voluntary income</b>					
Planned giving	67,096	-	-	67,096	64,837
Tax recoverable	18,087	76	-	18,164	19,931
Open collections	3,048	-	-	3,048	10,683
Sundry donations	19,127	710	-	19,837	5,969
Legacies (note 9)	23,262	-	-	23,262	-
Funds raised for other charities	-	10,010	-	10,010	10,407
Special trusts	-	-	-	-	-
	<u>130,621</u>	<u>10,797</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>141,418</u>	<u>111,827</u>
<b>2(b) Activities for generating funds</b>					
Christmas Fair Activities	6,554	-	-	6,554	10,847
Hall lettings	38,564	-	-	38,564	88,901
Church lettings	5,401	-	-	5,401	15,416
	<u>50,518</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>50,518</u>	<u>115,164</u>
<b>2(c) Income from investments</b>					
Dividends and interest	15,748	-	-	15,748	15,919
<b>2(d) Income from church activities</b>					
Fees for weddings, funerals & banns	1,182	-	-	1,182	2,951
Bible reading fellowship notes	269	-	-	269	253
Parish magazine	176	-	-	176	777
Coffee mornings	320	-	-	320	1,090
	<u>1,946</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>1,946</u>	<u>5,071</u>
<b>2(e) Other incoming resources</b>					
Insurance payment	1,000	-	-	1,000	24,236
LPOW DCMS Grant re 2019 St Andrews Tower work	33,157	-	-	33,157	-
Other	309	-	-	309	755
	<u>34,466</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>34,466</u>	<u>24,991</u>
<b>TOTAL INCOMING RESOURCES</b>	<u>233,300</u>	<u>10,797</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>244,097</u>	<u>272,972</u>

# The Parish of St Andrew and St Mark, Surbiton

## ST. ANDREW'S & ST. MARK'S PCC SURBITON NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020

3. RESOURCES EXPENDED	Unrestricted £	Restricted £	Endowment £	TOTAL 2020 £	TOTAL 2019 £
<b>3(a) Cost of generating voluntary income</b>					
Stewardship costs	-	-	-	-	491
Parish magazine costs	70	-	-	70	70
Christmas Fair costs	3,271	-	-	3,271	4,946
Fund-raising events - other charities	-	-	-	-	230
	<u>3,341</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>3,341</u>	<u>5,737</u>
<b>3(b) Shared utilities</b> - At both churches, utility supplies are shared between consecrated buildings and others. These costs cannot reliably be apportioned between the generation of funds and church activities.					
Gas	9,009	-	-	9,009	11,823
Electricity	7,504	-	-	7,504	7,326
Water	974	-	-	974	1,909
	<u>17,487</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>17,487</u>	<u>21,058</u>
<b>3(c) Cost of generating funds</b>					
Other hall running costs	572	-	-	572	636
<b>3(d) Costs associated with church activities</b>					
Diocesan quota	111,500	-	-	111,500	109,000
Clergy expenses	1,861	-	-	1,861	1,353
Clergy housing	5,284	-	-	5,284	5,715
Insurance	12,286	-	-	12,286	12,345
Church Cleaning	8,420	-	-	8,420	12,789
Church Maintenance	6,879	-	-	6,879	11,553
Other Church Running Costs	9,139	-	-	9,139	7,022
Church music	8,424	-	-	8,424	12,671
Children & Older people	3,400	-	-	3,400	5,255
	<u>167,195</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>167,195</u>	<u>177,704</u>
<b>3(e) Governance costs</b>					
Independent examiner's fee	465	-	-	465	340
Deanery synod	-	-	-	-	236
	<u>465</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>465</u>	<u>576</u>
<b>3(f) Support costs</b>					
Parish Administrator (see Note 12)	20,492	-	-	20,492	21,491
Running costs of office	4,899	-	-	4,899	4,571
	<u>25,391</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>25,391</u>	<u>26,062</u>
<b>3(g) Mission donations</b>					
Church Overseas	-	1,614	-	1,614	1,765
Relief & development agencies	-	2,758	-	2,758	2,077
Home missions	-	3,602	-	3,602	2,702
Secular charities	-	3,136	-	3,136	2,084
	<u>-</u>	<u>11,110</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>11,110</u>	<u>8,628</u>
<b>3(h) Major Repair Works</b>					
Work to St Andrew's Roof	-	-	-	-	231,660
<b>TOTAL RESOURCES USED</b>	<u>214,451</u>	<u>11,110</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>225,561</u>	<u>472,060</u>



# The Parish of St Andrew and St Mark, Surbiton

## ST. ANDREW'S & ST. MARK'S PCC SURBITON NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020

### 4 Land & buildings

The PCC is the beneficial owner of interests in the following:

	<u>Value at</u> <u>31.12.19</u>	<u>Expenditure</u>	<u>Value at</u> <u>31.12.20</u>
	£	£	£
St. Andrew's Parish Rooms	508,406	-	508,406
St. Mark's Hall	1,037,802	-	1,037,802
Car Park Lease - St. Mark's Court	2,702	-	2,702
Land at Electric Parade	500	-	500
	<u>1,549,410</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>1,549,410</u>

St Andrew's Parish rooms were originally constructed under diocesan ownership to clarify planning permissions and have been held in the accounts since their construction. This was originally on the basis that the rooms would be transferred to the parish under a partial redundancy scheme. To date, this has not happened and the PCC is now taking active measures to ascertain if the halls are on consecrated ground and if the diocese needs to grant a partial redundancy. It is recognised that there is a potential conflict of treatment between that specified in the Charities Act 2011 and Generally Accepted Account Principles in this circumstance. In order best to serve understanding of the accounts, the PCC has agreed to leave the cost of construction on the balance sheet to reflect the assets which are generating income for the parish and for equality of treatment with St Mark's Halls (where the uncertainty does not exist).

St. Mark's Hall is valued at the estimated final cost of its construction.

The 999 year lease of parking spaces was granted for a nominal consideration.

It is valued at a figure equal to the legal costs of its acquisition.

At Electric Parade the PCC owns the freehold interest in the land occupied by the Scouts Headquarters.

### 5 Tangible Assets

	<u>Brought forward</u>	<u>Cost in year</u>	<u>Depreciation</u>	<u>Value at</u> <u>31.12.20</u>
	£	£	£	£
<u>Fixtures, fittings and equipment</u>				
Parish rooms, St. Andrew's (Depreciated from 1.1.2013)	5,069	-	507	4,562
St. Mark's Hall	651	-	65	586
Church IT Equipment	9,000	7,574	3,000	13,574
	<u>14,720</u>	<u>7,574</u>	<u>3,572</u>	<u>18,722</u>

Computer Equipment is depreciated over 3 years. Other equipment is depreciated at 10% reducing balance

# The Parish of St Andrew and St Mark, Surbiton

## ST. ANDREW'S & ST. MARK'S PCC SURBITON

### NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020

	2020	2019
	£	£
<b>6 Investments</b>		
<b>6(a) <u>Fixed Assets: Long term investments</u></b>		
Funds managed by CCLA Investment Management Ltd.		
Church of England Investment Fund	368,790	344,969
Global Equity Income Fund	197,068	165,574
	<b>565,858</b>	<b>510,543</b>
<b>6(b) <u>Current assets: Short term investments</u></b>		
St. Mark's Altar Guild	415	413
St. Mark's Flower Fund	449	448
General Deposit a/c	358	26,806
	<b>1,222</b>	<b>27,667</b>
<b>6(c) <u>Current assets: Cash at Bank and in hand</u></b>		
Natwest Bank Account	6,973	2,459
CAF Bank Account	61,855	22,586
Cash	260	2,067
	<b>69,088</b>	<b>27,112</b>
<b>7 Debtors &amp; prepayments</b>		
Debtors for goods and services	1,194	2,405
Inland Revenue - tax recoverable	15,525	19,916
Prepayments	-	-
	<b>16,719</b>	<b>22,321</b>
<b>8 Creditors &amp; accruals</b>		
Creditors for goods and services	-	48
Church of England Bodies	-	3,300
Accrued Utilities	4,436	2,358
Owing to other charities	-	3,337
Refundable key deposits	1,150	1,150
Income in advance	-	-
	<b>5,586</b>	<b>10,193</b>

Creditors are payable within one year, except for deposits refundable at the end of a long-term hire.

#### **9 2020 Legacies**

The estate of Kathleen Henshall paid a total of £17,695 and the estate of Joann Healey paid a total of £1,000 to the parish. The estate of Thelma Richardson made a final payment of £4,467 to the parish from a legacy in 2017. A further £100 was given at a cremation taken in Golder's Green

# The Parish of St Andrew and St Mark, Surbiton

## ST. ANDREW'S & ST. MARK'S PCC SURBITON NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020

### 10 Fund details as at 31st December 2020

	<u>Unrestricted</u>	<u>Restricted</u>	<u>Endowment</u>	<u>Total</u>
	£	£	£	£
General fund	2,208,799	-	-	2,208,799
Vicar's fund	-	455	-	455
Christmas Day Party	-	5,175	-	5,175
Other restricted funds	-	1,003	-	1,003
	<u>2,208,799</u>	<u>6,633</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>2,215,433</u>

Other restricted funds comprise the parish Fellowship, St. Mark's Altar Guild and Flower Funds.  
The Christmas Day Party fund is used to provide lunch at Christmas for those otherwise on their own.

### 11 Staff Costs

The PCC had two employees during the year (the parish administrator and a cleaner); who were paid total salaries of £18,856. Pension contributions were £1,017. Employer's National Insurance cost was £3,108

No other members of the PCC received any material payment as remuneration, or expenses.

### 12 Notes on 2021 Budget

*The 2021 budget was prepared before the effects of the coronavirus pandemic were clear for 2021*

Income and expenditure in 2021 were expected to be broadly in line with 2020 with the following exceptions:

- Overall costs are rising in line with inflation
- We expect to see an increase of 25% in cleaning costs in 2021 over those in prior years
- We have reduced our parish fund contribution to the Diocese by 15% from 2021
- We expect to see rental income increase from under half normal levels to normal by the end of the year, showing a 36% decline overall from prior years
- We have assumed an increase in planned giving of £10k over the prior year arising from a giving campaign in 2021

## APPENDIX 1

### Contributors to the Report

Report collated and edited by Mary Elliott on behalf of the PCC.

Structure, Governance and Management	The Rev'd Robert Stanier, Katherine Reed, Mary Elliott
Vicar's Review of 2020	The Rev'd Robert Stanier
Adult Christian Study	Clare Mannall, Jackie Robbs
Music	Simon Harvey
St Andrew's and St Mark's Junior School	The Rev'd Robert Stanier
Children's Activities	Celia O'Neill, Sarah Stokes
Pastoral Care	The Rev'd Michael Johns-Perring
Outreach and Service to the Community	The Rev'd Carole Bourne, Moira Greenfield
Fellowship in Faith	Clare Mannall, Moira Greenfield
Finance	Andrew Miskin, The Rev'd Robert Stanier
Property	Clare Chesterman, The Rev'd Robert Stanier, Mike Smith
The Gardens	Mike Smith
Communication and Publicity	The Rev'd Robert Stanier, The Rev'd Michael Johns-Perring, Clare Chesterman
Churchwardens' Reports	Rod Pearson, Diana Lewis, Mike Smith
Kingston Deanery Synod	Ian Wilson

## Kingston Deanery Synod 2020

*‘Rooted in my Parish, connected by my Deanery, supported by my Diocese.’*

Kingston Deanery Synod comprises seventeen parishes, all of which are situated within the boundaries of the Royal Borough. The purpose of the Synod is to bring together the representatives of these parishes in order to promote the work of the Church of God in the Kingston area. The Synod provides an opportunity for the representatives to meet three times each year to share experience of the life and work of their churches, to discuss topics of mutual interest and to work together throughout the year on Synod’s agreed priorities for action, as set out in the Deanery Mission Action Plan.

Clergy are members of the Synod and each church elects lay representatives every three years. The Area Dean is appointed by the Bishop of Kingston with clergy having an opportunity to express their preference: Synod members elect the lay chairman. This parish has four members on Synod: Anne Barker, Valerie Baxter, Helen Goepel and Ian Wilson. Principal matters which came to the fore during the year were:

- Church schools: Plans for a C of E secondary school at the Kingsmeadow site have been released. The school could be open in September 2024.
- Homelessness and Poverty: the Joel Community night shelter at St Peter’s, Norbiton, will be operated by Kingston Churches Action on Homelessness in future. A Christians Against Poverty group has been formed and is based at St John’s, New Malden.
- The formation of a Deanery Leadership Team to coordinate the work of the synod and parishes.

## Southwark Diocesan Synod

For information, Ian Wilson is a representative of Kingston Deanery on the above. An informative report of the proceedings can be found in *The Bridge* newspaper.