

THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF ST. MILDRED'S, ADDISCOMBE

England & Wales · Charity number 1133737

Details

Other names ST MILDRED'S PCC, ADDISCOMBE

Status Registered

Legal form Previously excepted

Registered 2010-01-25

Register [View on the Charity Commission register](#)

Contact

Address St. Mildreds C Of E Church
Bingham Road
Croydon
CR0 7EB

Phone 02086551434

Email parishoffice@stmildredschurch.org.uk

Website <http://www.stmildredschurch.org.uk>

Activities

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

Activities: Regular public worship open to all. Pastoral work, including visiting the sick and the bereaved. Teaching of Christianity through sermons, courses and small groups. Promoting the whole mission of the Church through provision of activities for senior citizens, parents and toddlers and other special need groups. Supporting other charities in the UK and overseas.

Classification

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

Geography

- **Area of benefit:** UNDEFINED. IN PRACTICE, LOCAL
- Croydon

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2024-12-31	£330,933	£302,979	-	-
2023-12-31	£321,698	£260,371	-	-
2022-12-31	£262,871	£279,757	-	-
2021-12-31	£231,037	£194,373	-	-
2020-12-31	£184,794	£272,285	-	-

Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
Chris Hatton		2018-05-21
Colin SIMONDS		2018-12-31
Griselda Wireko-Brobby		2018-04-29
Janet Palmer		2017-04-30
Judith Angela Bennett		2018-04-29
Linda Monk		2017-04-30
Richard John Morrall		2017-04-30
Richard Mander		2017-04-30
Steven Chapman		2017-04-30
WARREN HALL		

Accounts

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF ST. MILDRED'S, ADDISCOMBE

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of St Mildred's Parish Church for the year ended 31 December 2023.

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 2011 Act').

I report in respect of my examination of your Charity's accounts as carried out under section 145 of the Charities Act 2011 ('the 2011 Act') and in carrying out my examination I have followed the Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5) (b) of the 2011 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 giving me cause to believe that in any material respect:

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of the Trust as required by section 130 of the Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records; or
3. the accounts do 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.



Signed:	
Name:	Osbert Klass
Relevant professional body:	Association of Chartered Certified Accountants
Address:	18 Mounthurst Road, Hayes, Bromley, Kent BR2 7QN
Date:	17 April 2024

Accounts



ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING
SUNDAY 30th April 2023 10 AM AT ST. MILDRED'S CHURCH

**INCLUDING ANNUAL REPORT
AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
OF THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL**

For the year ended 31st December 2022

'We seek to be an open and loving church, growing in faith and confidence and joyfully sharing God's love with all'

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AGENDA

1. Apologies
2. Election of Churchwardens
3. Election of representatives to Deanery Synod – 4 members
4. Election of the Parochial Church Council (PCC): 12 members
5. Election of Sidespersons and Deputy Churchwardens
6. Minutes of the Easter Vestry Meeting and Annual Parochial Church Meeting of 1st May 2022
7. Matters Arising from the Minutes
8. Presentation of the Electoral Roll
9. Achievements and performance including report on fabric, goods and ornaments of the church, working group reports and Deanery Synod report
10. Finance Report and Presentation of Accounts
11. Appointment of Independent Examiner
12. Church Wardens Remarks
13. Any Other Business – **this must be notified in writing to the PPC Secretary at least 24 hours before the meeting**
14. Vicar's Report

**St Mildred's Parish Church
Minutes of the Annual Vestry Meeting and
Annual Parochial Church Meeting**

Held on Sunday 1 May 2022 in Church

1. Welcome and Introduction

Roger Hagon welcomed everyone to the Easter Vestry meeting for 2022.

2. Apologies

Apologies for absence were received from Jackie Bartley, Keith Bartley, Maxine James, Ray Locke and Geoff Nicholls.

3. Election of Churchwardens

Roger reported that nominations had been received from Janet Palmer and Steve Chapman. Roger asked if there were any further nominations. As there were none, Roger said that it gave him great pleasure in declaring Janet Palmer and Steve Chapman duly elected.

Patricia Howard proposed a vote of thanks to the Churchwardens for their hard work during the past two years. Roger thanked the Churchwardens for their skills and spiritual gifts.

Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM)

4. Election of Representatives to Deanery Synod

Nominations were received from Richard Morrall, Patricia Howard and Rona Macdonald.

Roger said that St Mildred's allocation is four members and asked if there were any nominations from the floor. There being no further nominations, Roger thanked Richard, Patricia and Rona and congratulated them on their election.

5. Election of the Parochial Church Council (PCC)

Judy Bennett reported that nominations had been received from Elizabeth Fleischer, Alan Griffiths, Alice Kawoya, Richard Mander, Rebecca Sangeetha, Stephen Philcox and Judy Bennett. Roger reported that St Mildred's allocation is twelve members of PCC and asked if there were any further nominations from the floor.

There being none, Roger declared that Elizabeth, Alan, Alice, Richard, Rebecca and Stephen and Judy were duly elected to be on PCC for 2022-23 and thanked them for agreeing to serve.

6. Election of Sidespersons and Deputy Churchwardens

The following were elected as Sidespersons for the year 2022-23:

Claudia Almeida, Sophie Blankson, Elizabeth Fleischer, Jeff Fleischer, Matthew Hagon, Brenda Hardstaff, Kath Hemsley, Alice Kawoya, Rona Macdonald, Audrey Marshall, Lloyd Mason, Pam Medland, James Mobbs, Joy Morrall, Richard Morrall, Sheetal Mukkamala,

Sunil Makkamala, Pat Nicholls, Marion O'Connor, Stephen Philcox, Ricardo Resende, Kathy Rooke-Richards, Janice Rutter and Griselda Wireko-Brobby

Proposed by Margaret Simmons, seconded by Pat Howard.

The following were elected as Deputy Churchwardens for the year 2022-23:
Barbara Broughton, Eileen Chapman, Lucy Cogle, Graeme Monk and Linda Monk.

Proposed by Charlotte Hatton, seconded by Pat Nicholls.

7. Minutes of the Easter Vestry Meeting and Annual Parochial Church Meeting of 25 April 2021 (for the Years 2020 and 2021)

The minutes of the Easter Vestry meeting and APCM for 2020 were agreed and signed as a true record.

Judy Bennett reported that there were some amendments to the minutes of the APCM for 2021. Audrey Marshall and Georgina De-Mendoza should be added to the list of sidespeople, and the organisation referred to in the presentation of the accounts is Lives not Knives.

The minutes will be amended accordingly.

8. Matters Arising from the Minutes

Roger Hagon looked back at the report he gave at the 2021 APCM (page 9 in the pack). Whereas last year there was a steady 'coming back to life', 2022 has seen a turnaround at St Mildred's. The real crown was the Easter Sunday service when the church was full and the music led by the choir. We have welcomed our new Deacon Evie, and a number of new parishioners have joined. The Drop In and Toddlers are back, and new teams have been established for pastoral support, mission outreach and the Sunday school. Roger thanked the congregation for their determination to return and for playing their part in this transformation.

9. Presentation of the Electoral Roll

Rona Macdonald reported that the number on the Electoral Roll is 147. This is a decrease of 6 on 2021. Sadly, a number of members have died, and others have moved away. Rona reported that the electoral roll form has been updated and now includes members' email addresses and telephone numbers.

Members of the congregation may add their names to the Electoral Roll at any time by filling in an electoral roll form.

10. Achievement and performance including report on the fabric, goods and ornaments of the church, working group reports and Deanery Synod report

Steve Chapman said that it was a delight to be able to return to church after lockdown and restricted opening, coming together to enjoy the benefits of the Big Our Church Project in full. The installation of the choir stalls marked the end of the project. Plans for the renovation of the West End organ are well advanced with the works scheduled to be commenced in 2024. Steve thanked Matt and the on-line team for their work in streaming services, helping the St Mildred's community to stay in touch.

The last quinquennial inspection took place in October 2020. No works requiring immediate attention were identified. Our inspecting architect Daniel Golberg retired last year. Mandy Lorenz was appointed as inspecting architect in January 2022. Steve thanked Alan Griffiths for completing the audit of the fabric, goods and ornaments of the church in March 2022. Due to the coronavirus pandemic there was no Archdeacon's inspection in 2021. The next one is scheduled to take place in May.

Roger commended the reports from the various teams and organisations associated with St Mildred's. There are more than for many years and they make good reading. The reports provide testimony to the Christian work taking place.

11. Finance Report and Presentation of the Accounts

Richard Morrall and Colin Simonds presented the accounts for 2021. Richard Morrall highlighted the Autumn stewardship campaign. He thanked those who had reviewed their giving, and those who took on a new financial commitment to St Mildred's. This enabled the Finance Team to prepare a cautious way forward. Unfortunately, it was still necessary to control day to day costs, so staff hours had to be reduced once the government Job Retention scheme came to an end in September. It has been a balancing act between income and day to day costs. For instance, the overall surplus for the church and Centre was £342 on an income of over £163,000. At the request of the Independent Examiner, the final accounts for 2021 have been amended to reflect a change to Charity Commission regulations. Originally, staff costs were presented net of income received from the government's furlough scheme but now this income (£26,150) is listed separately. This does not affect the accounts overall.

The biggest item of expenditure is the Parish Support Fund (PSF) pledge to the Diocese of Southwark. PSF pledges are required to be submitted six months before the start of the year. A realistic pledge of £30,000 was made for 2021. In the event, the easing of restrictions and income from the National Challenge courses for young people held during the Summer resulted in the PSF being boosted by a further £25,000. A pledge of £60,000 has been submitted for 2022. Further payments will be made if at all possible. This is still far short of the PSF pledge of £81,900 for a self-financing parish. Our aim is to get back to being a self-financing parish as soon as possible. This was achieved in 2017, 2018 and 2019. Richard concluded by saying that despite the continued financial challenges it was pleasing to note that £1,200 had already been received for the Bishop's Lent Call. Other beneficiaries of our charitable giving include Nightwatch, the Children's Society and Croydon Refugee Day Centre.

Colin Simonds said that we have to remember where we came from. The Lockdown began in March 2020 but it is only now that we are beginning to get over its effects. St Mildred's current financial difficulties must be put into the context of this history. As a charity St Mildred's must comply with the Charity Commission's protocols. Have we survived? Yes, and better than we thought. The total funds for the end of the year were approximately £555k in 2021 compared to £484k for 2020. The value of the Charifund investments increased. St Mildred's has income from unrestricted funds (which can be used for anything) as well as from restricted funds (which must be used for a specific purpose). Income on restricted plus unrestricted funds amounted to around £231k in 2021 compared to £185k in 2020. It should be noted that information about church and Centre activities does not have to be reported to the Charity Commission and is for information only. In an abnormal year, church income held up well, mainly due to pledged giving.

Colin referred to the Reserves Policy (page 28 of the pack). PCC policy is to maintain a balance in unrestricted funds that equates three months unrestricted payments. Free reserves as at 31 December were in excess of this amount and so the policy has been met. New regulations have meant that businesses must evaluate how viable they are by looking at their reserves, and outlining any risks they may face. Having evaluated the after-effects of the Covid-19 pandemic, and the continued monitoring of cash flows the Trustees have concluded that St Mildred's can continue as a going concern.

Roger thanked Patrina, Colin and Richard for producing the accounts.

12. Appointment of Independent Examiner

The appointment of Osbert Klass as Independent Examiner was proposed by Patrina Buchanan, seconded by Pat Howard.

A letter of thanks will be sent to Osbert Klass.

ACTION: Judy Bennett

13. Church Wardens Remarks

Steve Chapman said that he was grateful to everyone for coming back so strongly on the back of the covid-19 pandemic. He mentioned some of his own highlights, including:

- Coming Out of Lockdown, re-setting our priorities during the Autumn;
- Christmas Services, it was fantastic to see the church full to bursting;
- The Easter Sunday service;
- The Pastoral Support Service led by Elizabeth Fleischer and Jane Ward;
- Millies Mountaineers.

Steve thanked a number of individuals:

Janet Palmer, for her skills as Churchwarden;

Richard Morrall, for keeping us all safe during the pandemic;

Richard Mander, for his enthusiasm and leadership of the choir;

The Deputy Wardens and Sidespeople, for welcoming the congregation week by week;

Alan Griffiths, Joy Griffiths and the Serving Team;

Matt Webb and the 'tech' Team, for reaching out to those who cannot attend church in person. Streaming of services has made a difference to so many people's lives.

The Leadership Team – Roger, Marie, and Jane Ward;

Evie O'Brien who has already established herself in our community.

Finally, Steve thanked everyone for being a beacon of light, enabling the church to serve the community in the love of Christ.

14. Any Other Business

Judy Bennett reported that no items of any other business had been received.

15. Vicar's Report

Roger Hagon read his report, copies of which were circulated at the meeting.

Roger announced that he will be retiring in July 2023 after thirty-eight years serving as a minister in Southwark Diocese and thirteen as vicar of St Mildred's. Roger's last service will be held on 9 July. Roger said that his time at St Mildred's had been the most fruitful and enjoyable in his whole time of ministry, but now he feels that the time is right for him to lay down his responsibilities and retire. Roger and Diana will be moving to the south coast to be

closer to their other children. Matthew will move with them. The prospect is both exciting and daunting and Roger asked for our prayers as he and his family journey on.

Roger outlined his reasons for making the announcement now. Firstly, everyone needs to be aware of his long-term plans and how they may affect the next year. Secondly, Roger and Diana will need time to plan their retirement. They will be moving into a much smaller house in Chichester and will need to scale things down and decorate their new house. Thirdly, the next year will be an opportunity for St Mildred's to reminisce and reflect on the past years, and plan for an interregnum. Some people may have to take on extra responsibilities so that the work of our church can be maintained and grown. Roger said that he was confident that, with the newly-elected Churchwardens and PCC and the enlarged ministry team, St Mildred's would be in good hands and able to journey through the future months with God's help. Finally, the next year needs to be a case of 'business as usual'. The regular round of worship and the varied ways in which we continue to serve one another in the love of Christ will keep us going along the correct path and through the interregnum.

AIMS, OBJECTIVES AND PRINCIPAL ACTIVITIES

The Parochial Church Council of St. Mildred's (the PCC) has the responsibility of co-operating with the incumbent in promoting in the ecclesiastical parish the whole mission of the church: pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical. The PCC is a corporate body established by the Church of England. The PCC operates under the Parochial Church Council Powers Measure and is a registered charity no 1133737 . PCC members are responsible for making decisions on all matters of general concern and importance to the parish, including deciding on how the funds of the PCC are to be spent. The Trustees have had due regard to the Charity Commissions' guidance under Charities Act 2011 on public benefit when considering the Charity's objectives and activities.

ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE

Report on the Fabric, Goods and Ornamentations of the Church

In 2022 we continued to enjoy the benefits of all the work that was undertaken as part of the Big Our Church Project. One of the benefits has been to allow the live streaming of our services, reaching an additional 50 – 100 people each week. We are grateful to Matt Webb and the young people in our "Tech-team" for making this happen. We could not do this without the young people in our congregation.

Nonetheless, work remains ongoing to ensure that facilities remain appropriate for generations to come.

In Spring 2023, work began in earnest on the renovation of the organ. On-site work has begun with the removal of the old pipes in the West End organ by Nicholson's. It is planned that the new instrument will be fitted and installed over the course of 2024, completing the work originally planned as part of the Big Our Church Project. We are indebted to the work of Richard Mander and the Organ Team for their work on this project

In 2023 we applied for the Church Building to be Listed by Historic England. The outcome of our application will be decided over the course of June. Successfully listing our church buildings will help to ensure the Church buildings are maintained in line with the vision of the original architects benefitting generations to come. Moreover, it will allow the PCC to reclaim VAT on future building projects – including the West End Organ. Please continue to pray for a successful outcome

The Storms over the winter of 2022 did not leave the building untouched. The roof, across the entrance-way was damaged and subsequently repaired.

The most recent Quinquennial inspection was completed in October 2022 and there were no works identified that required immediate attention.

The inventory of goods and ornament was completed in March/April 2022 and everything was found to be in good order. We would like to thank Alan Griffiths for all his help completing this task.

Churchwardens

Working Group Reports

Baptism Group

We have celebrated seven baptisms at St. Mildred's in 2022 and one in 2023, five at our morning service and three in the afternoon. It is always a delight to baptise babies and young children into the Church of God and to witness the ongoing growth of our Church family. The Baptism Preparation Team will be meeting shortly as we plan to re-introduce pre-baptismal household visiting and make provisional plans for the Vacancy.

Revd Roger Hagon

The Centre

Was a challenging year – not just because of trying to get back on track post Covid (which would have been a challenge enough on its own!) But also because of the current economic climate, rising costs of utilities, consumables and the huge amount of maintenance and emergency repairs that the Centre has needed.

Repairs:

The Centre is now 16 years old, perhaps because of its age, construction issues, or maybe because it was closed for so long during lockdowns - More likely though, it's a combination of all these factors, we have had an unprecedented amount of unplanned and emergency maintenance issues:

Replaced the failing CCTV system.

Website reconfigured with a new payment platform.

Replaced the Large Hall lights with LED fittings.

Various plumbing Leaks in Ladies WC, Kitchens, accessible WC, plus replacing several taps.

Emergency lights in most areas replaced.

Two boilers beyond economical repair in the main Centre and replaced.

Tiles blown off front porch by high winds, repaired.

Roof leaked in the concourse, which has been repaired but also in the Music room (which we are still trying to repair!).

Centre and the Pavilion door locks replaced.

Pavilion gate, digital keypad broken and replaced.

External brickwork needs repointing – surveyor suggested to be completed within 2 years.

Cooker in the Pavilion, broken and replaced.

Centre front entrance, glass door, has had to be rehung as it had shifted on its mount.

So, it has indeed been a very challenging year, but we have also had some successes:

This summer, St. Mildred's successfully hosted the NCS (National Citizens Service) for around 350 young people over 5 weeks of the school holidays. NCS is a voluntary personal and social development course for 15–17-year-olds, funded largely by the UK government. Church bookings have remained steady, with South London Symphonia, Osiris Choir, Rock Project and Musical Bumps all continuing with their regular hire. Collectively these groups together with concert bookings represent an income for the Church of over £10k.

Heat and Eat with MLH after school club – thank you so much to the cake sale team and the individuals for supporting this initiative and making it possible for St. Mildred's to

offer half term spaces at the MLH holiday club for families identified by local schools as in need of help.

The new community garden has been a joy to many and a great success in enabling connections with the local community. The garden has produced organic vegetables that have either been sold to fund the garden or donated to families that qualify for free school meals. Space has also been given over to shrubs and flowers that will help to support local wildlife.

The hirers:

Some of our regular hirer's have closed down; 2 Pilates groups, Creative Steps for Children, Dance Fit for adults, Hallmark Learning, Shotokan Karate, Jasper Family Support (which has relaunched as MCM family but this time without using the small office by the kitchen.)

Some of our hirers who have restarted are struggling for various reasons. Because of the economic downturn, people have less money to spend on things like Baby and children's classes or keep fit, specific interest groups.

MLH after school club have reported that as people have continued to work from home, not so many families need their service as they did before Covid.

We have also noticed a downturn in Saturday party bookings – again possibly because people have less money available.

In summary

We are trying to find a new way to navigate through these difficult times and are quite glad to see the end of 2022 – We hope to be in better shape for 2023 than we were at the beginning of this year. Thank you to all our hirers, our volunteers, and gardeners for their continued support of St. Mildred's.

Leander Garner

Mission Outreach

The team met several times on Zoom during the year and worked on delivering the following pieces of work:

- A presentation to the PCC on our Croydon Area Link Diocese of Central Zimbabwe and the possibility of us establishing a link with a parish there.
- Re-establishing our support of Christian Aid by inviting a speaker to our Christian Aid service in May, assisting at the service itself, and setting up ongoing financial support through our weekly donations at refreshments after church each week.
- Building on our 2021 December Christingle Service by running a similar service in December 2022.
- Responding to the needs of local residents affected by high inflation, rising fuel costs and the cold weather by putting on a weekly Warm Hub.
- Building up our weekly Community Garden meetings (please see separate Centre report).

Revd Roger Hagon

Staying in Touch Group

The Staying in Touch scheme has now been in operation for 18 months and is running smoothly with no reported issues. It is advertised in Janet's emails and at the back of church. There are 12 team members and 23 people being supported.

I have now taken on the role of co-ordinator.

We re-launched the scheme at the service on 2nd October last year.
We have regular team meetings and the next meeting is planned for 22nd April 2023.

Jane Ward

Home Communion Team

The Home Communion Team is comprised of Roger, Sharon Collins, Penny Locke, Eileen Chapman and Jane Ward.

We bring communion to members of the congregation who are unable to come to church. This is advertised in Janet's email and on the St. Mildred's website.

We currently take communion to 4 people. The numbers have decreased over the past year as several people have died who were receiving home communion.

We meet roughly every 4 months to discuss any issues and allocate anyone new who would like home communion to a member of the team.

Jane Ward

Organ Restoration Project

The past twelve months have seen some exciting developments in the ongoing project, as it enters its final year.

In late 2022, Nicholson's began the process of restoring the Lewis pipework in their workshops in Malvern. They are extremely impressed with the quality of the pipework, and excited about how it will sound in St Mildred's. Roger, Warren and I visited Malvern in December to see for ourselves the excellent work.

In March 2023 we launched the Adopt-a-pipe scheme, the flagship of our fundraising effort. In the same month the old West Organ was completely removed by Nicholson's, with the exception of the copper façade pipes which will be restored and incorporated into the new organ.

Immediately following that, a separate Nicholson's team visited to make a comprehensive survey of the site, so that detailed computer designs can be drawn up.

Work will start in Malvern in early autumn and take several months. In early 2024 it is expected that installation will begin in the church. This will take a number of weeks, including the tonal finishing where every single pipe will have its speech and voicing individually checked and adjusted. The East Organ, now 35 years old, will also get a complete overhaul.

I would like to thank everyone involved for supporting this significant project, and look forward to delivering the new organ that will serve St Mildred's for a great many decades to come.

Richard Mander

Property

During 2022, the property committee did not formally meet due to the low number of issues that needed attention following the 2018 Big Our Church Project.

However, during the year some minor maintenance was carried out including replacing the Church boiler's thermostat (which allowed the Church to save energy and maintain a more comfortable temperature), and the replacement of a corridor light. During the year, the PCC appointed Mandy Lorenz from Thomas Ford and partners as our inspecting Architect, and we look forward to working with her at our next Quinquennial inspection in 2025.

The team will meet as required during 2023.

Matt Webb

Social Events

The team met several times over the year in order to put on the following social events:

- Three film nights in church featuring 'Mary Poppins', 'Mamma Mia' and 'Dirty Dancing'.
- Planning a successful re-launch of our Christmas Market
- Queen's Platinum Jubilee Lunch
- Quiz Night (2023)

Revd Roger Hagon

St. Mildred's Live

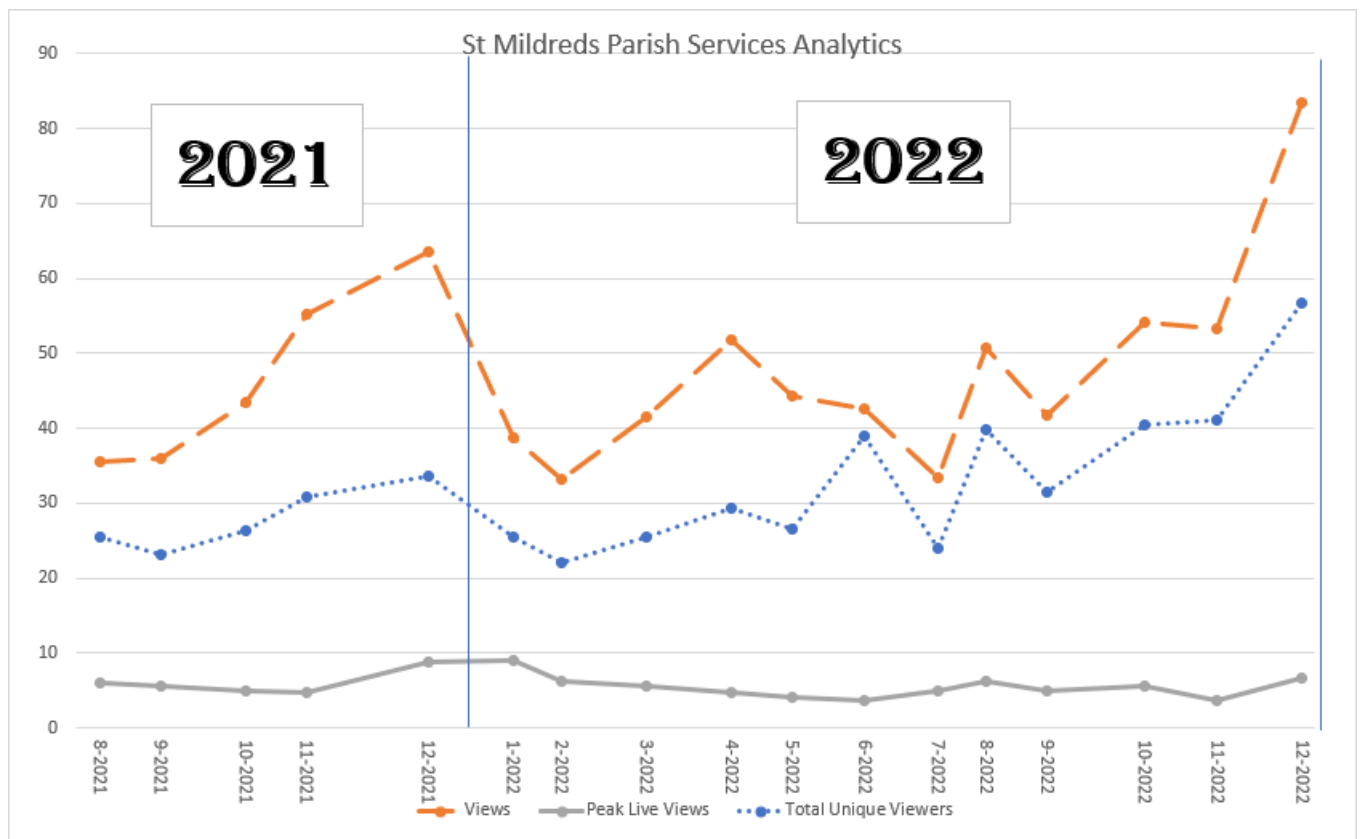
In 2022 the streaming of live services at St Mildred's continued from its beginnings on Remembrance Sunday in late 2020. We continue to provide a much valued link to our community for those who can't physically attend St Mildred's (and for those who enjoy our music). Throughout the year we streamed almost all of our 10am services, Evensongs, as well baptisms, funerals and special services. The additional services have proven especially helpful to those involved, allowing family and friends from around the world to join us at St Mildred's in important moments.

And the top 5 public streams of 2022 are:

1. 18th December - Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols
2. 24th December - Midnight Mass
3. 22nd February - Ash Wednesday Service
4. 18th December - 4th Sunday of Advent Parish Communion Service
5. 2nd October – Choral Evensong

During the year we streamed 72 services, we have 91 subscribers (up from 55 last year) and we received a total of 4586 views of our channel. And the figures show that our channel continues to grow since the end of COVID restrictions easing in the Summer of 2021. The

2022 Nine Lessons and Carols service was viewed by nearly double the amount of people than last year, with 109 unique people watching the service, and Midnight Mass attracting 3 times more than last year at 103 unique people. Viewing habits have obviously changed since the pandemic and while the average number of live viewers (the solid bottom line in the graph below) has remained fairly stable since restrictions eased, the number of unique people watching (middle dotted line) and the total number of stream views (top dashed line) has gradually increased throughout the year. In December the average number of unique people watching each service actually exceeded the average for the 2021 lockdown.



We hope this trend continues in to 2023 allowing more and more people join us in worship at St Mildred's. We would very much enjoy having new members to help in our mission. No previous experience necessary - the only requirement is a sense of adventure!

And finally my thanks has to go to the streaming team for the many, many pages of subtitles, the ability to cope with technical issues and constant good humour and support!

Matt Webb

Sunday School – Millies Mountaineers

I am delighted to share this report with you, highlighting many of the developments and successes Millie's Mountaineers has had over the last year. Both Scramblers (pre-school) and Climbers (primary school age) have welcomed new families; some known to the church through the community centre, others who are new to the area.

This year we have reinstated the use of registration forms, plus a photography/social media consent form, together with a weekly register of attendance. As well as serving an important safeguarding purpose, this is helping us to track attendance and build better relationships

with families. We are very much encouraged by the numbers of children and their families that we see each week, and by the friendships that are forming.

The sending out of a monthly newsletter to our families began towards the end of 2022. The newsletter contains the themes for the month in church, reminders and key dates. This has been well received and is a key way of keeping parents updated with what is happening in the church and its community. Our WhatsApp group is used for sharing the work children have completed in their sessions and passing on important information to parents.

The activity boxes, which were brought in during COVID restrictions, have continued to be a success for the all-age services. The boxes provide both Scramblers and Climbers children with age-suitable resources such as puzzles, crafts, Bible stories and drawing material.

Recently, the small hall, renamed as the 'Scramblers' Den', has remained open throughout all services each Sunday, including the all-age services. The space is available for families with young children to use as an area of respite, given that an hour's service can be a long time for a pre-schooler to sit still during! Some materials will be left out for the families to use during all-age services, though these sessions will not be facilitated by a Mountaineers Leader.

We ended 2022 on an enormous high, by performing the Nativity in the Sunday service a week before Christmas. This was an incredible achievement; with over fifteen children taking part! There were many lovely and encouraging comments from members of the congregation, and it is something we are hoping to do again this year.

Overall, it has been a hugely successful year for Millie's Mountaineers, and there are still plenty of ideas in the pipeline for how we can develop our sessions further, to support our young people in their journey of faith. We are very keen that our children's ministry is part of "one community" with the main church service on a Sunday, with linked themes and a culture where children and families feel welcomed, supported and celebrated.

Huge thanks must be given to all our leaders: Chris, Charlotte, Nikki, Jane, Rebecca, Sophie, Helen, Elizabeth, Eileen and Donna, who give their time so generously in the leading of sessions and the planning and prepping of material. We also are looking forward to welcoming new Mountaineers Leaders, Julia and David, after the Easter holidays.

Donna Oliver

Parish Organisations Reports

ANCA

ANCA has continued to operate throughout the year, delivering all our usual services, as normal; and meeting the requirements of our Contract Agreement with the Social Services Dept. of Croydon Council. These include a Lunch Club, which is held here every Monday and Tuesday, at which some 11 and 14 people (respectively) attend to enjoy a wholesome hot meal, as well as the pleasant company of friends; thus clearly improving their social inclusion and, hopefully, their general health.

We also run our Shopping Bus Service, whereby those less mobile, or more frail, can receive escorted shopping trips to Tesco at Elmers End. We still currently need to use the Dial-a-Ride service; but I am sorry to say that they have been very slow, to return to any sort of

“pre-Covid” levels of ‘Service’; having cut back on virtually all previous “Regular Bookings”, which we used to enjoy.

The ‘Extend’ classes of gentle exercise, to help maintain suppleness and general fitness, also prove very popular, both the Monday and Thursday morning groups being well attended. This is a good situation, but if anyone is interested in joining either of these groups, (and there *may* be some future vacancies), *please contact the ANCA office, in the first instance; for the latest position, and to join up for this.*

We held all our regular “Events”, over the past year: a ‘Thank You’ buffet lunch for our Volunteers this February, & a Strawberry Tea last summer, both very well attended, and much appreciated. Also our Christmas Party, last year, was very successfully, as usual. We also enjoyed two delicious ‘Christmas Dinners’, with wine, for our Lunch Club meals, at that time of year, enjoying the improved standard of food we now get, from the kitchen at our Neighbouring Group, “UNACC”, thus finishing off the year in style.

We continue to provide a range of other services to the people of Addiscombe. These include:- Visiting/Befriending of lonely or housebound folk; Advice & Advocacy: and help with Form-filling, or other ‘Applications’, etc.

We also offer help for any dealings with other Agencies, such as Health Authority or Social Services and the Dept. of Pensions; Practical Help with ‘one-off’ problems, such as changing light bulbs, and/or small gardening/DIY jobs, etc.

Equally, we also maintain a small, but useful, store of Mobility Aids & Equipment, which are available for ‘Loaning’ out, on a ‘temporary’ basis, to Clients, or their Family.

Another major plank of our service, are the highly essential, and greatly appreciated, Volunteer Drivers; who take Clients to a variety of ‘Health-Related’ appointments, at Doctors’ surgeries, health clinics, opticians, dentists, and local hospitals, etc.

On the general subject of Volunteers, we are facing a SHORTAGE, at the moment. We are looking for people to help us with various matters; including in our Office; as Befrienders, and with our Shopping Bus Service. We especially need more DRIVERS; as either they, or their cars, have to finally call it a day!! Therefore, we are seriously looking to recruit MORE drivers; hence if anyone can spare a little time, now and then, to do the odd trip to local Clinics, Drs, Dentists, etc., please get in touch via the ANCA office. Things do become a bit desperate at times, trying to meet all the requests we get; however, we try very hard not to let people down, if at all possible, so that we can continue to provide the great standard of care, we do, for the residents of this Parish; and the wider community in and around Addiscombe.

However, finally, the sad news. As most residents of the Borough will already know, Croydon Council is “Bankrupt”. ANCA, along with many other “Neighbourhood Care Groups”, has been “Funded” by the Council, for the past 25-30 years, one way or another. For the last 9/10 years, at least, we have operated under “Tendered” for, (renewable), Three-Year, Contracts. Unfortunately, ALL such Funding will cease, at the end of March, this year 2023; with no prospect of any other money forthcoming.

Luckily, ANCA is a bit better placed, than most other such other Groups; as we had, previously, received a fairly substantial Legacy; leaving us with some “savings” still in the bank, to draw down from, for some while. This means we can continue to operate, for a few years longer; while we wait to see, whether the Council might “get its house in order”, financially; such that it may be able to resume “Funding” vital Services like ours. The only

other, potential, source of money, may be from the Health Authority Budget(s); though they still do not seem to understand the true value/benefits of all the very necessary "Prevention" work, which we do; to reduce both Physical, and/or Mental illness.

Norman Till

Choir

The last twelve months has seen a welcome return to our normal routine after the hiatus caused by Covid. We were again able to sing in person in church throughout the year, and the choir has continued to build in numbers and repertoire.

Highlights of the year include our summer trip to Guildford Cathedral, our autumn concert and the Christmas music, including of course the Carol Service.

During the year we were delighted to welcome new members into both the junior and adult choirs. The junior choir now numbers 12 – always room for more but this is an excellent number in today's world and we are rightly proud of the fantastic contribution the junior choir is making to our worship.

I would like to record my thanks to all those who volunteer their services to sing in our choir, and special mention should be made to the Choir Association Committee members, as well as Simon Pearce, Penny Locke, David Nicholls and Warren Hall, who all stood in for me at various times of the year.

Richard Mander

Ladies Choir

2022 finally provided some light at the end of the Covid restriction tunnel, with a few opportunities for live singing events for the Ladies' Choir, although still much diminished compared with past years. The annual World Day of Prayer service was the first outing for us in early March, being hosted by St Mildred's, deferred from 2021. The service was written by the women of England, Wales and Northern Ireland, with the theme 'I Know the Plans I Have for You', based on a reading from *Jeremiah 29*. We were privileged to once again have Roger playing the organ for the service, as he did in 2020, just before the first lockdown! An added bonus was Matt being available to livestream the service and then put it on St Mildred's YouTube.

In early May we were able to sing our first Entertainment programme in 3 years, on the theme of Spring, for the Salvation Army's Home League group, but sadly, many of the groups we used to sing to had not yet re-opened or had even closed.

Our final outing of the year was to sing carols and Christmas songs to entertain the punters at St Mary Magdalene church's Christmas Fair. We hope for more bookings in 2023.

Sadly, we lost two of our past loyal members, who had been unable to sing for some time, due to very poor health: Yvonne Burr, who died at the end of August, and Ruth Carter, who died just before Christmas. Both lovely ladies had still maintained a strong interest in our activities, even when so poorly – we will miss them very much.

My thanks go to the choir members who have 'stuck' with the group, in spite of few opportunities to sing, and we all owe huge thanks, of course, to Roger and Matt, for what we

did achieve in a limited way last year. My special heartfelt thanks go to Roger for his unstinting support of the Ladies' Choir during his time at St Mildred's. This included accompanying our entertainments or services on several occasions, as well as composing wonderful pieces for us to sing, one of which (Mary Sumner's Personal Prayer) was recorded and streamed worldwide for a Mothers' Union service in 2021! How many vicars have achieved that in addition to their many pastoral duties?! We will certainly miss Roger in many ways when he retires, but wish him and Diana a happy, relaxing, musical retirement!

Penny Locke

St. Mildred's Drop-In

The drop-in has now fully re-opened following covid, and is offering hot food, a safe space and good company every Sunday from 1-3pm.

Although numbers fell dramatically following the pandemic we are now seeing regular attendance of at least 20 people. We are also widening our invitation to anyone who would like some company and warmth on a Sunday lunchtime - although many of our guests are homeless, others just appreciate a warm welcome and a good meal.

We no longer offer clothing to our guests though we do have underwear and socks for people and some emergency provision for people who desperately need it. We do however want to fix the showers urgently as some of our guests have no access to hot water, and have offered to pay for the repairs from drop-in funds.

Huge thanks go to our dedicated teams of volunteers, chefs and generous donors. We couldn't do it without you. If anyone else would like to join us we offer full training and always welcome more support.

Many thanks from the drop-in leaders: Pat, Glyn, Jane, Julian, Jemma and Sally

Sally Burlington

Christmas Day Lunch

This year we offered our Christmas lunch at full strength and fed 100 people. Many thanks to our wonderful volunteers who helped set up, prepare food, drive our guests, serve and clean up. Everyone had a wonderful time and we were overwhelmed with thanks and gratitude.

Huge thanks also to many donors who gave food, gifts and money. Particular thanks go to Our Lady's Church on Bingham Road and many generous individual donors who meant that we more than covered our costs this year, and to NLA Church Tooting, Valuing Health Ltd and the parishioners of St Mary's West Croydon who provided a large number of generous gifts for our guests.

Sally Burlington

Flower Team

We are pleased to say that we are now a group of eight ladies on the flower team, Sharon Collins, Marie King, Sandie Kinnard, Val Lee, Penny Lock + Leander Garner, Rona McDonald and Maria Silk who recently joined us and we are delighted to welcome them. If there is anybody who would be interested in being included on the team please speak with

Marie King or Sharon Collins, all equipment is provided plus refreshments for us all to enjoy. We are a group of ladies who enjoy each others company helping to make St.Mildred's a prayerful, loving, beautiful church for all that visit.

It has been a quiet year for the team after the trials of the Covid pandemic without any weddings flowers to arrange, a few baptisms that required decorating the font and funeral flowers for treasured ones. We are very grateful to all who donate towards fresh flowers during the year for special occasions, in remembrance of a loved one, anniversaries or birthdays, any donations are at the discretion of the donor. Please ask Marie or Sharon if anyone wishes to have special flowers arranged for any future dates, choice of flowers or colours according to any budget, the team are only too happy to arrange.

We love to use fresh flowers when we can, the cash placed in the boxes at the back of the church a few weeks before Mothering Sunday, Easter and Harvest Festival is much appreciated and enables the church flowers to be totally self financed. During the year when fresh flowers are not required by donors very good quality silk blooms are used which of course although artificial do deteriorate and have to be replaced from time to time. Please ask Marie or Sharon if you would to have special flowers arranged for any occasion.

We have reserves held within the church accounts which is only used for emergencies or equipment which is now showing age and will be needing replacement in the future.

We appreciate the support and encouragement we receive from all at St Mildred's and are always open to suggestions or ideas from the congregation, come on, be brave!

Sharon Collins

Friends of St. Mildred's

"The Friends of St Mildred's" scheme was set up in 1989 to encourage all within our wider family who are united in wishing to support us in some way.

Friends was re-launched in 2013.

We draw our membership from a variety of sources:

- ✝ members of the congregation,
- ✝ users and visitors to the centre,
- ✝ those who have moved away,
- ✝ those who attend other churches or faiths,
- ✝ and those no religious affiliation.

We offer people the opportunity to tailor make their involvement, so the forms include the following options:

- ✝ receiving our magazine - the 'Parish Post' (10 issues per year) - including a variety of options on how to receive their copy
- ✝ receiving information about special children's events.
- ✝ receiving information about special musical events.
- ✝ receiving information about special events (eg social events, quiz nights, Christmas Fair etc. etc.).

- ✝ receiving invitations to special services (eg Memorial services, Pet Blessing services, the Patronal Festival when the Friends of St Mildred's will be specifically included in our prayers, etc. etc.).

Cost? £25 with the proviso that it is 'suggested'. We are aware that some people already support St Mildred's via planned giving and may not wish to pay any more; so, we are very grateful for any donations whether bigger or smaller than that suggested.

A gift aid facility is included.

The form also includes information on how specific concerns (prayer requests etc) can be dealt with via the Parish Pastoral team. Each member, and those family members they nominate on their form, is included in the regular intercessions each week.

Each year, we hope to continue to expand our membership by including forms with various application packs eg weddings, baptisms and Centre bookings

During 2022 around 30 households joined – raising over £800 for church funds.

Margaret Simmons

Home and Lent Groups

We enjoyed another full year of study, discussion (and cake) over the course of 2022/23. In the Autumn term we studied together the Book of Proverbs. Over the course of our reflections, we drew out some of the key themes– trusting God in everything, forging strong families, developing personal discipline, and choosing friends wisely. Although our surroundings have clearly changed, the principles underscoring how we should conduct our lives, in accordance with God's plan, remain the same as when the Book of Wisdom was first written c 2,500 years ago.

In the Spring term we studied, together extracts from Paul's letter to the Romans. Paul's letter to the Romans is arguably the Grand Opera of Christian belief. It encompasses the landscape of faith with Paul's typical passion and depth. Inevitably we were unable to cover it all between Christmas and Lent, however we debated many of the key themes. In Lent we were delighted to welcome Bishop Peter Price, who led us through a series of lectures entitled, "People Get Ready – Seeking God's Kingdom and his saving Justice". Throughout the five week course we examined the areas we see God acting in the world today and what it mean for our lives both individually and as a church community. It was an inspiring set of talks/discussions and really helped to illuminate the importance that Community plays in all our lives. We are so grateful to have someone of Bishop Peter's, wisdom and experience lead us on our Lenten journey

Next term each member of the Group will be leading the remainder, in a discussion about a Bible passage that is particularly important to them. We will be re-starting at the beginning of May – please let me know if you would like to join us next term. Hopefully - if the weather improves - we will be able to meet in the garden!

Finally, it is a great delight to report that two members of the home group have, put themselves forward for training in different forms of Ministry. Meeting and studying the bible

together is a nurturing experience, giving us the chance to learn from one another as we debate matters impacting on our Christian Lives today.

Steve Chapman

The Lit

This season October 2022 to March 2023 has been a very enjoyable season with a wide and varied programme. Unfortunately Member numbers are down on previous years due to long term illness and one of our long term members moving to a care home. We are sorry to hear of the death of Adrienne Solomon a keen supporter of The Lit in the past. We send our condolences to her husband Ben and the family.

However, the number of visitors has held up in comparison to previous seasons.

The standard of our speakers never ceases to delight us but some of them were very memorable. In October 2022 our lady members enjoyed the visit of Carol Harris "Putting on the Ritz" fashion in the 1920's and 1930's. this was the inter war period, a period of social upheaval and advances in technology and the development of light industries giving women more disposable income corresponding with the invention of paper patterns making it possible for women to make their own clothes. Carol had a wide variety of examples to show us making it a very enjoyable evening.

Then in November we had a talk by Carol Roberts on "The Grand Theatre". This talk was very informative about the grand theatre, but the amazing thing was how many theatres there were in the 1800's in Croydon.

In February 2023 we were honoured to be entertained by Tony Harris as "Sherlock Holmes". In true sherlock style he offered his solution as to who the original "Jack Ripper", was presenting the evidence in a logical and pictorial way to utterly convince us of his conclusion. As well as terrifying some of us with the graphic details. Also, in February we had the artist Steve Waterfields, on "Painting Stained Glass Windows and Poetry". He showed us his exquisite stained glass in pictures and actual pieces, also a variety of his landscapes but most enjoyable were his poems which he shared with us. We thank all who supported us throughout the season and we hope to see you all for our new season beginning in October 2023.

Elizabeth Fleischer

Mothers' Union

The year began in February when 20 members attended our AGM chaired by Penny in her role as Deanery Leader

At our meeting in March, we were very active as we focussed on areas around the church. Joy had produced an interesting trail around these areas. One clue led to another and at each destination she had attached a poem, a fact, a verse or some music to reflect on, pertinent to the item we had found. It is easy to be in a place but not see what is around us, and that afternoon we saw and learnt many things.

At last, in April, Rev Esther Foss was able to come and lead our Lenten reflection in person although, she had last year, given a reflection online. Some members had said they had expected the afternoon to be more sombre but Esther was able to deliver her talk with fun and humour but nevertheless giving us a great deal to think about.

Mandy Campbell had been scheduled to visit us in June 2020 but it had to be postponed to May this year due to obvious reasons. We were really looking forward to her talk with the intriguing title "The Little Book of Hints and Wrinkles". After a slight delay with the technology, we improvised with makeshift screen and some scrambling around on the floor to access suitable plugs and extensions.

Despite the weather looking a little unpredictable, seven members met in Coombe Gardens in June for a leisurely stroll. The numbers were down on previous years as some members were on holiday and some are having mobility issues or experiencing poor health.

For our July meeting we had a social evening, the first one since lockdown. Jackie and Keith were our hosts this year and the weather was kind to us, enabling us to sit in their lovely garden all evening. There were about 20 of us all together and we brought along drinks and chairs and a picnic blanket for the children. For food, we had decided on a cold buffet with a variety of lovely quiches from Cook, and members contributed salads and delicious desserts.

During the summer the MU met on two occasions. We had a wonderful time in Penny's garden in August sharing tea with our members and from across the Deanery. A lovely chance to meet old friends and make new ones too. We were able to take home doggy bags of leftovers and freshly picked blackberries from the bottom of Penny's garden (though we did have to pick them ourselves!). We raised over £300 for AFIA!

In September, 19 members met in church for the Wave of Prayer. The Wave of Prayer is a continuous, daily commitment by Mothers' Union members from around the world to pray for each other. It runs throughout the year so that the work and members of each and every area in which Mothers' Union is active is prayed for at some point.

We were delighted to welcome Liz Pullen as our guest speaker on 6 October. Liz gave an interactive talk on Transformation NOW – MU's theme for 2022. She began by asking us to think of an instance when God had shown His presence to us. We wrote our thoughts on pieces of paper shaped like butterflies and put them on display in front of the altar. Liz said that she was aware of the many good things that take place at St Mildred's and how we have all had to transform the way we work in the last few years.

In the programme for our November meeting, we had planned to have "a discussion". As the time got nearer, we contemplated on what the discussion should be about and asked committee members for ideas. Penny, Linda and Margaret came to the rescue and we had a very successful afternoon.

A Christmas lunch at Shirley Park golf Club was well supported in December. All agreed that the food was excellent and it was good to see members family and friends joining us on this occasion. We had a successful raffle with £121 being raised for the MU charity AFIA.

In January we had our usual DIY anthology bringing together Christmas Epiphany and the New year.

Margaret opened the meeting with a politically and legally correct New Year wish which summed up world we are living in ! This was followed by prayers and reflection led by Joy and Penny. We then continued by members presenting readings and poems, some reflecting our original theme and some just for fun.

Another full year has been completed.

Jackie Bartley

The Parish Post

Over the past year, the Parish Post Committee continued to comprise Karen Rooney, Jane Ward, Judy Bennett and Barbara Broughton.

From April 2023, Jane Ward is taking a 6-12 month break from the magazine to concentrate on her SPA work.

The Committee deals solely with the content of the news section. Karen continued to carry out the design, layout and editing of the magazine, with the rest of the Committee helping to source articles and carry out the proofreading.

We have continued to plan the magazine a few months ahead, in order to provide different and interesting articles and interviews. We thank all our contributors over the past year. The Parish Secretaries are responsible for the 'Dates for your Diary' section, the advertisements and for printing the entire magazine, including large print copies. There have been fewer regular advertisers since coming out of Lockdown, but fewer hard copies of the magazine have been printed which has helped to keep costs down. The cover price remains at 50p.

The magazine is also emailed to those on the 'Friends' list, as well as being uploaded to the church website, and we thank Margaret for her help with this.

Thanks are also due to the Parish Secretaries and all members of the Committee for their hard work and commitment over the past year.

Karen Rooney

Prayer Meetings

We have been present at many of the prayer meetings and I have been the lead at one prayer meeting but up till now Roger has been the main lead. I with the help of my husband Jeff will be taking over the lead from July 2023. This may be a prayer walk around the Parish. It will still be monthly but likely to be on a Thursday, however I am hoping with the help of the tech team to set up a "what's app" group to remain in touch on a weekly basis. This will be done in consultation with the current members at the time. I also hope that other members will take the lead on a monthly basis from time to time. It will be a team effort.

Elizabeth Fleischer

Safeguarding

During the course of the last year, 'A Safe Church' was continued to be adopted by the PCC. Both PSOs along with the Church Wardens have continuously monitored this and taken appropriate actions and steps where required. Many new DBS checks and renewals have been submitted to the APCS successfully. As Covid restrictions have been lifted, the number of volunteers who carry out regulated activity with children and / or adults has increased significantly over the last year. Both PSOs have conducted further safeguarding training this year and are committed to continued development in the future.

Due to health and work commitments, Chris has expressed his desire to resign as PSO at the APCM in 2023. The increased PSO workload has meant that it would be beneficial to add to the Parish Safeguarding Team, and we are very pleased to announce that Jane Ward and Sam Oliver have agreed to join the team.

Helen Medland

27th Croydon Scout Group

Beavers

As with many organisations, the Covid pandemic has had a profound effect on Scouting and our group in particular. Over various lockdowns our Beaver Leader moved away and our existing Beavers became Cub age. It is important for any scout group to have a Beaver colony to feed into the cubs and scouts. So, we decided to re-launch our Beaver section on Wednesday 14th September 2022, with the help of adults from the 1st Croydon Scout Group (therefore becoming a joint 1st / 27th Croydon Beaver colony).

We now have 6 Beavers (3 boys and 3 girls) and offered a full programme from September to December. Our Wednesday evening activities have included: making faces from natural materials, learning about the history of scouting and the scout promise, a puppet show, learning about remembrance, healthy eating and kitchen safety, taking part in parliament week and singing a song at the Christmas event.

During this first term all 6 Beavers were invested and earned the Parliament badge. My thanks go to our Young Leader Antonio, Michael and Rinish for their help.

Helen Medland, Acting Beaver Leader

Cubs

As usual, this year has been a busy and rewarding time for the Cubs. Throughout 2022 we have had a balanced, varied and enjoyable programme both at our weekly evening meetings and when out and about.

Our Thursday evening indoor activities have included: teambuilding, cooking, learning about healthy eating and hygiene, craft, nature art, learning about international scouting, firework art, talking about books we have read.

Outdoor activities: the Cub Funday, a multi-activity day at Frylands campsite, wide games at Sparrows Den and visiting Croydon Fire Station, and rifle shooting at Frylands.

Cubs have gained a variety of badges: Home Help, Entertainer, Book Reader, My Faith, Naturalist, International, and local knowledge.

Cubs have also been camping: in July we joined the Cubs at the 1st Croydon Scout Group at Bears Wood campsite, Courtwood Lane, Forestdale for a weekend. Sleeping under canvas, the Cubs built their own fires and took part in a number of outdoor activities, including a hike during one of the hottest days of the year!

My thanks to those who helped run the Cub section, especially Henry, my assistant Leader.

Helen Medland, Cub Scout Leader

Scouts

The Scout section has also had a busy and adventurous year.

Thursday evening activities have included: making a variety of things in woodwork and pioneering projects, cooking pancakes, Chinese food and curry.

Outdoor activities: backwoods cooking, and evening ramble.

Scouts were not able to go to Wintercamp at Gilwell in January, as this was not yet running after the Pandemic. In July, scouts joined the Cubs at Bears Wood. Our usual indoor camp in October was cancelled as the building was not up to standard and needed repairs. My thanks to those who helped run the Scout section, especially Howard.

***** The 27th Croydon Scout Group would welcome any new members *****

Beavers : 6 – 8 years Tuesday 6.15 – 7.15pm

Cubs :8 – 10+ years Thursday 6.15 – 7.40pm

Scouts :10+ – 14 years Thursday 7.45 – 9.15pm

Adults18+ to help with any section on a weekly rota basis.

PLEASE CALL THE PARISH OFFICE FOR FURTHER INFORMATION.

Simon Medland Scout Leader

Toddler Group

We have had a busy year with new families coming along on a regular basis. The children learn to mix with each other and share playing with a wide variety of different toys each week.

Each week the craft table offers painting or making something to take home. Crayons and paper are always available. We try to celebrate the major events in the Church calendar. Toddlers were delighted that Roger was able to lead out mini-Easter and Christmas services in Church. Father Christmas was able to leave his mask at home this year when he visited just before Christmas.

The story and singing time at the end of the session continues to be popular

We are grateful to the team who set up, make tea, greet families, and put away the toys each week. Without this support we would not be able to continue. If anyone is interested in helping, please speak to Eileen Chapman or Penny Locke

Eileen Chapman

Women's Group

With all restrictions lifted, St. Mildred's Women's Group started up again in September with a water colour art class. This was followed by bulb planting, knit and natter, Christmas table demonstration, film night and a cookery demonstration. As usual, we try to keep the cost as low as possible to make the meetings accessible.

Vera Burch

Deanery Synod

It was my privilege to attend and report on the following to PCC during 2022.

January: A Deanery Leadership Team (DLT) meeting was held and Rev Simon Foster, Area Dean, updated the committee on the Afghan refugee status of those staying in the hotel in Crystal Palace. In December, people of our Deanery including St Mildred's choir in force

sang Christmas carols outside the hotel (due to the Covid situation) and over 500 gifts were given out; 70+ donated by St Mildred's.

The DLT were also informed that "The Billy Graham Crusade", led by his son Franklin, would be happening in July. There would be courses for those volunteering as counsellors and stewards at Christ Church, Croydon. Concern was raised about youth crime in the area and in particular the increase in girl gangs and how they operate. A new sports club called the Legacy Youth Zone had recently opened in Whitehorse Road run by organisations such as Croydon Drop-In to provide a safe place for young people to anonymously discuss anything on their minds.

February: Deanery Synod, held at Emmanuel Church, included an update on the Diocesan Synod and that Adrian Greenwood and Rosemarie Mallett had been re-elected as the chairs of Houses of Laity and Clergy. A General Synod update was given by Paul Waddell. The evening's talk was by Steve Phaure, Chief Executive of Croydon Voluntary Action, which co-ordinates all the voluntary work in the Croydon area, both secular and denominational. Regarding the Living in Love and Faith course, an online Deanery course had been run by Peter Graystone and David Wilcox with about 12 attendees. St Augustine's, St Peter's, St Matthew's, Christ Church and St Mildred's churches each ran courses at their respective venues. The deadline for course feedback had been extended to 30th April due to the Covid disruption.

June: Deanery Synod was held at Christ Church, West Croydon, and we received a talk from Nicola Newman, Deputy Director of Croydon Drop-In. Croydon Drop-In is a counselling service, aimed at those aged 10-25 years old, and takes place in their main building at 132 Church Street. We said an official goodbye to our Area Dean, Rev Simon Foster, who retired in July.

July: I attended the Billy Graham Crusade tour at London Excel Centre on 16th July as a counsellor. The live music was amazing and I was privileged to talk with three attendees about their Christian journeys.

September: The Deanery Synod, at Croydon Minster, held a minute's silence in honour of the passing of our Queen. The main presentation focused on a talk by Liz Bridge, a Quaker chaplain at Wandsworth Prison. In November 2020, she launched an initiative to collect 1,476 hats, one for every prisoner in Wandsworth saying the prison is very cold and the central heating does not work very well. In 2022, she was awarded the British Empire Medal in the New Year Honours list.

The meeting received updates from both the Diocesan Synod and General Synod. The Lay Chair, David Percival, introduced our new Area Dean, Rev Geoff Dumbreck. Geoff came to Croydon in 2019 and has given confidence and inspiration to the South Croydon Benefice. Geoff said he was excited to be the new Area Dean and looks forward to working with all of us. "If the Deanery is to flourish, it requires all of the parishes to be fully involved within it. There are many committed churchgoers who are not sure what the Deanery is or what it might do. It is our duty to go back to our parishes and enthuse people with the possibilities that come through the Deanery. There are a lot of things we can do together that we might not be able to do if we were working on our own."

October: At the DLT meeting I expressed that I felt very moved by what Liz Bridge said to us at the Deanery Synod and suggested the Deanery could get involved in donating woolly hats. Thankfully, the Women's Group and Mother's Union at St Mildred's were keen to take this forward and raised this throughout the Southwark Diocese. I was able to source a pattern and circulate.

November: Croydon Voluntary Action collated information about all the local Warm Spaces which were published on Simply Connect Croydon. This included both our Wednesday gathering and Sunday Drop-in in their database.

December: As many at St Mildred's will recall, we ran a successful Christmas project throughout the Deanery to provide enough hats for 1,600 prisoners by Christmas Day. I was pleased to deliver over 100 from St Mildred's to HMP Wandsworth and delighted to report that the target was reached. Thank you to all the knitters who took part.

2023: We can look forward to the June meeting of the Deanery Synod being held here at St Mildred's on 15th June, 2023. Everyone is invited to attend. The main speaker will be Lucy Cokell, the Faith Communities Liaison and Hate Crime Liaison Officer. She will aim to bring some of her colleagues with her to talk about what they do. There is a Disability Liaison Officer, Age, Faith and Race (Lucy) and Violence Against Women and Girls Officer. They can also discuss Hate Crime, what it is, what they do about it and how they can help. Please save the date.

Patricia Howard

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

Charity number:	133737
Registered Charity name:	The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of St. Mildred's Addiscombe
Address:	Bingham Road Croydon CR0 7EB
Bankers:	National Westminster Bank 209-213 Lower Addiscombe Road Croydon CR0 6RB
Independent examiner:	Klass & Co 18 Mounthurst Road Bromley BR2 7QN

Members of the PCC are either ex officio or elected by the Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM) in accordance with the Church Representation Rules.

During the year the following served as members of the PCC:

Incumbent:	Rev'd Roger Hagon
Hon Curate:	Rev'd Marie King (NSM - retired)
Churchwardens:	Steven Chapman and Janet Palmer
Secretary:	Judy Bennett
Treasurer:	Colin Simonds
Representatives on Deanery Synod:	Patricia Howard Rona Macdonald Richard Morrall

Elected Members	Judith Bennett	(from APCM 2022)
	Elizabeth Fleischer	(from APCM 2021)
	Alan Griffiths	(from APCM 2021)
	Alice Kawoya	(from APCM 2021)
	Richard Mander	(from APCM 2022)
	Stephen Philcox	(from APCM 2021)
	Rebecca Sangeetha	(from APCM 2022)

The aims of the PCC are to promote the whole mission of the church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical within the parish. It also offers the Pastoral Staff Team full support in the carrying out of their mission.

Working groups, under the authority of the PCC, meet throughout the year prayerfully to reflect on and develop an aspect of church life in line with our current Vision Statement –

'We seek to be an open and loving church, growing in faith and confidence and joyfully sharing God's love with all'.

Each group is invited by the PCC Secretary to send a written report to the PCC meetings which brings the whole council up-to-date with its work and thinking. Sometimes longer presentations may be made to the PCC and recommendations which seek PCC approval. Below is a list of our current groups, their facilitators and membership. Please show your interest by speaking to the facilitator and your support by praying through the year for the members of each group.

Membership and Terms of Reference for PCC Working Groups

Property

Maintaining and developing the Church building.

Facilitator: Matt Webb

Steve Chapman, Richard Morrall, Kieron Chapman

Organ Restoration Project

Providing a new West Organ to support congregational singing and build on the strong musical tradition of St. Mildred's

Facilitator: Richard Mander

Stuart Knight, Jane Davey, Warren Hall

Finance

Overseeing our financial resources and expenditure and budgeting for the future.

Facilitator: Richard Morrall

Patrina Buchanan, David Nicholls, Stuart Knight, Warren Hall, Audrey Marshall, Matt Webb, Colin Simonds.

St. Mildred's Centre

Facilitator: Leander Garner.

Social Events

Providing a broad range of social events so people can enjoy being with each other and getting to know new members.

Facilitators: Roger Hagon

Jane Davey, George Calvert, Janet Palmer, Claire Webb, Emily Kinnard, Rachael Williams, Meadow Phillipson, Donna Oliver

Baptism Group

Co-ordinating baptism preparation and reflecting on baptism policy.

Facilitator: Roger Hagon

Eileen Chapman, Griselda Wireko-Brobby, Rona Macdonald, Donna Oliver

St. Mildred'sLive

Providing live streamed services for those who cannot attend Church and to reach out to the wider community.

Facilitator: Matt Webb

Pat Howard, Margaret Simmons, Kieron Chapman, Kyle Knight, Lloyd Rinsitah, Lilly Watts

Staying in Touch Group

Planning the introduction of a new team approach to pastoral care for those who attend/worship at St. Mildred's Church.

Facilitator: Jane Ward

Jeff Fleischer, Elizabeth Fleischer Janet Palmer, Jane Ward

Home Communion Team

Visiting those people who have requested communion at home.

Facilitator: Jane Ward

Sharon Collins, Penny Locke, Eileen Chapman

Mission Outreach

Reaching out with love to a needy world.

Facilitator: Roger Hagon

Karen Rooney, Jane Ward, Leander Garner, Stephen Philcox, Sophie Blankson, Rona Macdonald, Alice Kawoya

Sunday School – Millies Mountaineers

Providing lively and interactive teaching every Sunday for both pre-school and school-aged children from 0-11.

Facilitator: Donna Oliver

Eileen Chapman, Jane Davey, Chris and Charlotte Hatton, Nicky Mander, Elizabeth Goddard, Donna Oliver, Sophie Blankson, Rebecca Sangeetha, Helen Loft

Standing Committee

Conducting PCC business between meetings.

Roger Hagon (Vicar), Steve Chapman (Church Warden), Janet Palmer (Church Warden), Judy Bennett (PCC Secretary), Colin Simonds (PCC Treasurer)

Governing Documents

The Church of England have agreed with the Charity Commission that for the purpose of agreeing 'governing documents', Parochial Church Councils (PCCs) are governed by two pieces of legislation:

- a. The Parochial Church Council (Powers) Measure 1956 defines the principal function, or purpose, of the PCC as 'promoting in the parish the whole mission of the Church'.
- b. The Church Representation Rules (contained in Schedule 3 of the Synodical Government Measure 1969 as amended).

2021 Financial Report.

At the start of 2022 our financial expectation was for continuing to rebuild and stabilise St. Mildreds finances, including working towards becoming a Self Financing Parish once again. However, on reflection 2022, was a year with a high level of costly unforeseen emergency repairs, including extensive gale damage to the Bingham Road entrance roof, serious flooding on Centre concourse on 2 occasions from cracking of the flat roof seals, additional associated redecoration work, replacement lighting in the Large Hall, replacement of 2 condemned centre boilers, renewal of the failed CCTV system, leaking pipes in the toilets, repairs to the main glass entry doors to both church and centre, failures of auto locks on security gates and water ingress/ flooding in the Music Room resulting in £20,567 of unforeseen centre expenditure on centre repairs. Tight financial controls have again continued throughout the year as we faced the energy crisis, soaring cost of living and high inflation.

Whilst our Centre income increased in 2022, income, usage was still well below pre-covid levels despite valiant efforts by our centre manager to attract new hirers. We were delighted to host the National Challenge Service for young people in the summer holiday period.

Despite our financial challenges, St.Mildreds fulfilled its agreed 2022 Parish Support Fund Pledge of £60000. Although this figure was still £21900 short of the Diocese self financing figure for Parishes. Thanks are extended to everyone for there generous stewardship giving commitment in 2022 and also for supporting our special outreach projects, events and appeals which raised £282 for the Childrens Society, £1567 for Christian Aid, £1233 for the Bishops Lent Appeal, £202 for Croydon Samaritans, £215 for Unicef East Africa, £507 for Daniel Spargo-Mabbs Foundation, £220 for MIND in Croydon, £125 for the Warm Hub and £2651 for our Eat and Heat Project for children in school holidays, in partnership with Mums Little Helpers Club.

Work has continued throughout the year by the organ fundraising group, applying for grant awards for the Organ Restoration Fund and thanks are extended to all who have taken collecting tins and/or standing order commitments in support of the project.

Last year's financial report noted that our financial challenges would remain for a considerable time into the future as we rebuild our finances. Looking forward, we continue to face even greater challenges to meet St.Mildreds financial commitments.

Finally, special thanks to Patrina who prepares our accounts each year, to Osbert Klass our Independent Examiner, to Colin our Treasurer, and to all of St. Mildreds Finance Team for their on-going wisdom, and commitment to the financial health of our church and centre, and ask for your prayers in the coming months.

Richard Morrall

Reserves Policy.

It is the PCC Policy to maintain a balance of unrestricted funds which equates to at least three months unrestricted payments, equivalent to £54,000, to cover emergency situations that may arise from time to time. Free reserves as at 31st December 2022 are £164,320 and therefore the reserves policy has been met.

Going Concern.

The Trustees have evaluated the circumstances in which St.Mildred's operates.

While the church congregation continue to give generosity to St.Mildred's, the activities of the centre were significantly affected by the Covid-19 pandemic from 2020 into the first half of 2022. The direct effects of government restrictions in relation to the pandemic have now passed. However, centre activities continue to be affected by rises in the cost of living and changes in lifestyles following the pandemic, resulting in reduced usage of the centre compared to before the pandemic.

To mitigate these effects, St.Mildred's staff reduced their working hours during 2022 and continue to work those reduced hours. St.Mildred's has also benefited from fixing energy prices over the coming two to three years and the Trustees continue to monitor and manage overheads. Centre repairs in 2022 included exceptional work—for example, replacing the centre boilers—and thus costs are not expected to be as high in the coming years. St.Mildred's has committed to a Parish Support Fund pledge of £65,000 for 2023, a slight increase on 2022.

Cash flows are managed and monitored at all times. Cash reserves at 31st December 2022 were £195,673, compared to £201,803 at 31st December 2021.

Having evaluated the circumstances in which St.Mildred's operates, together with the mitigating actions (strict controls and monitoring of cash flows), the Trustees have concluded that the charity is able to continue as a going concern.

**ST MILDRED'S PARISH CHURCH
PCC ANNUAL ACCOUNTS**

For the year ended 31 December 2022

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF ST. MILDRED'S, ADDISCOMBE

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of St. Mildred's Parish Church for the year ended 31 December 2022.

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 2011 Act').

I report in respect of my examination of your Charity's accounts as carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination I have followed the Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 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 giving me cause to believe that in any material respect:

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of the Trust as required by section 130 of the 2011 Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records; or
3. the accounts do not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulation 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.



Signature:

Name:

Relevant professional body:

Address:

Date:

.....

Osbert Klass

Association of Chartered Certified Accountants

18 Mounthurst Road, Hayes, Bromley, Kent BR2 7QN

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

For the year ended 31 December 2022

	Note	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds £	2021 Total £
Income					
Church and centre income, fundraising and donations		238,662	9,591	248,253	246,270
Investment		14,004	414	14,418	10,917
Total income	3	252,666	10,005	262,671	257,187
Expenditure					
Charitable activities		269,291	10,466	279,757	220,523
Total expenditure		269,291	10,466	279,757	220,523
Income less expenditure	4	(16,625)	(461)	(17,086)	36,664
Unrealised (loss)/gains on investments	6	(12,371)	(433)	(12,804)	34,354
Net movement in funds		(28,996)	(894)	(29,790)	71,018
Fund balances brought forward	2	503,144	52,382	555,526	484,508
Fund balances carried forward at 31 December 2022	9	474,148	51,488	525,636	555,526

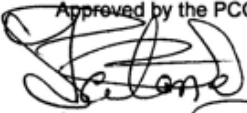
The notes on pages 5 to 13 form part of these accounts.

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

As at 31 December 2022

	Note	2022		2021	
		£	£	£	£
Fixed Assets					
Tangible Assets					
Centre Assets	7		2,702		3,525
Church Equipment	7		45,314		53,195
Church Assets	7		0		92
			<u>48,016</u>		<u>56,812</u>
Investments					
Charifund investments			261,812		274,616
			<u>309,828</u>		<u>331,428</u>
Current Assets					
Associated Accounts	18	23,243		24,124	
Debtors	8	9,272		8,972	
Short-term investments		173,200		125,953	
Cash and Bank		<u>22,473</u>		<u>75,850</u>	
		228,188		234,899	
Current Liabilities					
Creditors and accruals		<u>(12,380)</u>		<u>(10,801)</u>	
			215,808		224,098
			<u>525,636</u>		<u>555,526</u>
Represented by:					
Unrestricted funds	9		474,148		503,144
Restricted funds	9		<u>51,488</u>		<u>52,382</u>
			<u>525,636</u>		<u>555,526</u>

Approved by the PCC on


 Janet Palmer (Churchwarden)



COLIN SIMONDS
 TREASURER

The notes on pages 5 to 13 form part of these accounts.



Revd. ROGER C. HAGON
 INCUMBENT

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

For the year ended 31 December 2022

1) Accounting policies

(a) Basis of preparing accounts

The accounts (financial statements) have been prepared under the historical cost convention with items recognised at cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant note(s) to these accounts. The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Statement of Recommended Practice: Accounting and Reporting by Charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) issued on 16 July 2014 and the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the United Kingdom and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) and the Charities Act 2011.

The charity constitutes a public benefit entity as defined by FRS 102.

The trustees consider that there are no material uncertainties about the Church's ability to continue as a going concern.

(b) Reconciliation with previous Generally Accepted Accounting Practice

In preparing the accounts, the trustees have considered whether, in applying the accounting policies required by FRS 102 and the Charities SORP FRS 102, a restatement of comparative items was needed. No restatements were required. In accordance with the requirements of FRS 102 a reconciliation of opening balances and net income/(expenditure) for the year is provided with the net income/(expenditure) under previous GAAP adjusted for the presentation of investment gains/(losses) as a component of reported income.

Funds

- (a) Unrestricted funds represent funds of the charity that are not subject to any restrictions regarding their use and are available for application on the general purposes of the charity.
- (b) Restricted funds represent funds of the charity that were received with restrictions so that use can be only for the purposes stated.

Income

All income is recognised once the charity has entitlement to the income, it is probable that the income will be received and the amount of income receivable can be measured reliably.

Expenditure

Liabilities are recognised as expenditure as soon as there is a legal or constructive obligation committing the charity to that expenditure, it is probable that settlement will be required and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably. All expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis. All expenses including support costs and governance costs are allocated or apportioned to the applicable expenditure headings.

Fixed assets

Assets costing over £300 are capitalised and depreciated as follows:

Equipment (computer & electronic)—10%-33% per annum.

Fixtures and fittings (including furniture)—10%-20% per annum.

The church and centre buildings are not reported as fixed assets in the statement of financial position; all expenditure on maintaining the buildings is recognised as an expense when incurred.

Investments

Investments are held in the statement of financial position at market value at the year end. Any change from market value at the previous reporting date or from cost if purchased during the year, is included in the Statement of Financial Activities.

Fund accounting

Restricted funds represent monies received for specific projects undertaken by the charity. General unrestricted funds of the charity are available for the general purposes of the charity.

2) Comparative of Statement of Financial Activities - 2021

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds £
Income			
Church and centre income, fundraising and donations	239,924	6,346	246,270
Investment	10,548	369	10,917
Total income	250,472	6,715	257,187
Expenditure			
Charitable activities	210,658	9,865	220,523
Total expenditure	210,658	9,865	220,523
Unrealised gains on investments	33,438	916	34,354
Transfers	396	(396)	0
Net movement in funds	73,648	(2,630)	71,018
Fund balances brought forward	429,496	55,012	484,508
Fund balances carried forward at 31 December 2021	503,144	52,382	555,526

3) Income from unrestricted funds

	Note	2022 £	2021 £
Income from church activities	11	99,446	104,169
Income from centre activities	12	91,113	85,150
Income: Property Fund	13	12,881	10,482
Income: Outreach Fund	17	8,075	8,463
Income: Big 'Our Church' Project	16	0	1,930
Income: Organ Fund	14	40,984	40,185
Other income		167	93
Total income from unrestricted funds		252,666	250,472

4) Income and expenditure on unrestricted funds

	Note	2022 £	2021 £
Deficit on church activities ((£9,985) - depreciation of church assets and equipment £7,973)	11	(17,958)	(8,337)
Deficit on centre activities ((£14,604) - depreciation of centre assets £823)	12	(15,427)	(116)
Property fund: investment income	13	12,881	10,482
Outreach fund (income less expenditure)	17	66	1,276
Income over expenditure on church and centre activities		(20,438)	3,305
Other income (net of expenditure):			
Organ fund	14	3,813	39,183
Big 'Our Church' Project	16	0	(2,674)
Total income over expenditure on unrestricted funds		(16,625)	39,814

5) Staff costs

	2022 £	2021 £
Salaries (including pensions)	44,452	56,930
Social security costs	0	0
	<u>44,452</u>	<u>56,930</u>
	No.	No.
Staff	<u>4</u>	<u>4</u>

6) Revaluation of investments

	2022 £	2021 £
(Decrease)/increase in market value of Charifund investments during year (unrestricted funds)	<u>(12,371)</u>	<u>33,438</u>
	<u>(12,371)</u>	<u>33,438</u>

7) Tangible fixed assets

	Centre Assets £	Church Equipment £	Church Assets £	Total £
Cost				
At 1 January 2022	66,687	83,478	22,339	172,504
Additions	0	0	0	0
At 31 December 2022	66,687	83,478	22,339	172,504
Accumulated Depreciation				
At 1 January 2022	63,162	30,283	22,247	115,692
Charge for the year	823	7,881	92	8,796
At 31 December 2022	63,985	38,164	22,339	124,488
Net Book Value				
At 31 December 2022	2,702	45,314	0	48,016
At 31 December 2021	3,525	53,195	92	56,812

Church equipment includes the audio visual system in the church, purchased in 2018.

8) Debtors

	2022 £	2021 £
Centre rent and other income owing	6,727	7,150
Gift aid tax recoverable	2,545	2,002
Christmas market advances	(0)	(180)
	9,272	8,972

9) Funds as at 31 December 2022

	Note	Closing Balance £	Unrestricted £	Restricted £
St. Mildred's fund	10	81,165	81,165	
Property fund	13	192,344	192,344	
Organ fund	14	96,402	96,402	
Outreach fund	17	46,294	46,294	
Big 'Our Church' Project	16	0	0	
Fabric fund	15	19,927	9,927	10,000
Organ scholarship fund		15,265		15,265
Flower fund		2,980		2,980
Centre assets	7	2,702	2,702	
Church equipment	7	45,314	45,314	
Church assets	7	0	0	
Funds for Associated Accounts				
Drop-in for homeless	18	20,573		20,573
Choir association	18	2,172		2,172
Ladies choir	18	190		190
Toddlers group	18	308		308
		525,636	474,148	51,488

10) St. Mildred's Fund

St. Mildred's fund is for the general upkeep and running of the church and centre.

	Note	2022 £	2021 £
Fund at 1 January		105,754	104,690
Transfer from Big 'Our Church' Project fund	16	0	326
Transfer from Sunday School fund	18	0	396
Deficit on church activities	11	(9,985)	(364)
(Deficit)/surplus on centre activities	12	(14,604)	706
Fund at 31 December		81,165	105,754

11) Church activities (for information only)

	2022 £	2021 £
Income		
Pledged giving	60,551	58,801
Non-pledged giving	5,893	5,826
Gift aid tax refund	14,735	14,172
Church rent	10,856	8,527
Baptisms weddings funerals	2,989	2,646
Donations and other	3,022	2,187
Diocese support – utility costs	1,400	0
Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme	0	12,010
Total income	99,446	104,169
Expenditure		
Parish Support Fund pledge ¹	60,000	55,000
Heat, light & water	9,458	8,090
Church repairs	1,902	479
Choir music, organ and organist	6,803	6,629
Printing and other administration (incl. website)	10,103	8,686
Parish office wages	10,176	17,667
Altar sundries and clergy expenses	2,084	788
Insurance	3,547	3,380
Baptisms weddings funerals costs	1,498	1,254
Other church expenditure	3,860	2,560
Total expenditure	109,431	104,533
Deficit on church activities for the year	(9,985)	(364)

¹ The Diocese Parish Support Fund self-financing pledge in 2022 was £81,900 (2021 - £80,300).

12) Centre activities (for information only)

	2022	2021
	£	£
Income		
Centre rent	79,713	61,001
Flat rent	11,400	9,775
Site development donations	0	234
Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme	0	14,140
Total income	91,113	85,150
Expenditure		
Routine maintenance	12,359	10,915
Cleaning	14,946	10,885
Heat, light & water	21,095	18,383
Staff costs	30,028	35,249
Insurance	3,547	3,380
Administration costs	3,175	4,492
Centre repairs	20,567	1,140
Total expenditure	105,717	84,444
(Deficit)/surplus on centre activities for the year	(14,604)	706

13) Property Fund

This fund includes amounts set aside for the future purchase of a property. Those amounts are invested in Charifund income units.

	2022	2021
	£	£
Fund at 1 January	191,741	155,247
Income: Dividends and interest	12,881	10,482
(Decrease)/increase in value of Charifund investments	(12,278)	26,012
Fund at 31 December	192,344	191,741

14) Organ Fund

This fund includes amounts donated, raised and designated for the restoration of the organ. A 15% deposit was paid in 2020 and a further payment was made in 2022 on commencement of the restoration.

	2022	2021
	£	£
Fund at 1 January	92,589	53,406
Income: donations and fundraising (plus gift aid)	36,839	40,185
Interest	1,123	0
Christmas market 2022	3,022	0
	40,984	40,185
Used for: organ restoration	(37,171)	(1,002)
Fund at 31 December	96,402	92,589

15) Fabric Fund

This fund was established with a legacy from James Arthur Diplock. £10,000, representing the original capital, is to remain untouched except in the event of a major unforeseen emergency. £5,000 of the original capital is invested in Charifund accumulation units (market value on 31 December 2022 £46,314).

	2022 £	2021 £
Fund at 1 January	20,020	12,594
(Decrease)/increase in value of investments during year	(93)	7,426
Fund at 31 December	19,927	20,020
Of which:		
Unrestricted	9,927	10,020
Restricted - original legacy	10,000	10,000

16) Big 'Our Church' Project

This project was launched to redecorate the church and replace the wiring, lighting, stage, choir stalls and audio visual system. The work was largely completed in 2018, with additional work done on the vicar's vestry and flower vestry in 2019 and the choir stalls installed in 2020. The project was funded through donations, grants, the sale of Charifund income units and part of the proceeds from the sale of 13 Selwood Road.

	2022 £	2021 £
Fund at 1 January	0	3,000
Income		
Big 'Our Church' Project donations (plus gift aid)	0	1,930
Transfer to St. Mildred's fund	(0)	(326)
Used for Big 'Our Church' project expenditure		
Church decorating, lighting, rewiring, stage	0	4,604
Fund at 31 December	0	0

17) Outreach Fund

This fund is for use for outreach (see below). The fund includes amounts received in 2022 that will be spent in the future.

	2022 £	2021 £
Fund at 1 January	46,228	44,952
Income		
Donations – St. Mildred's Community Garden	503	705
Donations – Children's Society	282	302
Donations – St. Mildred's Christmas lunch	700	0
Donations – St. Mildred's eat/heat project	2,651	0
Donations – St. Mildred's warm hub	125	0
Donations – Christian Aid	1,567	0
Donations – Bishops Lent Appeal	1,103	740
Donations – Mothers Union Appeal	0	590
Donations – Shrublands Food Bank	0	375
Donations – Croydon Refugee Day Centre	0	690
Patronal festival – Croydon Samaritans and Unicef	417	0
Christmas market – MIND	220	0
Christmas pantomime – Daniel Spargo-Mabbs Foundation	507	0
Diocese grant – St. Mildred's Community Garden	0	5,000
Other	0	61
Total income	8,075	8,463
Used for:		
WOW church	493	688
St. Mildred's Community Garden	1,789	3,570
Children's Society	282	302
St. Mildred's Christmas lunch	251	0
St. Mildred's eat/heat project	1,250	0
Christian Aid	1,567	0
Bishops Lent Appeal	1,233	901
Croydon Samaritans	202	0
Unicef Africa	215	0
Daniel Spargo-Mabbs Foundation	507	0
MIND	220	0
Mothers Union Appeal	0	590
Shrublands Food Bank	0	375
Croydon Refugee Day Centre	0	700
Other	0	61
Amounts used for donations and outreach	8,009	7,187
Fund at 31 December	46,294	46,228

18) Associated Accounts

	2022		2021	
	£	£	£	£
ST MILDRED'S DROP-IN FOR THE HOMELESS				
Opening balance		20,726		22,085
Income: donations	650	650	15	15
Expenditure:				
Food	(783)		(0)	
Clothes and other costs	(20)		(374)	
Donation – Croydon Refugee Day Centre	(0)	(803)	(1,000)	(1,374)
Closing balance at 31 December		20,573		20,726
SUNDAY SCHOOL				
Opening balance		0		421
Expenditure	(0)		(25)	
Transfer to St. Mildred's Fund	(0)	(0)	(396)	(421)
Closing balance at 31 December		0		0
CHOIR ASSOCIATION				
Opening balance		2,739		5,024
Income	7,926		5,763	
Expenditure	(8,493)	(567)	(8,048)	(2,285)
Closing balance at 31 December		2,172		2,739
LADIES CHOIR				
Opening balance		220		220
Income	0		0	
Expenditure	(30)	(30)	(0)	0
Closing balance at 31 December		190		220
TODDLERS GROUP				
Opening balance		439		693
Income	890		165	
Expenditure	(1021)	(131)	(419)	(254)
Closing balance at 31 December		308		439

Accounts



ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING
SUNDAY 1st MAY 2022 10AM AT ST. MILDRED'S CHURCH

**INCLUDING ANNUAL REPORT
AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
OF THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL**

For the year ended 31st December 2021

'We seek to be an open and loving church, growing in faith and confidence and joyfully sharing God's love with all'

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AGENDA

1. Apologies
2. Election of Churchwardens
3. Election of representatives to Deanery Synod – 4 members
4. Election of the Parochial Church Council (PCC): 12 members
5. Election of Sidespersons and Deputy Churchwardens
6. Minutes of the Easter Vestry Meeting and Annual Parochial Church Meeting of 25th April 2021 (for years 2020 and 2021)
7. Matters Arising from the Minutes
8. Presentation of the Electoral Roll
9. Achievements and performance including report on fabric, goods and ornaments of the church, working group reports and Deanery Synod report
10. Finance Report and Presentation of Accounts
11. Appointment of Independent Examiner
12. Church Wardens Remarks
13. Any Other Business – **this must be notified in writing to the PPC Secretary at least 24 hours before the meeting**
14. Vicar's Report

**St Mildred's Parish Church
Minutes of the Annual Vestry Meeting and
Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM) for 2020**

Held on Sunday 25 April 2021 in Church

1. Welcome and Introduction

Roger welcomed everyone to the Easter Vestry meeting.

Roger explained that, although it was sadly not possible to hold the APCM in 2020 due to Covid-19 restrictions, it was still necessary for the annual meeting to be held. St Mildred's church is a charity and, as such, must comply with Charity Law and Synodical regulations. The date for the meeting was postponed by one week due to the death of the Duke of Edinburgh.

2. Apologies

Apologies for absence were received from Adrienne Solomon, Matt Webb, Pat Howard, Sharon and John Collins, Paul Smee, Stephen Philcox and Colin Simonds.

3. Election of Churchwardens

Roger reported that nominations had been received from Linda Monk and Steve Chapman. Roger asked if there were any further nominations from the floor. As there were none forthcoming, Roger said that it gave him great pleasure in declaring Linda Monk and Steve Chapman duly elected.

Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM)

4. Elections of Representatives to Deanery Synod

Nominations were received from Richard Morrall, Patricia Howard and Warren Hall.

Roger thanked Richard, Patricia and Warren and congratulated them on their election.

5. Elections of the Parochial Church Council (PCC)

Nominations had been received from Helen Medland, Chris Hatton, Richard Mander, Janet Palmer, Jan Rutter, Graeme Monk, Griselda Wireko-Brobby, Matt Webb and Judy Bennett. Roger said that Helen, Chris, Richard, Janet, Jan, Graeme, Griselda, Matt and Judy were duly elected to serve on PCC for 2020/21.

6. Election of Sidespersons and Deputy Churchwardens

The following members were elected as Sidespersons for the year 2019/20:
Matthew Hagon, Lucy Cogle, Kwad Appianing, Sharon Collins, Patrina Buchanan, Kathy Rooke, Georgina De Mendoza, Barbara Broughton, Pam Medland, Suzanne

Barnes, Kieron Chapman, Jeff Fleischer, Elizabeth Fleischer, Stephen Philcox, Paul Smees, Janice Rutter, Rona MacDonald, Jack Medland, Joy Morrall, Richard Morrall, and Audrey Marshall.

Proposed by Stephen Chapman, seconded by Linda Monk.

The following were elected as Deputy Churchwardens for the year 2019/20: Fred Demay, Graeme Monk, Eileen Chapman, Janet Palmer and Steve Smith. Proposed by Steve Chapman, seconded by Linda Monk.

7. Minutes of the Easter Vestry Meeting and Annual Parochial Church Meeting of 7 April 2019

The minutes were agreed to be a true record. This was proposed by Roger Hagon, seconded by Margaret Simmonds. Roger said that if anyone had any amendments they should let Judy Bennett know.

Roger thanked Judy Bennett for compiling the minutes of the 2018 APCM.

8. Matters Arising from the Minutes

There were no matters arising not covered elsewhere on the agenda.

9. Presentation of the Electoral Roll

Rona McDonald reported that the number on the Electoral Roll stood at 157 in 2020. This is a decrease of 4 on 2019.

Roger thanked Rona for completing the Electoral Roll.

10. Report on fabric, goods and ornaments of the church 2020

Steve Chapman said that the report for 2020 would be incorporated into that for 2021.

11. Finance Report and Presentation of the Accounts

The accounts for 2019 were presented by Richard Morrall. Richard gave apologies for Colin Simonds as he was unable to attend the meeting due to a change of date.

Richard reported that the proceeds from the sale of 13 Selwood Road were invested in Charifund shares and the CCLA Deposit Account. A property fund has been set up with a view to purchasing a property. Income from unrestricted and restricted funds totalled £299,664 in 2019 compared to £478,511 in 2018 as a result of the movement of funds to support the Big Our Church Project. The balance carried forward as at 31 December 2019 was £607,874. The Parish Support Fund pledge of £78,600 was paid in full.

Overall, 2019 was a good year financially but it cannot be compared to 2018 as there was considerable variation resulting from the Big Our Church Project.

12. Appointment of Independent Examiner

The appointment of Osbert Klass as Independent Examiner was proposed by Roger Hagon, seconded by Chris Simmonds.

A letter of thanks will be sent to Osbert Klass.

ACTION: Judy Bennett

13. Any Other Business

There was none.

St Mildred's Parish Church Minutes of the Annual Vestry Meeting and Annual Parochial Church Meeting

Held on Sunday 25 April 2021 in Church

1. Welcome and Introduction

Roger welcomed everyone to the Easter Vestry meeting for 2021.

1. Apologies

Apologies for absence were received from Adrienne Solomon, Matt Webb, Patricia Howard, Sharon and John Collins, Paul Smee, Stephen Philcox and Colin Simonds.

2. Election of Churchwardens

Roger reported that nominations had been received from Janet Palmer and Steve Chapman. Roger asked if there were any further nominations from the floor. As there were none forthcoming, Roger said that it gave him great pleasure in declaring Janet Palmer and Steve Chapman duly elected.

Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM)

3. Election of Representatives to Deanery Synod

Nominations were received from Richard Morrall, Patricia Howard and Warren Hall.

Roger said that St Mildred's allocation is four members and asked if there were any nominations from the floor. There being no further nominations, Roger thanked Richard, Patricia and Warren and congratulated them on their election.

4. Election of the Parochial Church Council (PCC)

Nominations were received from Elizabeth Fleischer, Alan Griffiths, Chris Hatton, Alice Kawoya, Jenny Nicholls and Stephen Philcox. Roger reported that St Mildred's allocation is twelve members of PCC and asked if there were any further nominations from the floor. There being none, Roger congratulated

Elizabeth, Alan, Chris, Alice, Jenny and Stephen on their election to serve on PCC for 2021/22.

Steve Chapman said that Colin Simonds, Richard Mander and Judy Bennett will be co-opted on to the PCC at its first meeting in May.

5. Election of Sidespersons and Deputy Churchwardens

The following members were elected as Sidespersons for the year 2021/22: Rona Macdonald, Jeff Fleischer, Elizabeth Fleischer, Paul Smee, Grizelda Wireko-Brobby, Brenda Hardstaff, Kathy Rooke, Pat Nicholls, Joy Morrall, Richard Morrall, Alice Kawoya, Sharon Collins, Matthew Hagon, Pam Medland, Stephen Philcox, Kieron Chapman, Janice Rutter Audrey Marshall and Georgina De-Mendoza. Proposed by Linda Monk, seconded by Steve Chapman.

The following were elected as Deputy Churchwardens for the year 2021/22: Barbara Broughton, Eileen Chapman, Lucy Cogle, Graeme Monk and Linda Monk. Proposed by Linda Monk, seconded by Steve Chapman.

Roger declared that they were all elected to the Welcoming Team and said that their work is much appreciated.

6. Minutes of the Easter Vestry Meeting and Annual Parochial Church Meeting for the Year Ended 31st December 2020

These minutes will be tabled at the APCM for 2021.

7. Presentation of the Electoral Roll

Rona Macdonald reported that the number on the Electoral Roll is 153. This is a decrease of 4 on 2020. Sadly, a number of members have died, and others have moved away.

Rona suggested that the telephone numbers and email addresses of those on the Electoral Roll be stored on a database so that members can be contacted as necessary. This is the practice of many churches.

This proposal will be discussed at a forthcoming PCC meeting.

ACTION: Roger Hagon, Judy Bennett

8. Team Reports including Report on fabric, goods and ornaments of the church

Steve Chapman reported that it had been a year of progress, demonstrating the adaptability of the church community. The choirstalls were delivered in November. Steve thanked Matt Webb and Richard Mander. St Mildred's services were livestreamed from November and Steve thanked the St Mildred's Online team – Matt Webb, Pat Howard, Bud Hagon and Kieron Chapman. The boiler was repaired and an alarm fitted in January 2020 following flooding of the boiler room. There has been no repeat this year. The quinquennial inspection took place in the Autumn. No major issues were identified. The Archdeacon's visitation is scheduled to take place later this year.

Roger commended the reports from the various teams and organisations associated with St Mildred's which were compiled by Jan Stead. Each organisation was asked to write about last year and their hopes for the future. The reports give an interesting picture of how groups weathered the storm of Covid19 and show the very good work going on behind the scenes.

9. Presentation of the 2020 Accounts

The accounts for 2020 were presented by Richard Morrall. Richard gave apologies for Colin Simonds as he was unable to attend the meeting due to a change of date.

Richard reported that the year had started well with the Church and Centre being used to the maximum. All of this came to a halt in March with the introduction of the coronavirus Lockdown. Since that time the Church and Centre have been either fully closed or only partially open. The Lockdown had a major impact on St Mildred's finances. Centre and casual income ceased for much of the time. Total income fell from approximately £300k in 2019 to about £185k in 2020. Centre income fell by about £77k and Church income by about £11k. The value of the Charifund shares also decreased. The balance carried forward was £484,508 in 2020 compared to £607,874 in 2019.

Action was taken to minimise financial risks. All staff were put onto the furlough scheme and as many contracts as possible were cancelled. With these measures in place, and the continued financial support of the congregation, St Mildred's was able to meet its running costs for 2020. The Parish Support Fund pledge for 2020 amounted to £40,600 which is half what St Mildred's would pay if it were a self-supporting parish. The Parish Support Fund is used by Southwark Diocese to cover ministry, training and support costs. It is important that St Mildred's shows its commitment to the Diocese by being a self-supporting parish. For 2021 the Parish Support Fund pledge is budgeted to be £30k which is £50k below the self-financing figure. This has been agreed after discussions with the Diocese.

The CCLA deposit account amounted to approximately £126k at the end of 2020. It includes money retained from the sale of 13 Selwood Road, donations to the Organ Fund and money retained for the completion of the Big Our Church Project.

Richard thanked those who give regularly to St Mildred's. Online pledged giving increased in 2020. He asked everyone to review their regular giving commitments to support St Mildred's. Despite the difficult year the church was still able to make a donation to various charitable organisations such as Croydon Voluntary Action food bank, Croydon Women's refuge. the Church Missionary Society and Lives not Knives.

In conclusion, Richard thanked the members of the Finance Team. The accounts were approved by the PCC and by the Independent Examiner Osbert Klass.

10. Appointment of Independent Examiner

The appointment of Osbert Klass as Independent Examiner was proposed by Roger Hagon, seconded by Chris Simmons.

A letter of thanks will be sent to Osbert Klass.

ACTION: Judy Bennett

11. Church Wardens Remarks

Steve Chapman thanked Linda and Graeme for their work as Churchwardens over the last year, saying that they have ensured the safety and care of everyone coming into the building. He said that we are enormously grateful for what they have done. Steve thanked Roger for his leadership over the last fourteen months, probably the most challenging time since the foundation of St Mildred's in 1932. He presented Roger with a card and gift to mark ten years as incumbent. Steve thanked Marie King for her prayerful support, guidance and wisdom. He congratulated Jane Ward on her appointment as a Southwark Pastoral Auxiliary.

Steve Chapman concluded his remarks by welcoming Janet Palmer as Churchwarden, saying that he looked forward to working with her. Despite the challenges the church community has demonstrated its ability to adapt to changes in circumstances and come through stronger.

12. Any Other Business

There was none.

13. Vicar's Sermon and Report

Roger gave his sermon and report, copies of which were circulated at the meeting.

Roger said that his sermon starts in a spirit of gratitude. He thanked everyone for attending and for keeping things going in a spirit of faith, hope and love. In particular, he thanked Linda and Graeme Monk and Steve Chapman, for their utmost dedication to God and St Mildred's, and Richard Morrall for keeping us all safe in the ever-changing landscape of government and church regulations.

St Mildred's is coming back to life after a period of enforced hibernation. 2021 is a new beginning. We have lost several church members; some of whom have moved away, others have died. Liz Seal's death brought to an end a wonderful chapter of pastoral care and she is greatly missed. Last year the Centre shut down and was empty most of the time. The Sunday School did not meet and the Choir and Worship Band were only able to meet via Zoom. Our first priority is to help the Choir and Worship Band to return as soon as possible. Our financial situation is critical. We have not been able to give as generously as in the past or meet our obligations to the Diocesan Parish Support Fund.

But 'coming back to life' is the message of Spring and 'in Christ you have a new beginning' is the message of Easter. There are signs of these all around us. A new ministry leadership team has been formed consisting of Roger, Marie King, Jane Ward and Steve Chapman. During the year we continued to supply food for

Croydon Food Bank. The new Sunday School team launched Millies Mountaineers, providing activity boxes for children who come to services. Richard Mander, the Director of Music, has led a team for the restoration of the West End organ and a contract has been signed for this work to begin. Inspirational online worship has become weekly, facilitated by a new 'St Mildred's Online' group led by Matt Webb.

Roger charged the newly-elected PCC and all members the congregation to join him in the work of re-building St Mildred's as a worshipping, caring, mission minded, generous and growing people. It cannot all be done in one day. The whole year will be a steady 'coming back to life'. The PCC will be setting priorities. A season of recovery is planned. From September, normal services will resume including the 8am service and Choral Evensong.

The meeting ended with everyone joining Roger in saying an 'Act of Commitment' to St Mildred's.

AIMS, OBJECTIVES AND PRINCIPAL ACTIVITIES

The Parochial Church Council of St. Mildred's (the PCC) has the responsibility of co-operating with the incumbent in promoting in the ecclesiastical parish the whole mission of the church: pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical. The PCC is a corporate body established by the Church of England. The PCC operates under the Parochial Church Council Powers Measure and is a registered charity no 1133737. PCC members are responsible for making decisions on all matters of general concern and importance to the parish, including deciding on how the funds of the PCC are to be spent. The Trustees have had due regard to the Charity Commissions' guidance under Charities Act 2011 on public benefit when considering the Charity's objectives and activities.

ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE

Report on the Fabric, Goods and Ornamentations of the Church

In 2021, it was a delight to return to church after 12 months of lock-down and restricted opening. Together we are now able to enjoy the benefits of all the work that was undertaken as part of the Big Our Church Project. We are indebted to Matt, and the "tech-team" for streaming our services live, and helping the St Mildred's Community to stay in touch, over one of the most challenging periods of our recent history.

In 2021 we were delighted to commission the new choir-stalls, bringing the works undertaken as part of the Big Our Church Project to a conclusion. Plans are now well advanced for the renovation of our West end organ, with on-site work currently scheduled to begin in 2024.

The most recent Quinquennial inspection was completed in October 2020 and there were no works identified, that required our immediate attention

The inventory of the goods and ornaments was completed in March 2022, and everything was found to be in good order. We would like to thank Alan, for all he has done to successfully complete this task

There was no Archdeacon's inspection in 2021, as a result of the Covid pandemic. The next visitation is scheduled for May 2022.

Churchwardens

Working Group Reports

Baptism

The Baptism team haven't had a meeting this year but we have supported Roger at Baptism Services. In 2021 we had 4 Baptisms. Going forward there have been 3 to date with several booked for later in the year. Claire Webb has stepped down from the team, however, Rona MacDonald and Donna Oliver have joined the team. We are looking to meet in early May.

Eileen Chapman

The Centre

2021 was a huge challenge. At the beginning of the year the Centre was virtually closed, with only a few children's education/childcare organisations able to operate. By the summer we had partially opened but in a very restrictive way with limited staffing, limited hall access and reduced resources. We did however successfully manage a large booking with NCS (National Citizens Service) to run a programme for 60 teenagers on site for 6 weeks during the summer holidays – They have since rebooked for summer 2022.

As we were allowed, because of the easing of Covid restrictions, we slowly increased the number of groups on site and consequently the support infrastructure such as gardeners, cleaners, and staffing, that facilitated the increased usage. It has been a difficult balancing act; keeping costs in check whilst steadily increasing Centre visitors.

However, out of great challenges can come the seeds of opportunity, and it was during the 'quiet time' at the beginning of 2021 that we had an idea and wrote an application for funding to establish a community garden at St. Mildred's. Despite lots of competition, we were successful; the first planters were delivered and constructed at the beginning of September. Since then, our gardening groups, together with the help of some of our Centre groups and the Pre-School have worked to build the garden which will finally (fingers crossed) open to the public Spring 2022.

By the end of the year, things had improved enough, that the Centre together with the Church were able to organise a live nativity production, with real Donkeys, a Santa and performances by the Osiris Children's choir and the Rock project. So many people came, that there were large queues for the donkey rides and the Church was completely full, (not a spare seat anywhere!). Such a profound difference to the beginning of the year and a wonderful way to begin to look forward to a recovery in 2022

As ever, a huge thank you to all our volunteers, who help look after the Centre, the garden, lock up during the week and after weekend events. We really couldn't manage without you.

Leander Garner

Mission Outreach

A new team was formed last May to begin to give practical expression to our Mission Statement – 'serving the community in the love of Christ' through a variety of projects, special events and ongoing support following Lockdown. We focussed on the four main areas of a Community Garden, Homelessness, Christian Aid and the Centre, as well as listing Fairtrade Fortnight, Prisoners' Week and the Children's Society as annual events that we wanted to support. We have also begun to explore linking St. Mildred's with a parish in Central Zimbabwe which was included in the priorities in our 'Coming out of Lockdown' vision statement. Highlights of our work so far have included the setting up a permanent notice board at the back of church, getting our Community Garden started (funded by a Croydon Area Mission Grant) which has successfully brought together many local people who had no previous connection with our church, organizing and presenting a well-attended Christingle Service with a re-launch of the collection box scheme, and holding an interesting PCC meeting at which we discussed the idea of a Parish Link with Central Zimbabwe.

Pastoral Care Steering Group

“The Staying in Touch” initiative was developed in response to concerns from members of the congregation that we should be more aware of when people are ill and may need help. We realised that certain groups such as the Choir, Mothers Union and Home Groups were doing a very good job of supporting their members, but people were falling in between these groups. Roger our vicar invited several church members to form a steering group.

The steering group designed how the initiative would work and what paperwork was needed and invited members of the congregation to be supporters then we asked the congregation to fill in application forms if they wished to be supported. These members were then allocated their supporters by the steering group in a prayerful way. Cards were given to these people by their supporters reinforcing what the scheme can and cannot provide. We have also had a few more church members apply to be supported since. We currently have eleven members in our team of supporters. They are currently supporting twenty-two members of our congregation. The steering group and supporters meet quarterly to discuss how the scheme is working and constantly support each other in this work. We hope that members of our congregation feel more supported and know that they are valued members of St. Mildred’s family.

Elizabeth Fleischer

Organ Restoration Project

In spite of the pandemic, the organ restoration has continued apace over the last year. Following the contract signing in December 2020, we are currently awaiting the availability of Nicholson’s, who will commence the work in autumn 2023.

This lead time has enabled us to continue fundraising, with a target of £300,000. I’m very pleased to say that, including all known pledges, we are currently at approximately £212,000. Having this platform this well in advance of the project conclusion seemed a distant dream two years ago, and we continue with the push to complete the fundraising before the project completes.

We are assured of an exceptional instrument at the end of this project, which will enhance St Mildred’s within our community as well as serving our church for many decades to come.

Richard Mander

Property

During 2021, the property committee did not formally meet due to the pandemic and the low number of issues that needed attention following the 2018 Big Our Church Project. The project was formally completed during the year, with the resolution of the Stone Ambulatory flooring and final inspection in the Summer. One issue was subsequently identified with warping of the Lady Chapel ramp, and this was quickly resolved by Riverside, our Principle contractor for the works.

The Audio system and associated computer network was partially upgraded during the year to provide additional facilities for streaming our services, and a failed amplifier was replaced under warrantee.

Finally, our inspecting architect, Daniel Golberg retired in the year, and we commenced the selection process for a new Architect. We wish to extend our thanks to Daniel in his many years of assistance to St Mildred's.

Matt Webb

Social Events

The team began to meet again in November and decided to 'start small' following Lockdown with a 'St. Mildred's at the Movies' film afternoon in the New Year. This was planned for January but had to be delayed to the end of February due to ongoing Covid restrictions. The congregation was canvassed for a film choice and Mary Poppins came out on top! Although numbers were relatively low (25) a happy afternoon was had by everyone. We decided to ask for new members to join the team and successfully recruited Donna, Meadow and Judy. We are delighted that Emily has agreed to give a lead on re-establishing our Christmas Market which we are planning to hold later this year on Saturday 3rd December – put the date in your diary today! Other ideas for future events include Film Nights, Line Dancing and assisting with the celebrations for the Queen's Platinum Jubilee which will be held on Sunday 5th June.

Roger Hagon

St. Mildred's Online

2021 streaming in numbers:

- ☐ 66 services streamed
- ☐ 55 Subscribers
- ☐ 5203 views of our channel
- ☐ 950 hours spent watching our services

The streaming of live services at St Mildred's continued from its beginnings late in 2020, and was an established part of St Mildred's when we hit the second lockdown early in 2021, providing a much valued link to our community when we could not meet in person. With a lot of help from Roger and Richard, we produced recorded services for our Ash Wednesday, Maundy Thursday and Good Friday services, shared music from the Worship Band (thanks David) and the Choir (thanks Richard) and evolved from the strange experience of our live services without a congregation back to some sense of normality in the second half of the year.

During the lockdown, we had on average 50 unique viewers per service – half watching it live, and half choosing to watch it later. As expected, viewing numbers reduced since restrictions eased. However in the second half of the year, we still saw an average of 30 unique viewers per service with 7 of those watching it live showing there is still very much a demand for the streams - It is also clear from the numbers that many people continue to watch the services more than once! Our most viewed service of the year was actually the Nine Lessons and Carols in December, closely followed by Ash Wednesday and Mothering Sunday, both during lockdown.

During the year, the team has grown with Kyle and Lilly joining us, and we have said a farewell to Bud who helped so much throughout the year. We have upgraded our cameras and sound interfaces as we learned more about what was needed, and we also commissioned a live video link to the small hall for the

Scramblers return in the Autumn. With the help of Meg, we developed the Church web site to better reflect the available streams and links to our YouTube site, we have extended our live streaming to the memorial garden and introduced our popular Organ camera (which I must also thank our Organists for allowing us to do).

Looking in to 2022, we will continue to meet our mission in allowing those who cannot attend church in person to participate in worship at St Mildred's, and also reaching out to the wider community by covering a wider range of services and events in Church. We would very much enjoy having new members to help in our mission. No previous experience necessary - the only requirement is a sense of adventure!

And finally my thanks has to go to the streaming team for the many, many pages of subtitles, the ability to cope with technical issues and constant good humour and support!

Matt Webb

Sunday School - Millies Mountaineers

In April 2021 Roger decided to relaunch our Sunday School as Millies Mountaineers. It would be divided into two sections; Scramblers for pre school children and Climbers for primary school children. Due to covid restrictions we started with boxes for the children to take into church. These proved to be very popular.

We opened in September with a Welcome Party which was enjoyed by all. Since then we have followed a programme working with Roger. The Scramblers with their parents meet in the Small Hall where the Tech team have set up a TV so the parents can follow the service. There are books, toys and an activity for those children who are keen to make something. Initially, Charlotte, Chris and Eileen ran Scramblers but have been delighted to welcome Scramblers own team of Donna, Elizabeth and Helen. Although, they run Scramblers, they are very much part of the Mountaineers Team.

Nikki, Jane, Charlotte, Chris, Sophie, Rebecca and Eileen run Climbers on a rota with at least two adults per session. We have a WhatsApp page and all our activities are posted for the parents to see. We have put displays in the Large Hall for the congregation to see during coffee. We started off with a few regulars we are now seeing an increase in numbers in both Scramblers and Climbers. We did provide the boxes at Christmas with age related activities for the children to make during the service. All the leaders meet regularly and are looking at new ideas going forward.

Eileen Chapman

Youth Ministry (Without Walls Church)

Throughout 2021 WOWChurch has continued to post videos and content across Facebook, Twitter, Instagram and on the WOWChurch website. Linking (where relevant), to St. Mildred's Church, The Diocese of Southwark, and the Mothers Union. In total we currently have 409 individual followers of our content.

Throughout 2021 - even though the Centre was closed for much of the year - WOWChurch continued to bring hope, love (and sometimes laughter) to over 400 people's social media accounts. Thanks to Meg Simmonds for all her help keeping the content current, relevant, and faithful.

We are currently seeking help from someone with an interest in social media, who would like to help us develop WOWChurch across all social media platforms by creating new content, connecting with other organisations, whilst furthering the WOWChurch mission of 'Creating an online community, centred on Jesus and Gospel values, that bring people together free from the barriers of geography'.

This would be great work experience to add to a CV for anyone hoping for a career in marketing or social media. It would also be a fun and rewarding thing to be part of, if you are familiar with Facebook, Twitter and Instagram and have some free time during the week. If you'd like to know more, just contact me at the Parish Office.

Leander Garner

Parish Organisations Reports

ANCA

Clearly, these have been both difficult, and trying, times for everybody; and not least for Groups like ANCA, who exist to provide a range of Services, for the benefit of our local people, here in the Addiscombe area.

Naturally, during all the “Restrictions” of this Pandemic, the Church Centre, here at St. Mildred’s, had been close down; and with that, we were unable to operate our “Extend” Exercise Classes, or our Lunch Clubs, which are based here. Likewise, we were unable to take Groups of clients, on our Shopping Buses, with Dial-a-Ride.

Fortunately, I was able to access our ANCA Office, throughout, (safely); in order to keep overseeing, and responding to, whatever we might still be able to do. Consequently I was able to monitor any ansaphone messages, or e-mails, along with telephone calls; whether from clients directly, or other Agencies, referring.

We are pleased to say things have improved, as follows:- I keep telephoning round, all our Clients, on a regular basis, to ensure they are all keeping well; and to check whether they need any specific help or assistance. To that end, I have been able to get **Shopping**, for those who need it; although others were helped to get on the Government “Shielding” List; so they can get deliveries from relevant Supermarkets. We remain in discussion with Dial-a-Ride, re: our **Shopping Trips**.

I have also arranged to collect medicines, from local Pharmacies; and to go and get cash from the bank, for others.

Effectively, we were providing, what one might call a “*Fire Brigade Service*”; of responding to individual requests for assistance, as & when received from an individual; or from their Family etc.

You may remember that, previously, to replace our “**Lunch Clubs**”, I had been taking orders, from those who normally attend them, and getting “*Fish & Chip*” meals made up, which I then run around delivering to everybody; so we keep a sort of “Virtual” Lunch Club, alive and running, each week. It also means that we were making regular contact, keeping in touch with those Clients, as well. However, I am pleased to report that, we were, subsequently, able to resume our regular Lunch Clubs, here at the Centre; providing substantial, and hearty, meals to our Clients, every Monday and Tuesday; and that continues now.

While the Centre was shut down, we were unable to run our “**Extend**” **Exercise Classes** but, I was able to circulate details of various “exercise” or “keep-fit” classes, which were available “on-line”, which our clients could access and try. Again, I am pleased to report that, our “Extend” Classes have been able to resume regular Operations, since the Autumn Term, in August, 2021. In order to meet some changes, introduced by Leander, our Two Classes are, both, held on a Monday morning; rather than our, previous, Monday & Thursday mornings.

We were also, subsequently, able to resume our “**Volunteer Driver**” service; so we could keep taking clients to Doctor’s surgeries, Shirley Clinic and, in a number of cases, various hospital appointments. This remains a vital, and much appreciated, Service to our Clients

Apart from simply just checking up on our Clients, to see if they need anything, the main thrust of those calls is effectively “**Telephone Befriending**”; to

ensure the general “wellbeing” of our Clients, mentally, as well as physically, during this crisis.

We remain very fortunate, to have been lucky enough to keep the assistance of one of our existing Volunteer Drivers, Chris Simmons, who kindly agreed to take on the “role” of our Temporary Treasurer, during this difficult time. His input, experience, and commitment, throughout, has really helped us immensely.

Last year I reported that, we are currently in the middle of a *Three-Year Funding Agreement*, from Croydon Council. This was great news, as it confirmed another steady period of Financial Stability, which we could look forward to, and plan accordingly; particularly in recruiting a replacement, for my Deputy, Frances.

However, by now, most of you will be aware of the state of the Council’s own “Finances”; such that, they are effectively “Bankrupt”!!

The result of this is that Groups, like ANCA , were served with “Notice” that the Council had to “Seek Savings”; and that we were not going to get this Funding; which was originally agreed, and planned around. Subsequently, they have been obliged to “reconsider”; and, fortunately, they have continued this year’s funding. We are being led to believe, however, that they actually might also honour the remainder of our “Contract”, for the next Financial Year, 2022/2023, after all. This whole situation is extremely worrying; and nobody is at all sure, how things may work out, or what the future may bring for us all, in the years ahead.

Norman Till

27th Croydon Scout Group

As with all youth organisations during the Covid pandemic, Scouting has been subject to strict rules and regulations regarding holding meetings face to face, either outside, inside or socially distanced.

The Scout Association issued a traffic light system according to how the country was affected by Covid:

Red – no scout meetings, Amber – socially distanced meetings with strict rules in place, Yellow – meetings with less strict rules, and Green – normal indoor meetings.

Beavers

No meetings have been held since lockdown March 2020.

We are currently without a Beaver Leader, and are looking to recruit a volunteer to run this section, to ensure we continue to provide fun activities to 6 to 8 year olds in our parish and beyond.

Cubs

From January, we continued to hold our fortnightly zoom meetings while the weather was cold and our Scouting status was Amber. Our programme had an international flavour, making Djembe drums, incredible inuksks, lanterns for Chinese New Year, and frying pan pizzas.

After Easter, restrictions eased and the weather improved, we decided the intersperse our zoom meetings with outdoor ones. Online we played games, held

a Taskmaster challenge, and a best burger competition. On our outside weeks, we played games at Sparrow's Den, Bingham Park and Frylands Campsite.

By September things were virtually back to normal and we could meet in the hall. On Thursday evenings we made curry, did tie-dying, tested our senses, drew fireworks, practised first aid and made mince pies. Unfortunately, our Christmas Campfire was cancelled due to an increase in Covid cases. I still have 48 mince pies in my freezer – to be eaten at Easter!

During the October half-term we joined the scouts at Frylands Campsite for a day of activities, including tomahawk throwing, archery, assault course and orienteering.

Cubs have not been camping this year due to Covid restrictions.

My thanks to those who helped run the Cub section, especially Henry, George, Jack, and Archie.

Helen Medland

Scouts

Scouts got back together at the start of the summer term, when we could meet in person, albeit outside as we had no access to the hall. Zoom meetings don't hold much interest for teenagers, who tend to be more self-conscious on screen. As we hadn't met for over a year, we used this opportunity to invite scouts who had reached our usual leaving age of 14, so we could do some last activities together.

We joined the cubs at Frylands to cook around the campfire and play some wide games.

In September we were back to normal, meeting in the large hall once again. Thursday evening activities included making curry, pioneering, using our senses and making mince pies.

We also took part in the activity day at Frylands during October half-term. My thanks to those who helped run the Scout section, especially Howard and Helen.

***** The 27th Croydon Scout Group would welcome any new members *****
Beavers : 6-8 years - to re-start soon - looking for a new leader / adult helpers

Cubs : 8 - 10+ years Thursday 6.15 - 7.40pm

Scouts : 10+ - 14 years Thursday 7.45 - 9.15pm

Adults 18+ to help with any section on a weekly rota basis.

PLEASE CALL THE PARISH OFFICE FOR FURTHER INFORMATION.

Simon Medland

Choir

It is hugely gratifying to report another excellent year for the choir, in spite of the ongoing pandemic. After an abortive 2020 with very little scope for singing, it was by no means certain that the choir could survive as well as it has, and this is testament to the dedication of our wonderful choristers. Indeed, the choir has returned as strong as ever.

We were able to enjoy many highlights, including a choir trip to Chelmsford last July and a full Carol Service last Christmas

During August, one of our longest serving members, Dennis Jeanes, decided the time had come to retire after 55 years' brilliant service. I would like to pay tribute to Dennis's incredible contribution to music at St Mildred's, which spans more than half the lifespan of our church. Heartfelt thanks from all in St Mildred's choir Dennis!

Thanks also to all those who enable the choir and music to continue, including but by no means limited to Simon Pearce, Warren Hall, Penny Locke and all on the choir association committee.

Richard Mander

Ladies Choir

Unfortunately, 2021 resulted in no live singing events for the Ladies' Choir, as our annual World Day of Prayer service was totally on zoom or YouTube in early March, prepared by various groups in different parts of the country or even the world. It meant that we could dip into different versions and sing along at home, whilst all enjoying the same basic service from Vanuatu, with the theme 'Build on a Strong Foundation', plus the advantage of additional local music and fantastic films of the local flora and fauna.

Inevitably, all hope of transferring our spring bookings from 2020 to 2021 went by the board, with the long spring lockdown. In the summer, however, we were asked to record a specific item for the Mothers' Union celebrations of the centenary of Mary Sumner's death, Founder of MU. A few years ago, Roger Hagon had set Mary Sumner's personal prayer to music, which we had used locally and in a Southwark Cathedral MU service in 2019. It was an honour to be asked, but quite tricky to organise, as it was at the time when no more than six people could sing together. Nothing daunted, and with the marvellous assistance of Richard Mander's musical and recording skills, we achieved an amazing recording. The first stage was Richard recording six of us singing in church to his accompaniment. This was then circulated to the rest of the choir to record their own line on a phone and send back to Richard, who created the final magical mix with his technical skills. Margaret then supplied some suitable photos for Matt Webb to create the ultimate complete illustrated video, which MU head office used in their service broadcast worldwide on Mary Sumner's Day, 9th Aug, 2021. It's still on YouTube, so for once, I had to agree that technology had really come into its own, as it has increasingly for St Mildred's various services.

You still can't beat live singing, however, so it was great that a few of us were able to join in the MU Choir, singing at the belated Diocesan Festival Service in Southwark Cathedral in October, and again for the MU Diocesan Advent Service on 2nd Dec, when St Mildred's was the host church and Roger played the organ for us, with a straightforward streaming organised by Matt.

We had hoped restrictions would be lifted by Christmas, but alas, no – with the approaching threat of the Omicron variant, no groups were starting up again – in fact many, like the Unity Club, still haven't returned to normal meetings, so this year, having actually had World Day of Prayer in St Mildred's once again in early March, we have only one booking so far, for a spring programme in May for the Salvation Army 'Home League' – but more about that when reporting next year!

We owe huge thanks, of course, to Roger, Richard and Matt, for what we did achieve in a limited way last year.

St. Mildred's Drop-In

The drop-in re-opened on Sunday 3rd October 2021 after a long period of closure due to covid restrictions. We started gradually and have been increasing the number of weeks we open per month, so that from Easter we will be opening every Sunday except the second week of the month. We are not offering clothes as we did before the pandemic, and are just starting to offer showers and essential items again to those who need them.

We are currently supporting 15-20 guests per week. This is lower numbers than pre-pandemic but those who come are very grateful and we are enjoying the chance to chat to them in more depth and to get to know them better.

We would like to extend huge thanks to our amazing teams of volunteers who have stuck with us despite the long break - both those who cook hot food in advance for our guests once a month and those who come to prepare, set up, chat and clear up on Sundays.

Sally Burlington

Christmas Day Lunch

Having been unable to provide Christmas lunch in 2020, we were delighted to be able to offer it to people who would otherwise have been on their own in 2021. We served around 50 guests and were blessed to have many volunteers who helped to set up and prepare the hall and the lunch in advance, cook and serve on the day, donate food and small gifts, give lifts to our guests and clear up afterwards. We received Christmas gift boxes from St Mary's RC West Croydon and Dazzle Bags (health items like combs, toothpaste, etc). Also, food bags from NLA Church, Tooting. So many gifts that we were still giving them out in Feb!

Thank you to everyone who helped make it a special and joyful day - it was greatly appreciated.

Sally Burlington

Flower Team

Again, due to Covid 2021 was a quiet year with very few requests for fresh flower arrangements, hopefully 2022 will be better. We hope that the arrangements of quality silk flowers have helped brighten the spirits of all who enter St. Mildred's for whatever reason. We are always happy to receive requests and donations from anyone who would like a fresh special arrangement for any occasion, i.e an anniversary, in memory of a loved one or any event. Please speak to Sharon Collins if we can help.

The Flower Team consists of Marie King, Sandie Kinnard, Penny Locke, Val Lee and Sharon Collins. Unfortunately two of our 'Clan' have retired, Helen Burch our talented youngster who had such an eye for colour and shape has moved to north London but, said that she is willing to help when she visits Addiscombe in the future, and A great loss to the team is that Anita Jerome the 'Queen' of flower arrangers has decided to step down for various reasons, she is a great

loss to the team, anyone who has watched Anita at work arranging her wonderful pedestal of flowers, normally by the pulpit or the altar in the sanctuary come away in amazement and awe, also any advice passed on by her is never forgotten.

If there is anyone who would like to join the team you would be made very welcome, we have lots of laughs and chats, tea or coffee and sometimes scrummy biscuits or cake, no experience necessary we all learn from each other.

Our bank balance is healthy with donations placed in envelopes marked 'Flower Team' and placed in the secure 'Post Box' at the back of the church. During the last two years we have had little expenditure but, shortly we will be assessing the silk blooms and replacing those that are looking a little sad, a lovely excuse to visit the warehouse. What a delight, it can feel like Christmas and Birthdays rolled into one.

The Flower Team would like to thank Roger and all for their generous support and encouragement during 2021, it has been much appreciated.

Sharon Collins

Friends of St. Mildred's

"The Friends of St Mildred's" scheme was set up in 1989 to encourage all within our wider family who are united in wishing to support us in some way.

Friends was re-launched in 2013.

We draw our membership from a variety of sources:

- ✝ members of the congregation,
- ✝ users and visitors to the centre,
- ✝ those who have moved away,
- ✝ those who attend other churches or faiths,
- ✝ and those no religious affiliation.

We offer people the opportunity to tailor make their involvement, so the forms include the following options:

- ✝ receiving our magazine - the 'Parish Post' (10 issues per year) - including a variety of options on how to receive their copy
- ✝ receiving information about special children's events.
- ✝ receiving information about special musical events.
- ✝ receiving information about special events (eg social events, quiz nights, Christmas Fair etc. etc.).
- ✝ receiving invitations to special services (eg Memorial services, Pet Blessing services, the Patronal Festival when the Friends of St Mildred's will be specifically included in our prayers, etc. etc.).

Cost? £25 with the proviso that it is 'suggested'. We are aware that some people already support St Mildred's via planned giving and may not wish to pay any more; so, we are very grateful for any donations whether bigger or smaller than that suggested.

A gift aid facility is included.

The form also includes information on how specific concerns (prayer requests etc) can be dealt with via the Parish Pastoral team. Each member, and those

family members they nominate on their form, is included in the regular intercessions each week.

Each year, we hope to continue to expand our membership by including forms with various application packs eg weddings, baptisms and Centre bookings

During 2021 around 30 households joined – raising over £800 for church funds.

Margaret Simmons

Home and Lent Groups

Over the course of the last year, the Home Group have met 2 – 3 times each month with the objective of growing together in faith and understanding. Throughout the last 12 months it has been a real pleasure to discuss with others aspects of our Christian Faith that are both challenging and thought provoking. There are never any easy answers, but cake and biscuits normally feature prominently

Twelve months ago, the Lent Group's met on line to discuss the Gospel of Mark, which we read together over the course of Lent, accompanied by the commentary of Tom Wright. Our understanding and appreciation of the Gospel was raised through reading Mark's gospel "cover to cover" as opposed to through our weekly lectionary.

In the Summer Term, we studied together "Parables" by Paula Gooder. We did not quite review each of the 55 parables addressed, however the quantity of them communicates how vital these were in Jesus' teaching. Together they reveal that Jesus, was a storyteller par excellence, evoking different worlds and conjuring ideas for our imagination. He did not tell us things when instead he could leave us to reflect and explore for ourselves.

In the Autumn term we studied together Revelations of Divine Love by Julian of Norwich, perhaps my highlight of the year. Although a demanding text so much of it remains as relevant today as when it was written in the 14th Century. Throughout the text she discusses God's unwavering love for man and his infinite capacity for forgiveness. Her phrase "All shall be well, and all shall be well and all manner of things shall be well", is a real comfort as we face the trials and tribulations of our daily lives

After Christmas Geoff & Elizabeth, kindly led an inspired series of biblical discussions, on the Virgin Mary, and the critical role she played at Jesus' birth, death and resurrection. They provided a real insight into the Character of Mary and the joys and sorrows that she experienced.

For our Lent course this year we studied together the Church of England course "Living in Love & Faith". Over the course of the 5-week course we addressed the sensitive and complex questions of identity, relationships and sexuality. The course invited us to tackle these issues both with one another and with God.

Next term we will be returning to a bible-centric study, with each member of the Group being invited to share a passage or reading from the bible that is particularly meaningful or speaks into their situation.

Steve Chapman

The Lit

We were very glad to be able to resume talks at “The Lit” on the 5th of October 2021 after having to cancel a whole season due to Covid 19. We have had an enjoyable season with many interesting and occasionally humorous talks. We are currently engaging new speakers for our next season October 2022 to March 2023 which promises to also be an interesting mix of History, Fashion, entertainment and mystery.

Elizabeth Fleischer

Millie's Pre-School

No report submitted.

Mothers' Union

We had our first attempt at meeting on Zoom in February for our AGM, which went successfully.

Our Diocesan Chaplain, Rev'd Esther Foss, recorded a wonderful Lenten Reflection for us on YouTube in March.

For April we returned to Zoom for a Spring/Easter Anthology, with some participants bringing their own choice of reading or poem – and other readings suggested by Margaret.

We did not meet during May but Margaret circulated a Reflection from the diocese which members could use

In June we were delighted that our members could visit Coombe Gardens to meet up with one another, in person. It was a glorious day and 13 members, plus Graeme, met up by the pond. Lifts had been offered from the church, some had made their own way, and a couple of the fittest had walked from Addiscombe.

Our first MU gathering inside this year took place on 1 July. We held a short service in church on the theme of ‘Building hope and confidence’, then adjourned to the garden with our own sandwiches for a socially distanced picnic. It was good to actually meet properly again after 16 months and to catch up with news, as well as outline our hopes and plans for the next few months, provided restrictions continued to be lifted.

While the Mothers' Union is trying to move away from the tea and cake reputation which distracts from all the amazing work they do worldwide, sometimes one just HAS to celebrate with afternoon tea! Monday 9 August marked Mary Sumner Day – and also the centenary of her death. St Mildred's decided to mark the occasion with a strawberry tea in Linda's garden and, as well as members from our branch, we invited members from around the Deanery.

Eleven members of the Mothers' Union met up again in church at the beginning of September for the MU Wave of Prayer preceded by a bring your own lunch.

We were delighted to welcome Revd Hilary Fife, retired senior chaplain at Croydon University Hospital, to speak to us at our October meeting. She commented that this was the first time she had spoken to a group since lockdown.

In the absence of a speaker for our November meeting we decided to have a short service

We based the service on one which had been used at the cathedral on 27th October from the Woolwich area. This was followed once again by a bring your own lunch and a chat.

We also hosted the MU Diocesan Advent service at St Mildred's in December which was very well attended

The Annual Christmas lunch was held again at Shirley Park Golf Club. There was a great atmosphere with a very successful raffle due to the generosity of members providing numerous prizes and the money raised was sent to AFIA. There was a new chef at the golf club and the food was absolutely delicious.

A service was held at St Alban's Church in December for the "16 days of Activism against gender-based violence" which was attended by some of our members

Sixteen members attended the first Mothers' Union meeting of the year, on 6 January. It was an informal anthology of readings and reflections for the seasons of Christmas and Epiphany. The readings were varied. Margaret Simmons began by reading 'A Covid Christmas' by Joseph David which raised quite a few wry smiles.

This was followed by a number of reflections for the day.

The meeting ended with Rebecca Daniel reading a poem dedicated to all women, part of which was reproduced in the Parish Post.

On beginning this report, I was thinking there wouldn't be much to say but looking back despite the odds being against us with COVID restrictions I think you will agree we still managed quite a varied programme

Jackie Bartley

The Parish Post

Over the past year, the Parish Post Committee continued to comprise Karen Rooney, Jane Ward, Judy Bennett and Barbara Broughton.

For the majority of the year the Committee continued to produce the news section of the magazine as a free digital-only magazine, with about 20 hard copies being printed each month for delivery to those not online, and we thank Leander for her help with this. The adverts and contact pages were not included, as permission could not be obtained from all those concerned to publish their details online.

The magazine was emailed to those on the 'Friends' list, as well as others, and was also available via the church website. We thank Margaret for her help with this.

Once the Parish Office re-opened we were able to re-launch the magazine, with hard copies being available to all from December 2021. We have continued to provide soft copies to those preferring to receive the magazine online.

The Committee met regularly online via Zoom or in person at the Centre throughout the year and continued to plan the magazine a few months ahead, in order to provide different and interesting articles and interviews. We thank all our contributors over the past year.

Karen continued to carry out the design, layout and editing of the magazine, with the rest of the Committee helping to source articles and carrying out the proofreading.

Thanks to all Committee members for their hard work and support.

Safeguarding

“During the past year, the church has seen a gradual return to normal routines and lettings. ‘A Safe Church’ has continued to be adopted by the PCC. Both of the PSOs and the two Church Wardens have continued to work collaboratively in ensuring that our church adheres to this safeguarding policy and its procedures. All relevant volunteers and staff hold current DBS checks at this church. As the Sunday School has evolved and gained far more volunteer helpers to run it on Sundays, we have had to ensure that they all hold the relevant DBS checks. Both PSOs hold current safeguarding training certificates and are committed to continued professional development in the future. Safeguarding meetings have taken place with the vicar and both wardens throughout the year involving concerns and updates. In August last year, a safeguarding presentation was made to the ‘Staying in Touch’ team. In the coming year, both PSOs will continue to monitor and improve safeguarding procedures at St Mildred’s Church.

Christopher Hatton

Toddler Group

After being closed for 18 months, we were delighted to reopen in November 2021. As we only have use of the Large Hall we have restricted our numbers to 30 adults plus children. To date this has been very successful.

The children get the opportunity to play and interact with other children with a variety of toys. Something many of them have been unable to do during Covid Restrictions. We still have the craft table and enjoyed making Christmas items. The children have also enjoyed painting sessions.

Father Christmas was able to visit us, wearing a Christmas mask and gave gifts to all the children.

We finish our session with a story and singing which is popular with all who stay. Several of our ladies have stepped down from their duties for various reasons, we have welcomed Jenny, who has joined our team of Welcomers. If anyone is interested in joining our team, then please speak to Penny Locke or Eileen Chapman.

Eileen Chapman

Women’s Group

St. Mildred's Women's Group has been out of action for the last two years due to covid. But I am happy to report that the group is starting up again this April, kicking off with a cheese and wine evening in the small hall. New lady members always welcome.

Vera Burch

Worship Band

Unfortunately, the Worship Band were unable to resume their work due to ongoing effects of Covid restrictions.

Also, we all owe David Nicholls a debt of gratitude for all his work with the Worship Band and wish him well following his decision to step back as leader.

Roger Hagon

Deanery Synod

With the country still very much in lockdown mode, most of the Croydon Central Deanery meetings were online. Much was managed without leaving home! It was my privilege to attend and report on the following to PCC.

January: A Deanery Leadership Team (DLT) meeting was held and a joint letter from Archbishops to the nation was received calling us to pray for over 100,000 deaths from Covid.

February: Deanery Synod discussed the new deanery Facebook page that had been set-up and requested contribution from our churches. Thank you to Margaret Simmons for her efforts. There was a talk by Richard Parrish, Headteacher of Archbishop Tenison's School, on the theme of 'Christian Perspectives on Secondary Education'. Croydon has lost St Andrews and Virgo Fidelis, leaving Archbishop Tenison's as the only faith school in the borough.

May: The DLT discussed the forthcoming Living in Love and Faith (LLF) course, which was being promoted by the Church of England for everyone to participate throughout the country.

June: Deanery Synod received a talk about 'Dementia Friendly Church' from Andy Gilbert, Prama Foundation. The Prama Foundation is a Christian ministry committed to supporting churches across the UK in ministering and reaching out to those who develop dementia.

June: Janet Palmer and I attended an online taster session of the LLF course.

Summer: I voted in the election of candidates to serve on the Diocesan Synod for Croydon Central, with the following elected to serve a further three years: (Lay representatives) Joseph Goswell, James Reid, David Williams and (Clergy representative) Fr Chidi Mbanude.

September: The DLT met with Nelly Misenga (Development Officer, Diocese of Southwark), who advised on forthcoming events with regards to coming out of lockdown and social isolation.

September: The Deanery Synod focused on a talk by Peter Graystone and David Wilcox with regard to running LLF courses throughout the deanery.

October: I voted in the election for candidates to represent Southwark in the General Synod.

November: The DLT discussed the plight of Afghan refugees that had recently arrived in Britain. We agreed to attempt to give Christmas gifts to 500+ men, women and children staying at the Queens Hotel, Crystal Palace. This would mean each of our ten parishes would need to donate at least 50 wrapped gifts ... and we were already in Advent!

November: An LLF course was run by the Rural Dean (Simon Foster), based at St Matthew's. Our PCC agreed to run the course during Lent 2022.

December: A collection of over 70 gifts were donated by St Mildred's towards the distribution of Christmas presents to the Afghan asylum seekers. There was carol singing outside the hotel which was brilliantly led and supported by St Mildred's Choir, and many of the refugees gathered to listen. Thank you to

Richard Mander, the choir and all donors for the generous giving of time and effort.

Patricia Howard

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

Charity number: 133737

Registered Charity name: The Parochial Church Council of the
Ecclesiastical Parish of St. Mildred's Addiscombe

Address: Bingham Road
Croydon
CR0 7EB

Bankers: National Westminster Bank
209-213 Lower Addiscombe Road
Croydon
CR0 6RB

Independent examiner: Klass & Co
18 Mounthurst Road
Bromley
BR2 7QN

Members of the PCC are either ex officio or elected by the Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM) in accordance with the Church Representation Rules.

During the year the following served as members of the PCC:

Incumbent:	Rev'd Roger Hagon
Hon Curate:	Rev'd Marie King (NSM - retired)
Churchwardens:	Steven Chapman and Janet Palmer
Secretary:	Judy Bennett
Treasurer:	Colin Simonds
Representatives on Deanery Synod:	Patricia Howard Warren Hall Richard Morrall

Elected Members 2021)	Elizabeth Fleischer	(from APCM
	Alan Griffiths	(from APCM 2021)
	Christopher Hatton	(from APCM 2019)
	Alice Kawoya	(from APCM 2021)
	Jenny Nicholls	(from APCM 2021)
	Stephen Philcox	(from APCM 2021)

The aims of the PCC are to promote the whole mission of the church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical within the parish. It also offers the Pastoral Staff Team full support in the carrying out of their mission.

Working groups, under the authority of the PCC, meet throughout the year prayerfully to reflect on and develop an aspect of church life in line with our current Vision Statement –

‘We seek to be an open and loving church, growing in faith and confidence and joyfully sharing God’s love with all’.

Each group is invited by the PCC Secretary to send a written report to the PCC meetings which brings the whole council up-to-date with its work and thinking. Sometimes longer presentations may be made to the PCC and recommendations which seek PCC approval. Below is a list of our current groups, their facilitators and membership. Please show your interest by speaking to the facilitator and your support by praying through the year for the members of each group.

Membership and Terms of Reference for PCC Working Groups

Youth Ministry (Without Walls Church)

Building up the faith and confidence of young people and increasing their involvement in services.

Facilitator: Leander Garner

Property

Maintaining and developing the Church building.

Facilitator: Matt Webb

Steve Chapman, Richard Morrall, Kieron Chapman

Organ Restoration Project

Providing a new West Organ to support congregational singing and build on the strong musical tradition of St. Mildred’s

Facilitator: Richard Mander

Stuart Knight, Jane Davey, Warren Hall

Finance

Overseeing our financial resources and expenditure and budgeting for the future.

Facilitator: Richard Morrall

Patrina Buchanan, David Nicholls, Stuart Knight, Warren Hall, Audrey Marshall, Matt Webb, Colin Simonds

St. Mildred’s Centre

Facilitator: Leander Garner.

Social Events

Providing a broad range of social events so people can enjoy being with each other and getting to know new members.

Facilitators: Roger Hagon

Jane Davey, George Calvert, Janet Palmer, Claire Webb, Emily Kinnard, Rachael Williams, Meadow Phillipson, Donna Oliver, Judy Bennett

Baptism Group

Co-ordinating baptism preparation and reflecting on baptism policy.

Facilitator: Roger Hagon

Eileen Chapman, Griselda Wireko-Brobby, Rona MacDonald, Donna Oliver

St. Mildred’s Online

Providing live streamed services for those who cannot attend Church and to reach out to the wider community.

Facilitator: Matt Webb

Pat Howard, Margaret Simmons, Kieron Chapman, Kyle Knight, Lilly Watts

Pastoral Care Steering Group

Planning the introduction of a new team approach to pastoral care for those who attend/worship at St. Mildred's Church.

Facilitator: Elizabeth Fleischer

Jeff Fleischer, Janet Palmer, Jane Ward

Mission Outreach

Reaching out with love to a needy world.

Facilitator: Roger Hagon

Karen Rooney, Jane Ward, Leander Garner, Stephen Philcox, Sophie Blankson, Rona Macdonald, Alice Kawoya

Sunday School - Millies Mountaineers

Providing lively and interactive teaching every Sunday for both pre-school and school-aged children from 0-11.

Facilitator: Roger Hagon

Eileen Chapman, Jane Davey, Chris and Charlotte Hatton, Nichola Mander, Elizabeth Goddard, Donna Oliver, Sophie Blankson, Rebecca Sangeetha

Standing Committee

Conducting PCC business between meetings.

Roger Hagon (Vicar), Steve Chapman (Church Warden), Janet Palmer (Church Warden), Judy Bennett (PCC Secretary), Colin Simonds (PCC Treasurer)

Governing Documents

The Church of England have agreed with the Charity Commission that for the purpose of agreeing 'governing documents', Parochial Church Councils (PCCs) are governed by two pieces of legislation:

- a. The Parochial Church Council (Powers) Measure 1956 defines the principal function, or purpose, of the PCC as 'promoting in the parish the whole mission of the Church'.
- b. The Church Representation Rules (contained in Schedule 3 of the Synodical Government Measure 1969 as amended).

2021 Financial Report.

With the Covid 19 Pandemic still ongoing at the start of 2021, together with severe restrictions, the church remaining closed until late March and the Centre to mid April, after which a very limited number of structured children's activities were permitted to restart as the country gradually progressed along the steps of the Government Road Map.

The cancellation of regular contracts and tight control on all but essential expenditure, activated at the start of the pandemic in 2020, remained in place throughout 2021 in order to maintain the financial stability of St. Mildred's.

With the easements of restrictions from late spring 2021 a number of centre activities have gradually returned, together with children's parties on Saturday afternoons, but there is still some way to go, and it may take some years to regain what was lost in financial terms. However, we were delighted that the National Challenge Service were able to resume and use our facilities for 6 weeks the summer holiday along with 'Mums Little Helpers' Holiday Club.

With the recommencement of church services, members of the congregation were given the opportunity to review their level of financial commitment to the church, culminating with a special Stewardship Presentation during the service on 26th September. This brought a positive response from the congregation, and together with income from the Centre, enabled St. Mildred's to give £55,000 to the Parish Support Fund in 2021, instead of the original pledge of £30,000. Although this figure was still £25000 short of the Diocese self financing figure, thanks are extended to everyone who generously responded to their giving commitment to St. Mildred's and enabled us to exceed our original pledge figure.

Tight controls of our expenditure have continued throughout 2021, and with the ending of the Government Furlough Scheme at the end of September it was regrettably necessary to considerably reduce the hours of our Parish Secretaries and Centre Manager in order to contain our ongoing costs.

Work has continued throughout the year to raise monies for the Organ Restoration Fund and thanks are extended to those working to secure funds for the project in these uncertain times.

Despite all the financial challenges throughout 2021 it is pleasing to note that through our special appeals and events, £901 was raised for the Bishops Lent Call, £590 for Mothers Union Special Projects, £302 for the Children's Society and £700 for the Croydon Refugee Day Centre from our Addiscombe Nativity Community Event.

Whilst this report reflects on the finances for the past year, financial challenges will still remain for a considerable time in the future, as we rebuild our finances, manage a 2 year backlog of repairs and maintenance, rises in utility costs, and continue to work towards returning to being a Self Financing Parish.

Special thanks are extended Patrina who prepares our accounts each year, and to all members of St. Mildred's Finance Team for their ongoing wisdom and commitment to the financial health of our church and centre.

Richard Morrall

Reserves Policy.

It is the PCC Policy to maintain a balance of unrestricted funds which equates to at least three months unrestricted payments, equivalent to £42,405, to cover emergency situations that may arise from time to time. Free reserves as at 31st December 2021 are £171,716 and therefore the reserves policy has been met.

Going Concern.

The Trustees have evaluated the circumstances in which St. Mildred's operates. Government action taken in response to the Covid-19 pandemic continued to cause St. Mildred's Church and Centre to be closed in the early months of 2021, and then only open for restricted use (as permitted by law) until the late July. As a consequence, the pandemic has continued to have a severe impact on the finances of St. Mildred's.

To mitigate the loss of income with the church and centre being closed, or restricted to what was permitted by law, non-essential contracts remain cancelled with only essential maintenance being undertaken. St. Mildred's much reduced pledged contribution of £30,000 to the Parish Support Fund for 2021 was agreed with the Diocese and catered for the 2021 budget. In September 2021, the PCC agreed a further reduced figure of £60,000 pledge to the Parish Support Fund for 2022 which was also catered for in the budget. St Mildred's 4 staff members remained on full or part furlough until the support scheme closed on 30th September 2021. To continue to control costs all 4 staff remain employed but the 2 Parish Secretaries and Centre Manager work on much reduced hours as does our contracted cleaner.

While the church and centre were either closed, or restricted to very few activities, St. Mildred's main source of income was through the support and generosity of the church congregation who continued to give regularly, through on-line giving. Because of the mitigating measures taken, it has been possible to fund necessary expenditure using the current account and, thus, avoid using the unrestricted cash reserves.

Throughout 2021, cash balances were continuously monitored, and this continues through 2022. Cash reserves at 31st December 2021 were £201803. compared to £151927 at 31st December 2020. The increase in cash reserves during 2021 mainly relates to donations totalling £40185 for the Organ Restoration Fund.

With the gradual re-opening of society in line with the Government Roadmap, and the requirement to learn to live with Covid 19 we anticipate continued pressures on our finances as we rebuild to financial stability, including in the following areas :

- staff costs following the withdrawal of the government's furlough scheme.
- cleaning costs associated with increased usage and hygiene maintenance.
- increased utility costs due to increased global demand and uncertainties.
- user groups experiencing financial difficulties due to changed work patterns.
- user groups classes ceasing to operate following the lengthy pandemic.
- people hesitant in mixing with others.

The impact of these additional costs will be offset by an increased level of income, and continuously monitored.

Having evaluated the continuing aftereffects and uncertainties following the Covid 19 pandemic, along with current world events and the mitigating actions (strict controls and constant monitoring of cash flows), the Trustees have concluded that the charity is able to continue as a going concern.

**ST MILDRED'S PARISH CHURCH
PCC ANNUAL ACCOUNTS**

For the year ended 31 December 2021

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF ST. MILDRED'S, ADDISCOMBE

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of St Mildred's Parish Church for the year ended 31 December 2021.

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 2011 Act').

I report in respect of my examination of your Charity's accounts as carried out under section 145 of the Charities Act 2011 ('the 2011 Act') and in carrying out my examination I have followed the Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5) (b) of the 2011 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 giving me cause to believe that in any material respect:

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of the Trust as required by section 130 of the Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records; or
3. the accounts do 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.



Signed:

Name:

Relevant professional body:

Address:

Date:

Osbert Klass

Association of Chartered Certified Accountants

18 Mounthurst Road, Hayes, Bromley, Kent BR2 7QN

25 April 2022

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

For the year ended 31 December 2021

	Not e	Unrestrict ed Funds £	Restrict ed Funds £	Total Funds £	2020 Total £
Income					
Church and centre income, fundraising and donations		213,774	6,346	220,120	174,417
Investment		10,548	369	10,917	10,377
Total income	3	224,322	6,715	231,037	184,794
Expenditure					
Charitable activities		184,508	9,865	194,373	272,285
Total expenditure		184,508	9,865	194,373	272,285
Income less expenditure	4	39,814	(3,150)	36,664	(87,491)
Unrealised gains/(losses) on investments	6	33,438	916	34,354	(35,875)
Net income/(expenditure)		73,252	(2,234)	71,018	(123,366)
Transfers		396	(396)	0	0
Net movement in funds		73,648	(2,630)	71,018	(123,366)
Fund balances brought forward	2	429,496	55,012	484,508	607,874
Fund balances carried forward at 31 December 2021	9	503,144	52,382	555,526	484,508

The notes on pages 5 to 13 form part of these accounts.

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

As at 31 December 2021

	Note	2021		2020	
		£	£	£	£
Fixed Assets					
Tangible Assets					
Centre Assets	7		3,525		4,347
Church Equipment	7		53,195		61,075
Church Assets	7		92		185
			<u>56,812</u>		<u>65,607</u>
Investments					
Charifund investments			274,616		240,261
			<u>331,428</u>		<u>305,868</u>
Current Assets					
Associated Accounts	18	24,124		28,443	
Debtors	8	8,972		2,396	
Short-term investments		125,953		125,887	
Cash and Bank		<u>75,850</u>		<u>26,040</u>	
		234,899		182,766	
Current Liabilities					
Creditors and accruals		<u>(10,801)</u>		<u>(4,126)</u>	
			224,098		178,640
			<u>555,526</u>		<u>484,508</u>
Represented by:					
Unrestricted funds	9		503,144		429,496
Restricted funds	9		<u>52,382</u>		<u>55,012</u>
			<u>555,526</u>		<u>484,508</u>

Approved by the PCC on

15th March 2022

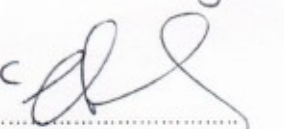
RC Hagan

(Revd. Roger C. Hagan)



(Janet Palmer)

Chair PCC


COLIN SIMONDS
TREASURER

The notes on pages 5 to 13 form part of these accounts.

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

For the year ended 31 December 2021

1) Accounting policies

(a) Basis of preparing accounts

The accounts (financial statements) have been prepared under the historical cost convention with items recognised at cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant note(s) to these accounts. The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Statement of Recommended Practice: Accounting and Reporting by Charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) issued on 16 July 2014 and the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the United Kingdom and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) and the Charities Act 2011.

The charity constitutes a public benefit entity as defined by FRS 102.

The trustees consider that there are no material uncertainties about the Church's ability to continue as a going concern.

(b) Reconciliation with previous Generally Accepted Accounting Practice

In preparing the accounts, the trustees have considered whether, in applying the accounting policies required by FRS 102 and the Charities SORP FRS 102, a restatement of comparative items was needed. No restatements were required. In accordance with the requirements of FRS 102 a reconciliation of opening balances and net income/(expenditure) for the year is provided with the net income/(expenditure) under previous GAAP adjusted for the presentation of investment gains/(losses) as a component of reported income.

Funds

- (a) Unrestricted funds represent funds of the charity that are not subject to any restrictions regarding their use and are available for application on the general purposes of the charity.
- (b) Restricted funds represent funds of the charity that were received with restrictions so that use can be only for the purposes stated.

Income

All income is recognised once the charity has entitlement to the income, it is probable that the income will be received and the amount of income receivable can be measured reliably.

Expenditure

Liabilities are recognised as expenditure as soon as there is a legal or constructive obligation committing the charity to that expenditure, it is probable that settlement will be required and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably. All expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis. All expenses including support costs and governance costs are allocated or apportioned to the applicable expenditure headings.

Fixed assets

Assets costing over £300 are capitalised and depreciated as follows:

Equipment (computer & electronic)—10%-33% per annum.

Fixtures and fittings (including furniture)—10%-20% per annum.

The church building is not reported as a fixed asset in the statement of financial position; all expenditure on maintaining the building is recognised as an expense when incurred.

Investments

Investments are held in the statement of financial position at market value at the year end. Any change from market value at the previous reporting date or from cost if purchased during the year, is included in the Statement of Financial Activities.

Fund accounting

Restricted funds represent monies received for specific projects undertaken by the charity.
General unrestricted funds of the charity are available for the general purposes of the charity.

2) Comparative of Statement of Financial Activities - 2020

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds £
Income			
Church and centre income, fundraising and donations	168,371	6,046	174,417
Investment	10,043	334	10,377
Total income	178,414	6,380	184,794
Expenditure			
Charitable activities	268,142	4,143	272,285
Total expenditure	268,142	4,143	272,285
Unrealised (losses) on investments	(34,438)	(1,437)	(35,875)
Net expenditure/net movement in funds	(124,166)	800	(123,366)
Fund balances brought forward	553,662	54,212	607,874
Fund balances carried forward at 31 December 2020	429,496	55,012	484,508

3) Income from unrestricted funds

	Not e	2021 £	2020 £
Income from church activities	11	92,159	81,976
Income from centre activities	12	71,010	60,003
Income: Property Fund	13	10,482	9,178
Income: Outreach Fund	17	8,463	5,383
Income: Big 'Our Church' Project	16	1,930	1,670
Income: Organ Fund	14	40,185	19,631
Other income		93	573
Total income from unrestricted funds		224,322	178,414

4) Income and expenditure on unrestricted funds

	Note	2021 £	2020 £
Deficit on church activities ((£364) - depreciation of church assets and equipment £7,973)	11	(8,337)	(6,737)
Deficit on centre activities (£706 - depreciation of centre assets £822)	12	(116)	(13,552)
Property fund: investment income	13	10,482	9,178
Outreach fund (income less expenditure)	17	1,276	(595)
Income over expenditure on church and centre activities		3,305	(11,706)
Other income (net of expenditure):			
Organ fund	14	39,183	(32,876)
Big 'Our Church' Project	16	(2,674)	(45,146)
Total income over expenditure on unrestricted funds		39,814	(89,728)

5) Staff costs

	2021 £	2020 £
Salaries (including pensions) ¹	56,930	27,824
Social security costs	0	0
	56,930	27,824

¹ Staff costs in 2020 are reported net of £30,018 received from the government under the Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme.

	No.	No.
Staff	4	4

6) Revaluation of investments

	2021 £	2020 £
Increase/(decrease) in market value of Charifund investments during year (unrestricted funds)	33,438	(34,438)
	33,438	(34,438)

7) Tangible fixed assets

	Centre Assets £	Church Equipme nt £	Church Assets £	Total £
Cost				
At 1 January 2021	66,687	83,478	22,339	172,504
Additions	0	0	0	0
At 31 December 2021	<u>66,687</u>	<u>83,478</u>	<u>22,339</u>	<u>172,504</u>
Accumulated Depreciation				
At 1 January 2021	62,340	22,403	22,154	106,897
Charge for the year	822	7,880	93	8,795
At 31 December 2021	<u>63,162</u>	<u>30,283</u>	<u>22,247</u>	<u>115,692</u>
Net Book Value				
At 31 December 2021	<u>3,525</u>	<u>53,195</u>	<u>92</u>	<u>56,812</u>
At 31 December 2020	<u>4,347</u>	<u>61,075</u>	<u>185</u>	<u>65,607</u>

Church equipment includes the audio visual system in the church, purchased in 2018.

8) Debtors

	2021 £	2020 £
Centre rent owing	7,150	1,757
Gift aid tax recoverable	2,002	1,059
Christmas market advances	(180)	(420)
	<u>8,972</u>	<u>2,396</u>

9) Funds as at 31 December 2021

	Note	Closing Balance £	Unrestrict ed £	Restrict ed £
St. Mildred's fund	10	105,754	105,754	
Property fund	13	191,741	191,741	
Organ fund	14	92,589	92,589	
Outreach fund	17	46,228	46,228	
Big 'Our Church' Project	16	0	0	
Fabric fund	15	20,020	10,020	10,000
Organ scholarship fund		15,284		15,284
Flower fund		2,974		2,974
Centre assets	7	3,525	3,525	
Church equipment	7	53,195	53,195	
Church assets	7	92	92	
<u>Funds for Associated Accounts</u>				
Drop-in for homeless	18	20,726		20,726
Choir association	18	2,739		2,739
Ladies choir	18	220		220
Toddlers group	18	439		439

555,526	503,144	52,382
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10) St. Mildred's Fund

St. Mildred's fund is for the general upkeep and running of the church and centre.

	Note	2021 £	2020 £
Fund at 1 January		104,690	114,123
Transfer from Big 'Our Church' Project fund	16	326	1,854
Transfer from Sunday School fund	18	396	0
(Deficit)/surplus on church activities	11	(364)	1,443
Surplus/(deficit) on centre activities	12	706	(12,730)
Fund at 31 December		105,754	104,690

11) Church activities (for information only)

	2021 £	2020 £
Income		
Pledged giving	58,801	58,653
Non-pledged giving	5,826	2,614
Gift aid tax refund	14,172	13,161
Church rent	8,527	676
Baptisms weddings funerals	2,646	600
Donations and other	2,121	5,407
Interest income	66	865
Total income	92,159	81,976
Expenditure		
Parish Support Fund pledge ¹	55,000	40,600
Heat, light & water	8,090	5,261
Church repairs	479	9,541
Choir music, organ and organist	5,295	3,635
Printing and other administration (incl. website)	8,686	8,348
Parish office wages	6,991	5,645
Altar sundries and clergy expenses	788	2,156
Insurance	3,380	3,297
Baptisms weddings funerals costs	1,254	0
Other church expenditure	2,560	2,050
Total expenditure	92,523	80,533
(Deficit)/surplus on church activities for the year	(364)	1,443

¹ The Diocese Parish Support Fund self-financing pledge in 2021 was £80,300 (2020 - £81,200).

12) Centre activities (for information only)

	2021 £	2020 £
Income		
Centre rent	61,001	49,269
Flat rent	9,775	10,500
Site development donations	234	234
Total income	71,010	60,003
Expenditure		
Routine maintenance	10,915	9,493
Cleaning	10,885	13,091
Heat, light & water	18,383	14,200
Staff costs	21,109	20,265
Insurance	3,380	3,297
Administration costs	4,492	3,448
Centre repairs	1,140	8,939
Total expenditure	70,304	72,733
Surplus/(deficit) on centre activities for the year	706	(12,730)

13) Property Fund

This fund includes amounts set aside for the future purchase of a property. Those amounts are invested in Charifund income units.

	2021 £	2020 £
Fund at 1 January	155,247	174,737
Income: Dividends	10,482	9,178
Increase/(decrease) in value of Charifund investments	26,012	(28,668)
Fund at 31 December	191,741	155,247

14) Organ Fund

This fund includes amounts donated, raised and designated for the refurbishment of the organ. A 15% deposit was paid in 2020 for that future refurbishment.

	2021 £	2020 £
Fund at 1 January	53,406	86,282
Income: donations and fundraising (plus gift aid)	40,185	19,606
Christmas market 2019	0	25
	40,185	19,631
Used for: deposit for future refurbishment	(1,002)	(52,507)
Fund at 31 December	92,589	53,406

15) Fabric Fund

This fund was established with a legacy from James Arthur Diplock. £10,000, representing the original capital, is to remain untouched except in the event of a major unforeseen emergency. £5,000 of the original capital is invested in Charifund accumulation units (market value on 31 December 2021 £46,407).

	2020	2019
	£	£
Fund at 1 January	12,594	18,364
Increase/(decrease) in value of investments during year	7,426	(5,770)
Fund at 31 December	20,020	12,594
Of which:		
Unrestricted	10,020	2,594
Restricted - original legacy	10,000	10,000

16) Big 'Our Church' Project

This project was launched to redecorate the church and replace the wiring, lighting, stage, choir stalls and audio visual system. The work was largely completed in 2018, with additional work done on the vicar's vestry and flower vestry in 2019 and the choir stalls installed in 2020. The project was funded through donations, grants, the sale of Charifund income units and part of the proceeds from the sale of 13 Selwood Road.

	2021	2020
	£	£
Fund at 1 January	3,000	50,000
Income		
Big 'Our Church' Project donations (plus gift aid)	1,930	1,670
Total income	1,930	1,670
Transfer to St. Mildred's fund	(326)	(1,854)
Used for Big 'Our Church' project expenditure		
Choir stalls	0	45,102
Church decorating, lighting, rewiring, stage	4,604	1,714
Amounts used for Big 'Our Church' project expenditure	4,604	46,816
Fund at 31 December	0	3,000

17) Outreach Fund

This fund is for use for outreach, including for example WOW church and St. Mildred's Community Garden.

	2021 £	2020 £
Fund at 1 January	44,952	45,547
Income		
Donations – Drop-in for the homeless	36	268
Donations – St. Mildred's Community Garden	705	0
Donations – Croydon Refugee Day Centre	690	0
Donations – Children's Society	302	0
Donations – Shrublands Food Bank	375	0
Donations – Nightwatch	25	0
Donations – women's refuge	0	2,210
Donations – Croydon Voluntary Action	0	1,118
Donations – Chaplaincy Charity Fund	0	416
Donations – Church Missionary Society	0	466
Donations – Bishops Lent Appeal	740	250
Donations – Mothers Union Appeal	590	0
Diocese grant – St. Mildred's Community Garden	5,000	0
Other	0	655
Total income	8,463	5,383
Used for:		
St. Mildred's Drop-in for the homeless	36	268
WOW church	688	736
St. Mildred's Community Garden	3,570	0
Croydon Refugee Day Centre	700	0
Children's Society	302	0
Shrublands Food Bank	375	0
Nightwatch	25	0
Women's refuge	0	2,210
Croydon Voluntary Action	0	1,118
Chaplaincy Charity Fund	0	416
Church Missionary Society	0	466
Bishops Lent Appeal	901	250
Mothers Union Appeal	590	0
Lives not Knives	0	140
Other	0	374
Amounts used for donations and outreach	7,187	5,978
Fund at 31 December	46,228	44,952

18) Associated Accounts

	2021		2020	
	£	£	£	£
ST MILDRED'S DROP-IN FOR THE HOMELESS				
Opening balance		22,085		22,230
Income: donations	15	15	1,758	1,758
Expenditure:				
Food	(0)		(988)	
Clothes and other costs	(374)		(915)	
Donation – Croydon Refugee Day Centre	(1,000)	(1,374)	(0)	(1,903)
Closing balance at 31 December		20,726		22,085
SUNDAY SCHOOL				
Opening balance		421		421
Income	0		0	
Expenditure	(25)		(0)	
Transfer to St. Mildred's Fund	(396)	(421)	(0)	
Closing balance at 31 December		0		421
CHOIR ASSOCIATION				
Opening balance		5,024		2,907
Income	5,793		3,916	
Expenditure	(8,048)		(1,799)	
Closing balance at 31 December		2,739		5,024
LADIES CHOIR				
Opening balance		220		220
Income	0		0	
Expenditure	(0)		(0)	
Closing balance at 31 December		220		220
TODDLERS GROUP				
Opening balance		693		761
Income	165		372	
Expenditure	(419)		(440)	
Closing balance at 31 December		439		693

Accounts



ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING
SUNDAY 25TH APRIL 2021 10.00AM AT ST. MILDRED'S CHURCH

**INCLUDING ANNUAL REPORT
AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
OF THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL**

For the year ended 31st December 2020

**'We seek to be an open and loving church, growing in faith and confidence
and joyfully sharing God's love with all'**

CONTENTS

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Aims, Objectives and Principal activities	page 4
Achievements and performance including report on fabric, goods and ornaments of the church, Working Group reports and Deanery Synod report	page 4
Structure, Governance and Administrative details	page 20
Financial Report	page 23
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Vicars Sermon and Report	page 41

AGENDA

1. Apologies
2. Election of Churchwardens
3. Election of representatives to Deanery Synod – 4 members
4. Election of the Parochial Church Council (PCC) – 12 members
5. Election of Sidespersons and Deputy Churchwardens (new proposed lists to be read out)
6. Minutes of the Easter Vestry Meeting and Annual Parochial Church Meeting for year ended 31st December 2020 (at next year's APCM)
7. Presentation of the Electoral Roll
8. Team Reports including report on fabric, goods and ornaments of the church
9. Presentation of 2020 Accounts
10. Appointment of Independent Examiner
11. Churchwarden's Remarks
12. AOB (Notified in advance)
13. Vicars Sermon and Report

AIMS, OBJECTIVES AND PRINCIPAL ACTIVITIES

The Parochial Church Council of St. Mildred's (the PCC) has the responsibility of co-operating with the incumbent in promoting in the ecclesiastical parish the whole mission of the church: pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical. The PCC is a corporate body established by the Church of England. The PCC operates under the Parochial Church Council Powers Measure and is a registered charity no 1133737 . PCC members are responsible for making decisions on all matters of general concern and importance to the parish, including deciding on how the funds of the PCC are to be spent. The Trustees have had due regard to the Charity Commissions' guidance under Charities Act 2011 on public benefit when considering the Charity's objectives and activities.

ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE

Report on the Fabric, Goods and Ornamentations of the Church

What a 12 months! In spite of everything we are delighted to report that the choir stalls were successfully delivered in November and we look forward to using them on a weekly basis in the near future. We would like to thank Matt Webb & Richard Mander in particular for managing their successful installation. They look fantastic.

The second great success of the year was moving to on-line church from November (thanks to Matt Webb, Pat Howard, Kieron Chapman & Bud Hagon). Our streaming goes from strength to strength and has allowed us to continue to reach our community as we moved in/out of lock-down. Really speaks to the adaptability of our church community.

At the start of the year the boiler room was severely flooded, in response to which we repaired parts of our boiler and fitted an alarm so that future floods could be detected in good time.

Finally, the 5-year Quinquennial inspection was completed in the Autumn, with no major issues identified.

Once again there was no Archdeacon's inspection due to the Church being closed though one is planned for later in the year.

Churchwardens

Working Group Reports

Youth Ministry (Without Walls Church)

Throughout 2020 WOWChurch has continued to post videos and content across Facebook, Twitter, Instagram and on its own WOWChurch website. Linking (where relevant), to St. Mildred's Church, The Diocese of Southwark, and the Mothers Union. In total we currently have 365 individual followers of our content.

Throughout this year of a global pandemic, WOWChurch has continued to bring a little hope, love (and sometimes laughter) to nearly 400 people's social media

accounts. Thanks to Meg Simmonds for all her help keeping the content current, relevant, and faithful.

Leander Garner

Worship Development

The past year has been very challenging for us as we have tried to provide a number of resources to enable worship to continue through the Lockdowns and periods of easing. The Worship Team itself has not met.

Initially Roger, enabled by David Nicholls, live-streamed Morning and Evening Prayer daily from his study, culminating in a celebration of Holy Communion on Easter Day for all to watch. After a short break we joined in 'Thy Kingdom Come' daily prayers from church, leading to the church opening for mid-week prayer, led by Linda and Graeme Monk. This was attended by people who appreciated sitting for a while in the inspiring setting of St. Mildred's with background CD choral music, candlelight, and an icon of the Trinity as a focus for prayer. Early in July we re-opened for Sunday Services and gradually built up a regular congregation assisted by a team of Wardens, Deputy Wardens and Sidespeople, leading to Communion Services in late August. The Choir, led by Richard Mander, sang anthems and we had a very successful Harvest Festival to which we invited our young families with their children. The Sunday School team provided weekly themed material for children in boxes called "Millies' Mountaineers". In order to include members who hadn't yet returned to church, we began to live-stream our Sunday services from Remembrance Sunday onwards. The ending of public worship just before Christmas was a crushing blow and yet, with Matt Webb and Richard Mander's energy and inspiration, we still managed to deliver some inspiring services on YouTube using recorded material. In the New Year Roger introduced the 'Sunday Morning' theme, giving a new impetus to 'getting our Sunday mornings back'. 10am live-streamed services would now be followed by Zoom chat, replicating our much-loved traditional pattern of coffee after church. Revd. Marie King also produced a series of much-appreciated weekly service sheets which are currently distributed by our Parish Post team to those who are still unable to attend church and who cannot easily access online worship. More recently, with the successful roll-out of the vaccination programme and decline in the number of new Covid cases in Croydon, we have felt able to return to Parish Communion services in church, albeit with strict social distancing measures in place, track and trace and, as yet no choral or congregational singing.

As we look forward with hope to the future, there are some things to ponder arising from our experience: -

- Gratitude for all who have stepped-up to the challenges and enabled worship to continue and thrive to the glory of God.
- Gratitude for the huge variety of God-given resources we have for our use.
- Continuing with online worship as it reaches out to those who can't come to church.
- The vital importance of people meeting people, whether 'for real' or online.

Roger Hagon

Property

During 2020, the property committee did not formally meet due to the pandemic but were still active resolving a number of issues throughout the year. The Boiler Room severely flooded at the start of the year, and the Church boiler was damaged by the flood water. We worked with our boiler maintainers to achieve a speedy resolution, while we temporarily returned to worship in the Large Hall while the boiler was repaired. The team subsequently arranged for an alarm to be fitted to the boiler room, to alarm if the room floods and avoid repeat damage. This work was complete by March as well as the investigation and resolution of some blocked internal downpipes which were causing high level damp visible in the external brickwork.

The socially distanced 5 yearly Quinquennial inspection was carried out in early October. This was very successful, with no major issues being identified and commending the work carried out under the “Big Our Church Project”, and the way the Church and centre buildings were managed. The team continue to work to address the issues raised.

Work continued on the choirstalls throughout the year, and although Dovetailors were delayed by illness and the requirement for social distancing in their workshops, our Choir Stalls were successfully delivered in November and really do look amazing. The remaining floor repairs in the ambulatories are the only remaining works associated with the “Big Our Church” Project, and we hope to complete these works in early 2021.

Matt Webb

Organ Restoration Project

Regardless of coronavirus, we were able to make a lot of progress during 2020. The main strands of the project – the quote by Nicholson & Co chosen from the tender process, and the acquisition of the pipework from St Paul’s URC, South Croydon – were successfully brought together in late 2020.

On 6th December Roger signed the contract with Nicholson’s, and at the same time a tripartite agreement with Nicholson’s and the URC for the acquisition of the pipework.

This was of course a big moment in the process, and the project is now fully on course. It is due for completion in April 2024 – with most of the delay being due to the full order books at Nicholson & Co.

The pipework – just under 1,400 pipes – was duly removed from the URC in early March 2021 and is now securely stored at Nicholson’s workshop in Malvern, Worcestershire.

The focus has shifted now to fundraising, to bridge the gap and complete the project.

In late 2020, Steve Chapman stepped down from our committee due to pressure of work, and Stuart Knight has joined in his place. I would like to thank Steve for all he has done (and continues to do) for the project.

Richard Mander

St. Mildred's Centre

2020 started in a very exciting way, with the February half term holiday event 'Get on Board with God'. The Church was transformed into a nautical themed fantasy land, with opportunities for many activities that included bouncy castles, arts, crafts, sing-a-longs, and biblical story time. This happy event attracted over 150 local children and their carers and was made possible by the support of nearly 30 volunteers and some of our Centre hirers, all of whom gave freely of their time, to support this wonderful community event.

From January 2020, February and for most of March the Centre flourished and glowed in its success as a local community hub and its support as a first-class venue to so many different individuals, groups, charities, and events.

Then came the Covid pandemic and the first lockdown. The Centre shut its doors, cancelled all future bookings, tried to find ways to reduce operating costs and everything ground to a full stop. During this difficult period, we tried to find ways that the Centre could still be of use. We collaborated with Addiscombe Covid Support Group, to be a collection point for food and toiletry donations that were distributed to people in need by Croydon Voluntary Action and the Salvation Army. Certainly, this is an excellent example of our mission statement '*serving the community in the love of Christ.*'

As we have been allowed, according to temporary easing of Covid restrictions, we have opened for some children's education groups and the breakfast and afterschool club. For each returning group, Richard Morrall our health and safety officer, has had to write an individual risk assessment on the use of the Centre in a Covid compliant way. It has been a very steep learning curve for us all, as we find ways of running the Centre whilst keeping people safe; We have one way system in place, sanitising units installed and 2 meters spacing marked out. We continue to maintain our building and grounds to a very high standard and look forward with hope to 2021.

Leander Garner

Social Events

In the last year the only event we have run has been the online quiz in February. After a year of uncertainty, we were pleased to be able to run this event, which was attended by almost 70 people. Unfortunately, due to covid and not having anyone to run this committee, this is all we were able to do.

Stall holders who had booked for the Christmas Market 2020 were offered the option to have their money refunded or carry it over to 2021. Four chose refunds and the remainder chose to carry over. Unfortunately, it looks like we will need to refund all monies if this year's market can't go ahead, either due to Covid or due to us not having a leader for the committee (as this is a very large event, we don't believe it would be possible to run without one).

Jane Davey

Baptism Group

In the past year we have celebrated one Baptism which was conducted under strict social distancing rules on a Sunday afternoon. The Baptism team has not met in the past year. We are now in a situation where it looks increasingly likely that Baptisms will be able to go ahead with more people able to attend safely. Many families have been waiting for this to become a possibility and so it looks as if we shall soon be booking many future dates! Once this starts to happen, I intend to have a team meeting to discuss preparation sessions and to enlist volunteers once more to help at the afternoon celebrations.

Roger Hagon

St. Mildred's Online

Following the first lockdown, Roger set us the challenge of streaming the services for everyone who was shielding or felt unable to attend Church. A team was formed on zoom, and we went about researching and resolving the problems involved with streaming a service. Issues ranged from GDPR considerations, copyright and licensing of songs, integrating the streams to our YouTube, Web site and Facebook platforms and technical issues with the sound and video – not to mention getting the subtitles right. With the help of Jane Davey, we developed a theme for the services and after a couple of practice services, we live streamed our first service on Remembrance Sunday 8th November.

The live streaming developed week on week, improving the production and technical issues as we went. We upgraded the cameras and streaming hardware, and also introduced a remote-controlled camera allowing the team to move and zoom a camera in the organ loft during the service. We also expanded our streaming team to spread the knowledge and allow a few Sundays off!

Preparation for Christmas was in full swing when in December the COVID-19 infection level meant we had to close Church again. At short notice, the Choir Carol Service was expertly put together by our Director of Music, Richard Mander, and was a huge success with over 115 viewers tuning in. Our live Church services have continued since then without a congregation in Church, developing and evolving the services to suit an on-line audience.

Since our first stream, the team have learnt a huge amount and overcome many technical issues to produce the streams that are now regularly viewed by around 50 viewers each week. My thanks go out to the team who's dedication and commitment has made this all possible.

We hope that these services have helped during the COVID-19 restrictions, and we look forward to all being back in Church again soon.

Matt Webb

Pastoral Care Steering Group

Before the Covid 19 lock down we were in discussions concerning the setting up of the "Keeping in Touch" project which is in line with our mission statement for St

Mildred's Church; "Caring for one another in the spirit of Jesus Christ the good shepherd".

We ran a survey of the congregation to find out what they thought of our initiative. We also met with all the various groups of the church to establish how groups were caring for their members. We concluded that although many people were being cared for very well some were falling through the cracks and felt isolated. It was decided that a more formal approach and a coordinated response was needed. These findings were taken before the Parochial Parish Council and the project was approved.

We then continued to prepare some the finer points of the project; -

A structure of maybe seven volunteers and a facilitator

Job Descriptions

Identifying possible training needs.

Information gathering about services in the local community.

Then due to covid restrictions we were unable to go further.

However, since Jane Ward qualified as a S.P.A. we are beginning to re-start the process.

We may need to reconnect with the congregation as to what we hope to achieve with our project as a lot has happened in the last year, but we hope to be 'Caring for one another at St. Mildred's in the spirit of Jesus Christ the good shepherd.'

Elizabeth Fleischer

Parish Organisations Reports

ANCA

Clearly, these have been both difficult, and trying, times for everybody; and not least for Groups like ANCA, who exist to provide a range of Services, for the benefit of our local people, here in the Addiscombe area.

Naturally, once the "Lockdown" occurred, the Church Centre, here at St. Mildred's, had to close down; and with that, we were unable to operate our "Extend" Exercise Classes, or our Lunch Clubs, which are based here. Likewise, we were unable to take Groups of clients, on our Shopping Buses, with Dial-a-Ride.

However, I have been able to access our ANCA Office, throughout; (safely, in the locked Church, of which I am a key holder), in order to keep overseeing, and responding to, whatever we might still be able to do. Consequently, I have been monitoring answerphone messages, and e-mails, along with telephone calls; from clients, directly, or other Agencies.

The current position is as follows: - I have been able to telephone round, all our Clients, on a regular basis, to ensure they are all keeping well; and to check whether they need any specific help or assistance. To that end, I have been able to get shopping, for those who need it; and help others to get on the Government "Shielding" List; so, they can get deliveries from relevant Supermarkets.

I have also arranged to collect medicines, from local Pharmacies; and to go and get cash from the bank, for others.

Effectively, we are providing, what one might call a “Fire Brigade Service”; of responding to individual requests for assistance, as & when received from an individual; or from their Family etc.

Additionally, to replace our “Lunch Clubs”, I have been taking orders, from those who normally attend them, and getting “Fish & Chip” meals made up, which I then run around delivering to everybody; so, we keep a sort of “Virtual” Lunch Club, alive and running, each week. It also means that I am making regular contact, keeping in touch with those Clients, as well.

With the Centre shut down, we were unable to run our “Extend” Exercise Classes but, I was able to circulate details of various “exercise” or “keep-fit” classes, which were available “on-line”, which our clients could access and try.

We were also, subsequently, able to resume our “Volunteer Driver” service; so we could keep taking clients to Doctor’s surgeries, Shirley Clinic and, in a number of cases, various hospital appointments.

You may, also, be aware that, there was a “Food Bank Hub”, based here at St. Mildred’s, where members of the public can call by, to drop off “Donations” of food, for the wider Croydon response to this Crisis. ANCA did assist with that, in collecting, and bringing in, various ‘donations’ for this “Bank”, as well.

Apart from simply just checking up on our Clients, to see if they need anything, the main thrust of those calls is effectively “Telephone Befriending”; to ensure the general “wellbeing” of our Clients, mentally, as well as physically, during this crisis.

Sadly, our long-serving Treasurer, Chris Gee, suffered a stroke, which meant that, although he was recovering fairly well, he would not be able to cope with fulfilling that position, for the time being. We wish him well, and hope that he might be able to resume his duties, in the future.

However, because of that, I have, equally, been greatly involved in trying to arrange back-up provisions, with our Bank(s), and Temporary Treasurer cover; involving various changes to our Financial & Charity situation, following Chris Gee’s incapacity. Fortunately, we have been lucky enough to seek the assistance of one of our existing Volunteer Drivers, Chris Simmons, who has kindly agreed to take on the “role” of our Temporary Treasurer, during this difficult time.

From the first of April, last year, we had just started on a new, Three-Year, Funding Agreement, from Croydon Council. This was great news, as it confirmed another steady period of Financial Stability, which we could look forward to, and plan; accordingly, particularly in recruiting a replacement, for my Deputy, Frances.

However, by now, most of you will be aware that, the Council has been forced to issue a Notice, alerting everyone that their own “Finances”, are such that, they are effectively “Bankrupt”!!

The result of this is that Groups like ANCA *may not*, now, get this Funding; which was originally agreed, and planned around. Consequently, the whole situation is

extremely worrying; and nobody is at all sure, how things may work out, or what the future may bring for us all.

Norman Till

27th Croydon Cub Scouts

As with all activities involving children, our scout group closed down on March 23rd 2020 with the national lockdown.

In the following months when restrictions were eased, with leaders working full time and children and families focusing on schooling, we decided to leave the resumption of cub activities until after the summer break.

So in September 2020 the leaders discussed resuming activities. As we were then allowed to meet outside with social distancing measures, we decided that the cubs would appreciate getting together and devised some outdoor games. After much paperwork and risk assessment drafting, the Scout Association approved our activity, and on 15th October 12 cubs and 3 leaders met at Sparrows Den for an evening of outdoor games.

As it was likely that further lockdowns were likely, we moved to fortnightly zoom meetings for the rest of the term until Christmas, and for the spring term until Easter. Our activities have included making firework art, making Christmas puddings, producing work for the artists badge, Christmas party games, making craft from other countries and cooking frying pan pizzas.

Although zoom is quite limiting when it comes to the usual cub activities, and there is more reliance on parents to prepare equipment, the continued contact with the cubs has been great and feedback has been really good.

Many thanks to my assistant leaders Henry and George, and our cub parents for doing all the prep.

For the summer term, with the easing of lockdown, we are looking at alternating our zoom meetings with outdoor activities, so we can get back to some form of normality!

27th Beaver Scouts – no meetings.

27th Scouts – no meetings due to the physical nature of scout activities and lack of camping opportunities.

Helen Medland, acting Cub Scout Leader, and Assistant Group Scout Leader.

Choir

With the church closing in late March 2020 due to coronavirus, the choir has naturally had a disjointed year. Other than a number of weeks in the autumn, it has not been possible to meet in person during this time and so we have tried to find other ways to remain in touch.

Every fortnight during the various lockdowns, we have met on Zoom, and this has usually attracted approximately 15 members.

I would like to thank everyone in the choir for their superb support throughout the year.

The Junior Choir has also met weekly on Zoom, during term time, and a big debt of thanks is owed to Nichola Mander for organising this and keeping the Junior Choir together through such difficult times.

We have been able to offer a number of Virtual Choir recordings, which involve the choir filming themselves singing at home. It is a daunting process so I have been exceptionally proud of what we have produced, including a virtual 'visit' to Guildford Cathedral in July 2020 when we sang for their online Sunday service.

Also our 2019 Christmas Album turned out to be very useful in putting together an online Carol Service.

Sadly, our choir trips to Lichfield Cathedral (2020) and Worcester Cathedral (2021) were both cancelled, as was a day trip to Rochester Cathedral in May 2021. We have replaced the 2021 slot with a trip to Chelmsford Cathedral.

It is hugely gratifying that nearly the whole choir is coming on this trip – we are still out there, we remain wholly committed and we are raring to sing again when the time comes!

Richard Mander

Drop-In and Christmas Dinner

At the beginning of the year, the DI was running at full throttle by supporting 60+ guests per Sunday. However, we closed after our session on 15th March due to Covid-19 restrictions. Despite trying to find solutions during the first lockdown, we were unable to provide any service to our guests due to restrictions imposed on our centre. All perishable food was passed for distribution via the foodbank operating from the pavilion and to Nightwatch.

We were approached by Croydon Churches Floating Shelters to participate in providing a hot meal on Sundays to a small number of homeless guests staying at a Safe Shelter Hub, located in the grounds of Croydon University Hospital. Our lovely volunteers willingly provided meals from November and are continuing to do so until the end of May 2021.

In December, a church in Tooting donated about forty bags of non-perishable food, which they do every Christmas, and these bags were passed to The Link, at the United Reform Church, a drop-in that has managed to continue outdoors.

As we were unable to host our Christmas dinner on Christmas Day, we worked with our normal kind volunteers to deliver small gifts and a card to those people who would normally be on our list to attend the lunch. Sadly, we weren't able to contact most of our homeless guests but did reach a few dozen people who would otherwise have had little or no contact over Christmas. The gifts were greatly appreciated but everyone is looking forward to being able to get together again next year, God willing.

We look forward to providing this vital support again once restrictions are lifted, possibly from October 2021

Sally Burlington

Flower Team

This has to be a first for the Flower Team with very little to report!

The last time we bought flowers was for Mothering Sunday 2020, we had ordered and collected daffodils during the week from our new wholesale supplier but, Lockdown arrived and the Mothering Sunday service was cancelled, the dilemma was, what to do with a large box of daffodils, a joint decision between Roger and myself was made that they should be given to the 'Millies' playgroup children to give to their Mummies, the crèche staff and children were very grateful. The daffodils were donated by a parishioner in memory of all Mother's past and present. A donation of £20 was also given towards Mothering Sunday, which we are holding to be spent in the future.

We have a healthy bank balance which consists of legacies and monies donated from weddings and funerals, the account is ring fenced for possibly new flower pedestals and any new equipment that might be needed in the future. The team only ask for voluntary help financing flowers for large services i.e Easter, Harvest and Christmas, and on very rare large commemorative services.

Fresh flowers in the Church are financed by donations from those who wish to celebrate an occasion, anniversary, birthday or in memory of a loved one, silk flowers 'can you tell the difference'? are used at other times. We the team really value your support and encouragement and if there is a time when anybody feels that they would like to donate for any occasion please contact, Anita Jerome, Sharon Collins, or the Parish office.

The team consists of six 'sprightlyish' ladies and one very younger sprightly lady and anyone who wishes to join us, no experience necessary please don't be shy we learn from each other, plus a never-ending supply of coffee, tea and biscuits provided, and lots of fun, friendship and laughter.

Many thanks for your encouragement, generosity, love, and support.

Sharon Collins

Friends of St. Mildred's

"The Friends of St Mildred's" scheme was set up in 1989 to encourage all within our wider family who are united in wishing to support us in some way.

Friends was re-launched in 2013.

We draw our membership from a variety of sources:

- ✝ members of the congregation,
- ✝ users and visitors to the centre,
- ✝ those who have moved away,
- ✝ those who attend other churches or faiths,
- ✝ and those no religious affiliation.

We offer people the opportunity to tailor make their involvement, so the forms include the following options:

- ✝ receiving our magazine - the 'Parish Post' (10 issues per year).
- ✝ receiving information about special children's events.

- ✝ receiving information about special musical events.
- ✝ receiving information about special events (eg social events, quiz nights, Parish show, Christmas Fair etc. etc.).
- ✝ receiving invitations to special services (eg Memorial services, Pet Blessing services, the Patronal Festival when the Friends of St Mildred's will be specifically included in our prayers, etc. etc.).

Cost? £25 with the proviso that it is 'suggested'. We are aware that some people already support St Mildred's via planned giving and may not wish to pay any more; so, we are very grateful for any donations whether bigger or smaller than that suggested.

A gift aid facility is included.

The form also includes information on how specific concerns (prayer requests etc) can be dealt with via the Parish Pastoral team. Each member, and those family members they nominate on their form, is included in the regular intercessions each week.

Each year, we hope to continue to expand our membership by including forms with various application packs eg weddings, baptisms and Centre bookings

During 2020 around 33 households joined.

2020 was an 'interesting' year, and we tried to keep in touch with all 'Friends' despite all the inherent challenges. Those who had provided email addresses were sent lots of church and more general local information during 3 lockdowns and the various tiers with a lot of favourable feedback.

Margaret Simmons

Home/Lent Groups

Our home group stopped last March and has not met up since except for joining in with everyone this Lent.

Chris Simmons

Elizabeth and I ran a home group in church until just before the lockdown in March 2020. As a group we started a Lent course called "Lentwise" Spiritual essentials for real life by Paula Gooder. Unfortunately, this had to stop after a couple of sessions and was never resumed. Our group has not met since. However, we are also members of Steves Chapman's group which continued to meet on Zoom throughout the year.

Jeff Fleischer

Delighted to report that, thanks to Zoom, we have continued to meet over the course of the last year. Really speaks to the adaptability of our community as we battled and finally mastered technology over the course 2020! Meeting on a Wednesday evening has been one of the highlights of my week and our discussions were both lively and educational as we studied God's word together. It was a real delight to share our frustrations and delights as Covid-19 waxed & waned over the course of 2020. The loving care both received & given was a joy.

Over the course of 2020, we studied, the weekly lectionary as well as “Lentwise” – Paula Gooder and “Busyness” – Juanita Ryan

It was a delight to welcome so many to our Lent Group this Spring, when we studied together Tom Wright’s, Lenten reflections on the gospel of Mark. It was a joy to be working with Jane Ward, Alice Kawoya and Roger in sharing God’s word in the community of St Mildreds

As we move out of Lent and into the Summer, we plan to study together “Parables” that was published to wide acclaim at the start of the year by Paula Gooder. Described in the Church Times as:

“Of all recent books on the parables, this unpretentious volume is the best”
“The author shows a respectful love for her readers and all of the characters that appear in the narrative. Even the Pharisees are treated sympathetically!”

With good fortune we hope to meet in person once again over the course of the Summer. We have a lot of birthdays to celebrate.

Steve Chapman

Ladies Choir

Last year The World Day of Prayer annual service was the only occasion the Ladies’ Choir was able to sing for last year, being held on Sat 6th March. The daytime Croydon service was held in St Mildred’s, (for the first time) with Roger kindly hosting *and* playing the organ! It was prepared and written by the women of Zimbabwe, with the theme: ‘Rise! Take Your Mat and Walk’. One of the songs, set to those words, was specially written for the service and sung by the choir, having a positive message and upbeat feel and accompanied by maracas!

The three bookings we had for Springtime themed entertainments to local groups such as the Unity Club, were of course, cancelled!

Inevitably we haven’t been able to meet since the first lockdown, but have kept in touch with each other by email, phone, the new Zoom (!) or, when we could, see each other at church or when out and about walking locally! Several of us joined in this year’s World Day of Prayer service, held on Zoom on Friday 5th March, with the theme ‘Build on a Strong Foundation’, prepared by the women of Vanuatu.

Currently we wait to see how the national ‘road map’ works out and hope that maybe after the summer (which is always our quiet time) we will be able to meet and sing together again, hopefully for Christmas events. Our bookings are dependent upon whether local clubs and groups for the elderly are able to meet again, or whether we are ever again allowed to visit establishments such as the local library, or Hall Grange, where Heather Fillery lives. We remain optimistic, however, that we *will* sing together once more at some point!

Penny Locke

Literary Society

The season 2019 to 2020 was cut short just before the first lockdown. None of the summer socials or outings were able to take place and the season October 2020 to

March 2021 had to be cancelled. The good news is that all the speakers have re booked for 2021-2022, and we all look forward to returning.

Jeff Fleischer

Millie's Pre-School

What a year! It has been different for us all with plenty of changes to our daily lives.

Millies year has certainly had its ups and downs during the covid crisis. When we first locked down we did shut for a short while however we were one of the first to welcome children back in small "bubbles" restricting children's hours but keeping us as safe as we could be.

For a short while it was lovely to see other groups return to the big hall even though we could just wave through the window, and all too soon lockdown started again - apart from us in early years. While most were being told to stay at home, the government wanted all early years settings to stay open to all. So we have been working throughout. Many decided to keep their children home while others joined us at Millies. Seeing the children's faces has been a joy even though the logistics of trying to keep all safe has been challenging. Extra hand washing and frequent cleaning has meant we smell of soap or bleach or both! However for the children we have been very clear in our outlook. Their care and learning is as normal. Our children can't socially distance and need cuddles and personal help, so for them Millies has to be the same magical learning space where they feel safe and cared for, and have a fantastic array of learning activities!

I would like to express my gratitude to the church for such huge support and looking after us so well, even gritting our pathway when it snowed! We have been spoilt! Leander has reacted to all our changing needs being just a phone call away.

We are looking forward to seeing groups return as we come out of lockdown again.

Kim Benham

Mothers' Union

In February 2020 we held our AGM and Penny Locke wrote a report on behalf of the committee. This was circulated to members along with the secretary's and the treasurer's reports.

In March Christine Jenkins a member of St Mary's Lewisham, came to talk to us about her role as Day chaplain at Southwark Cathedral. In her role she leads a team of 26 chaplains. As well as chaplains the Cathedral has both volunteer welcomers and guides. The chaplains can be identified as they wear black cassocks. They wear name badges with only first names and the cassocks obliterate their personality, which make them more approachable. They are the pastoral face of the cathedral and are the first port of call to people in need. They are trained to be active listeners to demonstrate this through their body language and concentration and to never reject anyone.

The chaplains speak with the homeless, bereaved, sad, lonely, those with mental health issues and asylum seekers and anyone else who approaches them.

Little did we know at this meeting what a difficult year 2020 would be and that this would be the last time together for many months.

Seven of us did however manage to meet in my garden, socially distanced and sanitised of course, for the Wave of Prayer on 31st August. Those who wished brought their own coffee.

From August onwards sadly we were not able to meet again for MU meetings. We were able to see some members at church but of course we could not converse with one another but even that came to an end.

We must thank Margaret who put together entertaining Anthologies for us during this difficult time and also a thank you to those who contributed to them.

During this year we have kept in touch with each other through email and by phone and for those not on email we have sent to them paper copies of relevant information.

We now look forward to meeting in person once again in 2021 but until then we will just have to make the best on zoom as we did for our AGM in February 2021.

Jackie Bartley

Parish Post

Over the past year, the Parish Post Committee continued to comprise Karen Rooney, Jane Ward, Judy Bennett and Barbara Broughton.

As a result of the pandemic and various Lockdowns during which the Parish Office was closed, the Committee continued to produce the news section of the magazine by making it a free digital-only magazine. The adverts and contact pages were not included, as permission could not be obtained from all those concerned to publish their details online.

The magazine was emailed to those on the 'Friends' list, as well as others, and was also available via the church website. We thank Margaret for her help with this. From October we were able to print 20 hard copies of the news section each month for delivery to those not online, and we thank Leander for her help with this.

The Committee met regularly online via Zoom throughout the year and continued to plan the magazine a few months ahead, in order to provide different and interesting articles and interviews. We thank all our contributors over the past year, but especially Pat for keeping our brain cells active with her tricky crosswords.

Karen continued to carry out the design, layout and editing of the magazine, with the rest of the Committee carrying out the proofreading.

It's been a challenging year, but we are pleased we were able to continue to provide a magazine to our readers in the parish and wider afield. Thanks to all Committee members for their hard work and support.

Karen Rooney

Safeguarding

During the course of the last year, 'A Safe Church' was continued to be adopted by the PCC. Both PSOs along with the Church Wardens have continuously monitored

this and taken appropriate actions and steps where required. Many new DBS checks and renewals have been submitted to the APCS successfully. The number of volunteers who carry out regulated activity with children and / or adults has increased significantly over the last year. Both PSOs have conducted further safeguarding training this year and are committed to continued development in the future. Due to the national Covid restrictions, safeguarding meetings with the Vicar, as well as Church Wardens, has taken place via Zoom to ensure continued communication has been met during this challenging time.

Chris Hatton

Millies Mountaineers

Following Helen Medland's decision to stand down from Sunday School work after 10 years, in the autumn, Roger suggested we re-named our Sunday School Millies Mountaineers. This would comprise of Scramblers (pre-school aged children) and Climbers (for school aged children). As Sunday school was not able to run, we made up boxes with bible story related activities for the children to use during the service. Any activities they used they are able to take home. These were changed for Advent and Christmas season but were not used as the church was closed. As we return to church in lent the boxes will be filled with lent and Easter activities. We will continue to use these boxes until we are able to meeting in person when regulations allow.

Eileen Chapman

Toddlers

We started back after Christmas by celebrating Australia Day in January. We tried our hand at Aboriginal dot painting of Australian wild animals. The Chinese New Year of the Rat proved challenging but we did manage to produce a suitable craft.

Little did we realise as we started preparing for Mothering Sunday & Easter that our plans would be cut short by Covid-19.

At the moment we hope to be able to re-start Toddlers by the end of the Year. We are unlikely to be able to host the numbers we have in the past and how it will operate remains to be decided.

A huge "Thank You" to all our Ladies who support us each week. We look forward to welcoming you back when we re-open.

Eileen Chapman

Women's Group

Like every other group, the Women's Group had to close down for covid in March last year. We also missed the February 2020 meeting due to the heating having broken down. However, prior to that we had started well in September 2019 with 'Cheese, wine and chat' followed by a theatre trip to see 'Big fish', bulb planting for Spring, Christmas door or table decoration making and our film night in January 2020 showing 'Stan and Ollie'. All other planned events were cancelled. Since then, covid restrictions have made meeting in person impossible. So, in February this year

2021 we tried a pamper facial evening on Zoom which made for an enjoyable activity.

As for the future, we are hoping the vaccine will work it's magic and allow us to resume some sort of normality for meeting up.

Vera Burch

Worship Band

What a strange year it's been! It was the 15th March 2020 that we held the last Café Church service. Things had already started to change – there were no refreshments, social distancing was starting to come in and we weren't sure what the immediate future held. There was talk of further restrictions coming, maybe even a national lock-down. There were even predictions that if things were really bad, restrictions could remain in place until September!

So here we are, one year on, and there is now significant light at the end of the tunnel. The vaccine roll-out has been a great success, allowing us to start to return to some kind of normality and start to return to church.

As a result of the Pandemic, the Worship Band has been unable to meet for a whole year. However, we have continued with our music and found new ways to provide our ministry. We have recorded a number of our favourite songs, all recorded individually from home on mobile phones and then spliced together. They are available on the St Mildred's YouTube Channel and have so far been viewed over 1000 times. The videos have also been integrated into some of the online services to enhance the overall worship.

We miss our Café Church friends and very much look forward to being allowed back into church to play together once again and to be able to mix with the rest of St Mildred's, and hope that this can happen sooner, rather than later.

David Nicholls

Deanery Synod

This started off as a busy year with our Deanery creating a leadership team to push forward items on the Deanery's Mission Action Plan (MAP). Our first task was to promote communication between our churches and to this end a Facebook page was set-up. Notice of our "Get on Board" children's activity as well as "The Z Factor", an event to be hosted by Aike Kennett-Brown, Diocesan Mission Support Officer (Children and Young People), were advertised.

The February Deanery Synod included a presentation by Helen Harris from Purley Food Hub. In May there was an Intercessory Prayer Webinar lead by Archbishop Justin Welby, Archbishop Sentamu and Cardinal Vincent Nichols. Raewynne Whitely, Acting Director of Discipleship and Ministry for the Diocese of Southwark, spoke to the Synod in November and we were also requested to pray for Croydon Council.

Patricia Howard

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

Charity number:	133737
Registered Charity name:	The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of St. Mildred's Addiscombe
Address:	Bingham Road Croydon CR0 7EB
Bankers:	National Westminster Bank 209-213 Lower Addiscombe Road Croydon CR0 6RB
Independent examiner:	Klass & Co 18 Mounthurst Road Bromley BR2 7QN

Members of the PCC are either ex officio or elected by the Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM) in accordance with the Church Representation Rules.

During the year the following served as members of the PCC:

Incumbent:	Rev'd Roger Hagon
Hon Curate:	Rev'd Marie King (NSM - retired)
Churchwardens:	Linda Monk and Steven Chapman
Secretary:	Judy Bennett
Treasurer:	Colin Simonds
Representatives on Deanery Synod:	Warren Hall, Pat Howard Richard Morrall

Elected Members	Judy Bennett	(until APCM 2021)
	Richard Mander	(until APCM 2021)
	Helen Medland	(until APCM 2021)
	Chris Hatton	(from APCM 2019)
	Graeme Monk	(from APCM 2019)
	Janet Palmer	(until APCM 2021)
	Jan Rutter	(until APCM 2021)
	Matthew Webb	(until APCM 2021)
	Griselda Wireko-Brobby	(until APCM 2021)

The aims of the PCC are to promote the whole mission of the church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical within the parish. It also offers the Pastoral Staff Team full support in the carrying out of their mission.

Working groups, under the authority of the PCC, meet throughout the year prayerfully to reflect on and develop an aspect of church life in line with our current Vision Statement –

‘We seek to be an open and loving church, growing in faith and confidence and joyfully sharing God’s love with all’.

Each group is invited by the PCC Secretary to send a written report to the PCC meetings which brings the whole council up-to-date with its work and thinking. Sometimes longer presentations may be made to the PCC and recommendations which seek PCC approval. Below is a list of our current groups, their facilitators and membership. Please show your interest by speaking to the facilitator and your support by praying through the year for the members of each group.

Membership and Terms of Reference for PCC Working Groups

Youth Ministry (Without Walls Church)

Building up the faith and confidence of young people and increasing their involvement in services.

Facilitator: Leander Garner

Worship Development

Increasing participation in all aspects of worship and planning future services.

Facilitator: Roger Hagon

Simon Pearce, Richard Mander, Nichola Mander, David Nicholls, Claire Webb,

Property

Maintaining and developing the Church building.

Facilitator: Matt Webb

Steve Chapman, Richard Morrall, Kieron Chapman

Organ Restoration Project

Providing a new West Organ to support congregational singing and build on the strong musical tradition of St. Mildred’s

Facilitator: Richard Mander

Stuart Knight, Jane Davey, Warren Hall

Finance

Overseeing our financial resources and expenditure and budgeting for the future.

Facilitator: Richard Morrall

Patrina Buchanan, David Nicholls, Stuart Knight, Warren Hall, Audrey Marshall, Matt Webb, Colin Simonds.

St. Mildred's Centre

Facilitator: Leander Garner.

Social Events

Providing a broad range of social events so people can enjoy being with each other and getting to know new members.

Facilitators: Jane Davey (temporary)

George Calvert, Janet Palmer, Claire Webb.

Baptism Group

Co-ordinating baptism preparation and reflecting on baptism policy.

Facilitator: Roger Hagon

Eileen Chapman, Claire Webb, Griselda Wireko-Brobby

St. Mildred's Online

Providing live streamed services for those who cannot attend Church and to reach out to the wider community.

Facilitator: Matt Webb

David Nicholls, Pat Howard, Richard Mander, Margaret Simmons, Roger Hagon
Phillipa Hagon, Kieron Chapman

Pastoral Care Steering Group

Planning the introduction of a new team approach to pastoral care for those who attend/worship at St. Mildred's Church.

Facilitator: Elizabeth Fleischer

Jeff Fleischer, Ann Cox, Janet Palmer, Jane Ward

Standing Committee

Conducting PCC business between meetings.

Roger Hagon (Vicar), Steve Chapman (Church Warden), Linda Monk (Church Warden), Judy Bennett (PCC Secretary), Colin Simonds (PCC Treasurer)

Governing Documents

The Church of England have agreed with the Charity Commission that for the purpose of agreeing 'governing documents', Parochial Church Councils (PCCs) are governed by two pieces of legislation:

- a. The Parochial Church Council (Powers) Measure 1956 defines the principal function, or purpose, of the PCC as 'promoting in the parish the whole mission of the Church'.
- b. The Church Representation Rules (contained in Schedule 3 of the Synodical Government Measure 1969 as amended).

2020 Financial Report.

Following a year of working hard to restore St. Mildred's financial stability and longer-term sustainability, 2020 commenced with our facilities being used to the maximum until mid-March, when the Covid-19 pandemic required a national lockdown. St. Mildred's Church and Centre were closed along with other churches. This lasted on and off for most of 2020 and into 2021, and has impacted on our finances. At times when the church and centre were allowed to re-open, few activities were permitted with many restrictions in place.

With the loss of our Centre income from March, immediate action was taken to prevent a collapse of our finances. Actions were implemented to mitigate the situation, including cancellation of St. Mildred's monthly Parish Support Fund contributions, furloughing of all our 4 staff, cancellation of our cleaning contract, and cancellation of as many of our maintenance contracts as possible.

Implementation of these measures, together with the generosity of those members of the congregation who have maintained their level of pledged giving throughout the year, enabled St. Mildred's to just meet its running costs. The income from children's activities and adult exercise classes permitted for short periods of time during the year enabled some further one-off contributions to the Parish Support Fund. At the end of 2020, St. Mildred's had made contributions of £40,600 of the pledged £81,200 self-financing figure—a shortfall of £40,600.

Later in the year the Finance Team agreed the provisional 2021 budget, which the PCC approved at its October meeting. With all the uncertainties associated with possible further lockdowns and restrictions, the budget included a £30,000 pledged contribution from St. Mildred's to the Parish Support Fund, an amount eventually agreed with the Diocese after some difficult negotiation—some £50,000 below the parish self-financing figure.

The final amount for the Choir Stalls was paid from the remaining Big 'Our Church' Project monies following their installation in November. There will be no further major expenditure on the Big 'Our Church' Project, with all activities now almost complete. The additional restrictions before Christmas and subsequent ongoing lockdown have again resulted in closure of the church and centre, except for Millies Preschool key worker children and from 8th March 'Mums Little Helpers Wrap Round Care' permitted to reopen.

The Government has produced a data-lead Road Map out of lockdown, which will allow for some very cautious opening. The remainder of this year and 2022 is expected to remain extremely challenging financially.

The restoration of the West Organ project is now underway and a deposit of £52,507 has been paid toward the cost of this restoration. At the end of the year, the Organ Fund stood at £53,406 after paying that deposit. The restoration of the organ is expected to be completed in the 2023 Financial Year. The final estimated cost is expected to be around £217,500 (excluding VAT) after the reduction of the deposit. Funding for the project will include application for various grants, community donations and sponsorships.

Finally, we again thank all those members of our congregation for their continued and generous regular giving to St. Mildred's in these most difficult of times in the life of our church. That financial support has been instrumental in St. Mildred's being able to deliver our mission using new IT technology in creative and innovative ways.

Reserves Policy.

It is the PCC Policy to maintain a balance of unrestricted funds, which equates to at least three months unrestricted payments, equivalent to £42,205, to cover emergency situations that may arise from time to time. Free reserves as at 31st December 2020 are £123,628 and therefore the reserves policy has been met.

Going Concern.

The Trustees have evaluated the circumstances in which St. Mildred's operates. Government action taken in response to the Covid-19 pandemic has caused St. Mildred's Church and Centre to be closed for much of 2020 and 2021. As a consequence, the pandemic has had a severe impact on the finances of St. Mildred's.

To mitigate the loss of income from the church and centre being closed, all contracts cancelled in 2020 remain cancelled. St. Mildred's contribution to the Parish Support Fund—at a much reduced figure of £2,500 per month—has been agreed with the Diocese, and catered for in the 2021 budget agreed by the PCC at its October 2020 meeting. St Mildred's 4 staff members remain on full or part furlough, a position that will remain until the scheme is scheduled to close on 30th September 2021.

With the new Government data-led Road Map, Covid-19 restrictions are expected to remain in place until 21st June at the earliest. With the 1st Step of the Road Map in place, a Sunday 10.00 Church service is now being held. Millies PreSchool and Mums Little Helpers Breakfast and After School Club are now able to operate for key worker children.

While the church and centre were closed, St. Mildred's main source of income was through the support and generosity of the church congregation who continued to give regularly, through online giving. Because of the mitigating measures taken, it has been possible to fund necessary expenditure using the current account and, thus, avoid using the unrestricted cash reserves.

Throughout 2020, cash balances were continuously monitored, and this is continuing through 2021. Cash reserves at 31st December 2020 were £151,927, compared to £251,100 at 31st December 2019. The reduction in cash reserves during 2020 mainly relates to £45,102 paid for the Choir Stalls (as part of the Big 'Our Church' Project) and £52,507 deposit paid to commence the Organ restoration project.

With the gradual reopening of society in line with the Government Road Map and reduction in financial support from the government furlough scheme from 30th June to 30th September, we anticipate additional expenditure including in the following areas for the remainder of 2021:

- staff costs associated with the phased withdrawal of the government's furlough scheme.
- staff costs associated with the phased opening up of the centre for activities.
- cleaning costs to maintain a Covid-19 secure site and hygienic facilities.

The impact of these additional costs will be offset by an increased level of income from centre permitted usage.

Having evaluated the continuing uncertainties associated with the Covid-19 pandemic that remain and the mitigating actions (strict controls and constant monitoring of cash flows), the Trustees have concluded that the charity is able to continue as a going concern.

ST MILDRED'S PARISH CHURCH
PCC ANNUAL ACCOUNTS

For the year ended 31 December 2020

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF ST MILDRED'S, ADDISCOMBE

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of St Mildred's Parish Church for the year ended 31 December 2020.

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 2011 Act').

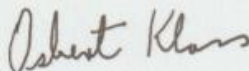
I report in respect of my examination of your Charity's accounts as carried out under section 145 of the Charities Act 2011 ('the 2011 Act') and in carrying out my examination I have followed the Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5) (b) of the 2011 Act.

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 giving me cause to believe that in any material respect:

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of the Trust as required by section 130 of the Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records; or
3. the accounts do 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.



Signed:	
Name:	Osbert Klass
Relevant professional body:	Association of Chartered Certified Accountants
Address:	18 Mounthurst Road, Hayes, Bromley, Kent BR2 7QN
Date:	18 April 2021

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

For the year ended 31 December 2020

	Note	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds £	2019 Total £
Income					
Church and centre income, fundraising and donations		168,371	6,046	174,417	291,197
Investment		10,043	334	10,377	8,467
Total income	3	178,414	6,380	184,794	299,664
Expenditure					
Charitable activities		268,142	4,143	272,285	355,223
Total expenditure		268,142	4,143	272,285	355,223
Income less expenditure	4	(89,728)	2,237	(87,491)	(55,559)
Unrealised (losses)/gains on investments	6	(34,438)	(1,437)	(35,875)	27,604
Net expenditure/net movement in funds		(124,166)	800	(123,366)	(27,955)
Fund balances brought forward	2	553,662	54,212	607,874	635,829
Fund balances carried forward at 31 December 2020	10	429,496	55,012	484,508	607,874

The notes on pages 30 to 40 form part of these accounts.

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

As at 31 December 2020

	Note	2020		2019	
		£	£	£	£
Fixed Assets					
Tangible Assets					
Centre Assets	7		4,347		5,169
Church Equipment	7		61,075		69,162
Church Assets	7		185		278
			<u>65,607</u>		<u>74,609</u>
Investments					
Charifund investments			240,261		251,137
			<u>305,868</u>		<u>325,746</u>
Current Assets					
Associated Accounts	20	28,443		26,539	
Debtors	8	2,396		14,769	
Short-term investments		125,887		238,022	
Cash and Bank		<u>26,040</u>		<u>13,078</u>	
		182,766		292,408	
Current Liabilities					
Creditors and accruals	9	<u>(4,126)</u>		<u>(10,280)</u>	
			178,640		282,128
			<u>484,508</u>		<u>607,874</u>
Represented by:					
Unrestricted funds	10		429,496		553,662
Restricted funds	10		<u>55,012</u>		<u>54,212</u>
			<u>484,508</u>		<u>607,874</u>

Approved by the PCC on

R.C. Hagen (R.C. HAGEN)
Chair
St. Michael's PCC

[Signature]

Steven Chapman (STEVEN CHAPMAN)
Vice-Chair,
St. Michael's PCC

[Signature]

The notes on pages 5 to 14 form part of these accounts.

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

For the year ended 31 December 2020

1) Accounting policies

(a) Basis of preparing accounts

The accounts (financial statements) have been prepared under the historical cost convention with items recognised at cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant note(s) to these accounts. The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Statement of Recommended Practice: Accounting and Reporting by Charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) issued on 16 July 2014 and the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the United Kingdom and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) and the Charities Act 2011.

The charity constitutes a public benefit entity as defined by FRS 102.

The trustees consider that there are no material uncertainties about the Church's ability to continue as a going concern.

(b) Reconciliation with previous Generally Accepted Accounting Practice

In preparing the accounts, the trustees have considered whether, in applying the accounting policies required by FRS 102 and the Charities SORP FRS 102, a restatement of comparative items was needed. No restatements were required. In accordance with the requirements of FRS 102 a reconciliation of opening balances and net income/(expenditure) for the year is provided with the net income/(expenditure) under previous GAAP adjusted for the presentation of investment gains/(losses) as a component of reported income.

Funds

- (a) Unrestricted funds represent funds of the charity that are not subject to any restrictions regarding their use and are available for application on the general purposes of the charity.
- (b) Restricted funds represent funds of the charity that were received with restrictions so that use can be only for the purposes stated.

Income

All income is recognised once the charity has entitlement to the income, it is probable that the income will be received and the amount of income receivable can be measured reliably.

Expenditure

Liabilities are recognised as expenditure as soon as there is a legal or constructive obligation committing the charity to that expenditure, it is probable that settlement will be required and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably. All expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis. All expenses including support costs and governance costs are allocated or apportioned to the applicable expenditure headings.

Fixed assets

Assets costing over £300 are capitalised and depreciated as follows:

Equipment (computer & electronic)—10%-33% per annum.

Fixtures and fittings (including furniture)—10%-20% per annum.

The church building is not reported as a fixed asset in the statement of financial position; all expenditure on maintaining the building is recognised as an expense when incurred.

Investments

Investments are held in the statement of financial position at market value at the year end. Any change from market value at the previous reporting date or from cost if purchased during the year, is included in the Statement of Financial Activities.

Fund accounting

Restricted funds represent monies received for specific projects undertaken by the charity. General unrestricted funds of the charity are available for the general purposes of the charity.

2) Comparative of Statement of Financial Activities - 2019

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds £
Income			
Church and centre income, fundraising and donations	262,213	28,984	291,197
Investment	8,053	414	8,467
Total income	270,266	29,398	299,664
Expenditure			
Charitable activities	330,480	24,743	355,223
Total expenditure	330,480	24,743	355,223
Unrealised gains on investments	26,423	1,181	27,604
Net expenditure/net movement in funds	(33,791)	5,836	(27,955)
Fund balances brought forward	587,453	48,376	635,829
Fund balances carried forward at 31 December 2019	553,662	54,212	607,874

3) Income from unrestricted funds

	Note	2020 £	2019 £
Income from church activities	12	81,976	93,222
Income from centre activities	13	60,003	137,719
Income: Property Fund	14	9,178	6,678
Income: Outreach Fund	17	5,383	4,257
Income: Big 'Our Church' Project	18	1,670	2,495
Income: Organ Fund	15	19,631	24,131
Other income		573	1,764
Total income from unrestricted funds		178,414	270,266

4) Income and expenditure on unrestricted funds

	Note	2020 £	2019 £
Deficit on church activities (£1,443 - depreciation of church assets and equipment £8,180)	12	(6,737)	(45,262)
(Deficit)/surplus on centre activities (£12,730) - depreciation of centre assets £822)	13	(13,552)	22,722
Property fund: investment income	14	9,178	6,678
Outreach fund (income less expenditure)	17	(595)	(7,652)
(Deficit) of income over expenditure on church and centre activities		(11,706)	(23,514)
Other income (net of expenditure):			
Organ fund	15	(32,876)	23,001
Big 'Our Church' Project	18	(45,146)	(59,701)
Total income over expenditure on unrestricted funds		(89,728)	(60,214)

5) Staff costs

	2020 £	2019 £
Salaries (including pensions)	27,824	52,250
Social security costs	0	0
	27,824	52,250
	No.	No.
Staff	4	4

6) Revaluation of investments

	2020 £	2019 £
(Decrease)/increase in market value of Charifund investments during year (unrestricted funds)	(34,438)	26,423
	(34,438)	26,423

7) Tangible fixed assets

	Centre Assets £	Church Equipment £	Church Assets £	Total £
Cost				
At 1 January 2020	66,687	83,478	22,339	172,504
Additions	0	0	0	0
At 31 December 2020	<u>66,687</u>	<u>83,478</u>	<u>22,339</u>	<u>172,504</u>
Accumulated Depreciation				
At 1 January 2020	61,518	14,316	22,061	97,895
Charge for the year	822	8,087	93	9,002
At 31 December 2020	<u>62,340</u>	<u>22,403</u>	<u>22,154</u>	<u>106,897</u>
Net Book Value				
At 31 December 2020	<u>4,347</u>	<u>61,075</u>	<u>185</u>	<u>65,607</u>
At 31 December 2019	<u>5,169</u>	<u>69,162</u>	<u>278</u>	<u>74,609</u>

Church equipment includes the audio visual system in the church, purchased in 2018.

8) Debtors

	2020 £	2019 £
Centre rent owing	1,757	13,174
Gift aid tax recoverable	1,059	1,595
Christmas market advances	(420)	0
	<u>2,396</u>	<u>14,769</u>

9) Creditors

	2020 £	2019 £
Church expenditure	308	2,194
Centre expenditure	3,418	6,220
Other	400	1,866
	<u>4,126</u>	<u>10,280</u>

10) Funds as at 31 December 2020

	Note	Closing Balance £	Unrestricted £	Restricted £
St. Mildred's fund	11	104,690	104,690	
Property fund	14	155,247	155,247	
Organ fund	15	53,406	53,406	
Outreach fund	17	44,952	44,952	
Big 'Our Church' Project	18	3,000	3,000	
Fabric fund	19	12,594	2,594	10,000
Organ scholarship fund		13,998		13,998
Flower fund		2,571		2,571
Centre assets	7	4,347	4,347	
Church equipment	7	61,075	61,075	
Church assets	7	185	185	
<u>Funds for Associated Accounts</u>				
Drop-in for homeless	20	22,085		22,085
Sunday school	20	421		421
Choir association	20	5,024		5,024
Ladies choir	20	220		220
Toddlers group	20	693		693
		484,508	429,496	55,012

11) St. Mildred's Fund

St. Mildred's fund is for the general upkeep and running of the church and centre.

	Note	2020 £	2019 £
Fund at 1 January		114,123	55,576
Transfer from Big 'Our Church' Project fund	18	1,854	0
Transfer from memorial fund	16	0	73,690
Surplus/(deficit) on church activities	12	1,443	(37,084)
(Deficit)/surplus on centre activities	13	(12,730)	21,941
Fund at 31 December		104,690	114,123

12) Church activities (for information only)

	2020 £	2019 £
Income		
Pledged giving	58,653	57,258
Non-pledged giving	2,614	6,945
Gift aid tax refund	13,161	14,279
Church rent	676	8,345
Baptisms weddings funerals	600	1,325
Donations and other	5,407	3,695
Interest income	865	1,375
Total income	81,976	93,222
Expenditure		
Parish Support Fund pledge ¹	40,600	78,600
Heat, light & water	5,261	8,220
Church repairs	9,541	5,460
Choir music, organ and organist	3,635	8,513
Printing and other administration (incl. website)	8,348	8,405
Parish office wages	5,645	14,705
Altar sundries and clergy expenses	2,156	2,584
Insurance	3,297	3,217
Other church expenditure	2,050	602
Total expenditure	80,533	130,306
Surplus/(deficit) on church activities for the year	1,443	(37,084)

¹ The Diocese Parish Support Fund self-financing pledge in 2020 was £81,200 (2019 - £78,600).

13) Centre activities (for information only)

	2020 £	2019 £
Income		
Centre rent	49,269	129,860
Flat rent	10,500	7,625
Site development donations	234	234
Total income	60,003	137,719
Expenditure		
Routine maintenance	9,493	13,348
Cleaning	13,091	23,646
Heat, light & water	14,200	23,677
Staff costs	20,265	37,545
Insurance	3,297	3,217
Administration costs	3,448	4,594
Centre repairs	8,939	7,560
Total expenditure	72,733	113,587
Centre (deficit)/surplus before purchase of assets	(12,730)	24,132
Purchase of centre assets	(0)	(2,191)
(Deficit)/surplus on centre activities for the year	(12,730)	21,941

14) Property Fund

This fund includes amounts set aside for the future purchase of a property. Those amounts are invested in Charifund income units.

	2020 £	2019 £
Fund at 1 January	174,737	150,000
Income: Dividends	9,178	6,678
(Decrease)/increase in value of Charifund investments	(28,668)	18,059
Fund at 31 December	155,247	174,737

15) Organ Fund

This fund includes amounts donated, raised and designated for the refurbishment of the organ. A 15% deposit was paid in 2020 for that future refurbishment.

	2020 £	2019 £
Fund at 1 January	86,282	63,281
Income: donations and fundraising (plus gift aid)	19,606	20,898
Christmas market 2019	25	3,233
	19,631	24,131
Used for: deposit for future refurbishment	(52,507)	(1,130)
Fund at 31 December	53,406	86,282

16) Memorial Fund

This fund had included legacies left to St. Mildred's. The remaining legacies (all unrestricted for general use) were transferred to St. Mildred's fund in 2019.

	2020 £	2019 £
Fund at 1 January	0	73,690
Transfer to St. Mildred's fund	(0)	(73,690)
Fund at 31 December	0	0

17) Outreach Fund

This fund is for use for outreach, including for example WOW church and Café Church.

	2020	2019
	£	£
Fund at 1 January	45,547	72,900
Income		
Donations – drop-in	268	678
Donations – women's refuge	2,210	0
Donations – Croydon Voluntary Action	1,118	0
Donations – Chaplaincy Charity Fund	416	0
Donations – Church Missionary Society	466	0
Donations – carol service	0	778
Donations – Christian Aid	0	475
Donations – Bishops Lent Appeal	250	975
Donations – Mothers Union Appeal	0	354
Donations – Pulmonary Hypertension Association	0	817
Other	655	180
Total income	5,383	4,257
Used for: Big 'Our Church' Project (sale of Charifund units)	(0)	(19,701)
Used for:		
St. Mildred's Drop-in for the homeless	268	2,075
WOW church	736	5,843
Get on Board	95	0
Women's refuge	2,210	0
Croydon Voluntary Action	1,118	0
Chaplaincy Charity Fund	416	0
Church Missionary Society	466	0
Café Church	0	126
Christmas Day lunch	279	400
Christian Aid	0	480
Bishops Lent Appeal	250	1,027
Mothers Union Appeal	0	354
Pulmonary Hypertension Association	0	817
Lives not Knives	140	105
Other	0	329
Outreach noticeboard	0	353
Amounts used for donations and outreach	5,978	11,909
Fund at 31 December	44,952	45,547

18) Big 'Our Church' Project

This project was launched to redecorate the church and replace the wiring, lighting, stage, choir stalls and audio visual system. The work was largely completed in 2018, with additional work done on the vicar's vestry and flower vestry in 2019 and the choir stalls installed in 2020. The project was funded through donations, grants, the sale of Charifund income units and part of the proceeds from the sale of 13 Selwood Road. The fund balance at 31 December represents the final project payments still to be made.

	2020 £	2019 £
Fund at 1 January	50,000	90,000
Income		
Big 'Our Church' Project donations (plus gift aid)	1,670	2,495
Total income	1,670	2,495
Transfer from outreach fund (sale of Charifund units)	0	19,701
Transfer to St. Mildred's fund	(1,854)	0
Used for Big 'Our Church' project expenditure		
Choir stalls	45,102	0
Architect fees and consultants	0	3,684
Church decorating, lighting, rewiring, stage	1,714	25,819
Vicar's vestry and flower vestry	0	22,693
Donation: Refugee Council	0	10,000
Amounts used for Big 'Our Church' project expenditure	46,816	62,196
Fund at 31 December	3,000	50,000

19) Fabric Fund

This fund was established with a legacy from James Arthur Diplock. £10,000, representing the original capital, is to remain untouched except in the event of a major unforeseen emergency. £5,000 of the original capital is invested in Charifund accumulation units (market value on 31 December 2020 £38,981).

	2020 £	2019 £
Fund at 1 January	18,364	10,000
(Decrease)/increase in value of investments during year	(5,770)	8,364
Fund at 31 December	12,594	18,364
Of which:		
Unrestricted	2,594	8,364
Restricted - original legacy	10,000	10,000

20) Associated Accounts

	2020		2019	
	£	£	£	£
ST MILDRED'S DROP-IN FOR THE HOMELESS				
Opening balance		22,230		18,435
Income: donations				
Pat Newman Memorial Fund	0		2,500	
Other donations	1,758	1,758	9,870	12,370
Expenditure:				
Food	(988)		(3,840)	
Clothes and other costs	(915)	(1,903)	(4,735)	(8,575)
Closing balance at 31 December		22,085		22,230
SUNDAY SCHOOL				
Opening balance		421		344
Income	0		94	
Expenditure	(0)		(17)	
Closing balance at 31 December		421		421
CHOIR ASSOCIATION				
Opening balance		2,907		1,919
Income	3,916		14,310	
Expenditure	(1,799)		(13,322)	
Closing balance at 31 December		5,024		2,907
CAFÉ M				
Opening balance		0		937
Income	0		373	
Expenditure:	(0)		(239)	
Donations (Organ fund & Friends in Need)	(0)		(1,071)	
Closing balance at 31 December		0		0
LADIES CHOIR				
Opening balance		220		290
Income	0		80	
Expenditure	0		0	
Donations (Organ fund)	(0)		(150)	
Closing balance at 31 December		220		220
TODDLERS GROUP				
Opening balance		761		630
Income	372		1,501	
Expenditure	(440)		(1,275)	
Donations (Christian Aid)	(0)		(95)	
Closing balance at 31 December		693		761

Vicar's Sermon and Report

Today's service, and my sermon, start with gratitude. Just as St. Paul writes from house arrest to thank fellow Christians who have been helping in the work of the gospel, so I am thanking all of you today who have each helped in that same gospel work throughout Lockdown, helping to keep things going in a spirit of faith, hope and love. Linda, Graeme, and Steve, I thank you so much for your utmost dedication to God and to St. Mildred's. Your weekly conversations and constant adaptability have been priceless; you are treasured by everyone. Richard Morrall - thank you so much for keeping us all safe. Your endless reading and re-reading of government and church regulations, health and safety risk assessments, attentiveness to both Church and Centre use, leadership of our finances, and generous supply of sticky warning tape are much appreciated. And to all of you – for remaining constant in love and prayer, and for being here right now, I reach out with joy.

Gratitude first, and now 'coming back to life', for in many ways St. Mildred's has gone through a period of enforced hibernation. We have lost several church members; some have moved away, and some have died. Liz Seal's death brought an end to a wonderful chapter of pastoral care here and she is greatly missed. The Sunday School and Creche hasn't met, and we have lost touch with most of our younger worshipping families. Our Choir and Band have only been able to meet on Zoom and, despite recording wonderful music online, are champing at the bit to lead us again in worship – we miss you keenly. Our Centre shut down and was empty most of the time. Our financial situation is critical, and we have neither been able to meet our obligations to the Diocesan Parish Support Fund, nor to give as generously as we used to in our wider mission. So, help us God.

'Coming back to life' is the message of Spring, and 'in Christ you have a new beginning' is the message of Easter. Therefore, I have hope! And there are signs of Spring all around us and Resurrection is in the air! During the past year we formed a new ministry leadership team consisting of Revd. Marie King, Jane Ward (our newly-commissioned SPA), Steve Chapman

(our trainee Lay Reader), and myself. During the year we continued to supply food for Croydon Food Bank. The newly-convened Sunday School team launched "Millies' Mountaineers", providing activity boxes for children who come to services until we can meet again in groups. Our Director of Music, Richard Mander, led a team for the restoration of the West end organ, and we signed a contract to begin the work. Inspirational online worship has become weekly, led by a new "St. Mildred's Online" group led by Matt Webb.

But there is more serious work to be done. I charge our newly-elected PCC today, as I charge all of you, please, to join me in this work of re-building St. Mildred's - not our actual building this time, but our worshipping, caring, mission-minded, generous and growing people. What we mustn't do is try to do too much too soon. That's why I am looking to make this whole year, beginning from today, one of a steady 'coming back to life'. Our newly-elected PCC will be setting priorities and I am hoping that September will be a month to initiate a healthy re-investment of our time, talents and money in the future life and mission of our Church community. It is only in the hope of this God-given new beginning, that I invite you now to stand and say, with me, an Act of Commitment.

Revd. Roger Hagon. Vicar. 18th April 2021.