

# THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF ESHER

England & Wales · Charity number 1134847

## Details

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|             |                                                         |
|-------------|---------------------------------------------------------|
| Other names | ESHER PCC                                               |
| Status      | Registered                                              |
| Legal form  | Previously excepted                                     |
| Registered  | 2010-03-11                                              |
| Register    | <a href="#">View on the Charity Commission register</a> |

## Contact

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|         |                                                                             |
|---------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Address | Christ Church<br>Church Street<br>Esher<br>KT10 8QS                         |
| Phone   | 01372462282                                                                 |
| Email   | <a href="mailto:office@esherparish.org.uk">office@esherparish.org.uk</a>    |
| Website | <a href="http://www.esherparish.org.uk/">http://www.esherparish.org.uk/</a> |

## Activities

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

**Activities:** RELIGIOUS ACTIVITIESARTS/CULTURE/HERITAGE/SCIENCE

## Classification

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

## Geography

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

## Finances

| Period end | Income   | Expenditure | Assets | Employees |
|------------|----------|-------------|--------|-----------|
| 2024-12-31 | £211,524 | £264,183    | -      | -         |
| 2023-12-31 | £257,340 | £273,187    | -      | -         |
| 2022-12-31 | £221,902 | £251,843    | -      | -         |
| 2021-12-31 | £268,847 | £221,203    | -      | -         |
| 2020-12-31 | £247,347 | £232,948    | -      | -         |

## Trustees

| Name                  | Role | Appointed  |
|-----------------------|------|------------|
| Ann Battensby         |      | 2025-05-18 |
| BRIDGET MARY WILLIAMS |      | 2012-09-18 |
| Fraser McGuicken      |      | 2025-05-18 |
| Martin Fuller         |      | 2019-09-04 |
| Michael Banks         |      | 2025-05-18 |
| Robert Lonnon         |      | 2025-05-18 |
| SANDRA ARGENT         |      | 2015-01-01 |
| Sia Marshall          |      | 2025-05-18 |
| Teresa Allen          |      | 2025-05-18 |
| Valerie Msoka         |      | 2025-05-18 |
| WILL STEVENS          |      | 2013-10-09 |

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# Accounts

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**PARISH OF ESHER**  
Christ Church, Esher with St George's, West End



**ANNUAL REPORT &  
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
of the  
**PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL**  
for the year ended 31 December 2024

Growing together in faith, hope and love



PARISH OF ESHER  
Christ Church, Esher with St George's, West End

**ANNUAL REPORT &  
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
of the  
PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL  
of the PARISH of ESHER**

for the year ended 31 December 2024

Growing together in faith, hope and love

Rector: The Reverend Darren McCallig  
Honorary Assistant Priest: The Reverend Jonathan Andrew



Churches: Christ Church, Esher and St George's, West End, Esher

Parish Office: Christ Church, Church Street, Esher KT10 8QS

Bankers: National Westminster Bank plc, 73 High Street, Walton-on Thames KT12 1DW

Charity Registration Number: 1134847

Independent Examiner: Gordon Manickam CIA FCCIA



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## **The role and membership of the Parochial Church Council, and the Church officers and officials during 2024**

The overall management of the church is the responsibility of the Rector, The Reverend Darren McCallig, and the two churchwardens. The Rector was granted adoption leave for one year, starting in November 2023, and during this time the churchwardens took on a great deal of the managerial workload. Much support was provided by the Reverend Jonathan Andrew, and for the conduct of services, a rota was established, drawing primarily on local clergy, with the Rector officiating once per month.

The Esher Parochial Church Council (PCC) has the responsibility of working with the Rector and churchwardens, in promoting in the Parish the whole mission of the church: pastoral, evangelical, social and ecumenical. It also has maintenance responsibilities for the two church buildings, Christ Church and St George's, West End. Members of the PCC may be ex-officio, such as the Rector and the churchwardens, elected by the Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM), or co-opted, in accordance with the church representation rules.

|                                                 |                                                                                                                                                                                           |
|-------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Rector                                          | Revd Darren McCallig (Adoption Leave Nov 23-Nov 24)                                                                                                                                       |
| Churchwardens                                   | Helen Coulson, Jane Tyrrell                                                                                                                                                               |
| Treasurer                                       | Martin Fuller                                                                                                                                                                             |
| PCC Secretary                                   | Peter Bedford                                                                                                                                                                             |
| Deanery Synod Representatives                   | Polly Jordan, Will Stevens                                                                                                                                                                |
| Elected Representatives of the Laity on the PCC | Teresa Allen, Michael Banks, Ann Battensby, Martin Fuller, Andrea Lindow, Jennifer Meade, Margaret Miller (until Sep 24), Valerie Msoka (co-opted Nov 24), Mair Molteno, Bridget Williams |

### **Other Parish Appointments**

|                                           |                                                                       |
|-------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Honorary Assistant Priests                | Revd Jonathan Andrew                                                  |
| Parish Administrator                      | Melanie Williams                                                      |
| Director of Music                         | Stuart Whatton                                                        |
| Assistant Organist                        | Oliver Macfarlane                                                     |
| Organist Emeritus                         | Keith Howell-Jones                                                    |
| Senior Organ Scholar                      | Rowan Marshall                                                        |
| Junior Organ Scholar                      | Theo Tang                                                             |
| Parish Bookkeeper                         | Vacancy (covered by Martin Fuller)                                    |
| Fabric Chairperson                        | Hugh Miller (until May 2024)                                          |
| Safeguarding Officers                     | Polly Jordan, Alison Mohamed                                          |
| Deputy Churchwardens                      | Andrea Lindow (St George's Church)<br>William Stevens (Christ Church) |
| Community & Business Outreach Coordinator | Michael Banks                                                         |
| Tower Bell Captain                        | Ann Battensby                                                         |
| Children, Young People & Families Worker  | Kathryn Chapman                                                       |
| Flower Coordinator                        | Carol Calvert                                                         |

|                           |                      |
|---------------------------|----------------------|
| Gift Aid Officer          | Alan Doolan          |
| Pastoral Team Coordinator | Wendy Tanqueray      |
| Fellowship Group Leader   | Jan Sayer            |
| Book Group Leader         | Revd Jonathan Andrew |
| InSpire Editor            | Juliet Philip        |

Peter Bedford  
Honorary Secretary

## Rector's Report

*Let's praise the man who goes to light  
The church stove on an icy night.  
Let's praise that hard-worked he or she  
The Treasurer of the P.C.C.  
Let's praise the cleaner of the aisles,  
The nave and candlesticks and tiles.  
Let's praise the organist who tries  
To make the choir increase in size,  
Or if that simply cannot be,  
Just to improve its quality.  
Let's praise the ringers in the tower  
Who come to ring in cold and shower.  
But most of all let's praise the few  
Who are seen in their accustomed pew  
Throughout the year, whate'er the weather,  
That they may worship God together.  
These, like a fire of glowing coals,  
Strike warmth into each other's souls,  
And though they be but two or three  
They keep the church for you and me.*

Those words from John Betjeman's poem 'Septuagesima' are very much on my mind as I write this contribution for our Annual Report. As the one-time Poet Laureate reminds us, parishes are sustained by the numerous acts of love and service performed by those who rarely get the recognition or the thanks they deserve. So, let me try to put that right by using this opportunity to thank most sincerely all who – in whatever way – contribute to the maintenance and mission of the Parish of Esher. Please know that all you do is valued and appreciated.

In the following pages you can read about much of that work. The individual reports cover everything and everyone from – in Betjeman's words – 'the hard-worked he or she / the Treasurer of the PCC' to 'the organist who tries / to make the choir increase in size.'! Moreover, I'm glad to be able to say that their labours are bearing much fruit in terms of a parish which is growing in terms of numbers, depth and impact. We can, I believe, be justifiably proud that in times of great turbulence, both in the national church and on the international stage, the Parish of Esher continues to shine as a beacon of faith, hope and love for everyone in our community.

I also want to thank all those who carried significant extra burdens of responsibility and work-load during the time of my adoption leave. We are, all of us, blessed by the extraordinary dedication and commitment of our parish leaders, clergy, staff, volunteers, members and supporters. Together they show what can be achieved when the various parts of the Body of Christ work together for the furtherance the Kingdom.

Finally, as I said, we live in times of unprecedented change and challenge and I know this can, understandably, cause anxiety about the future. In response, I can only echo the wise words of Wales's patron Saint David when – in his final ever sermon – he reminded his hearers of what truly matters: 'Be joyful, keep the faith and do the little things well.' Amen to that!

God bless,

Darren

The Revd Darren McCallig  
Rector of Esher

## **Churchwardens' Report**

Human nature being as it is, it is all too easy to focus on things that have not gone well, on things that are hard for us, on things that are sad, on things that challenge us - we all do it and we need to be reminded just how many good things have happened, the things that have been a success, the things we should so rightly celebrate from this last year.

We must start however, by acknowledging the sadness in our Parish at the loss during 2024 of so many beloved long-standing members of our congregations. Whilst we without doubt miss them, we can remember how much they meant to us, how much they each contributed to and were an invaluable part of our church community - we can celebrate and give thanks for their lives with us.

It is true to say that last year was a challenge for us both, not least as we endeavoured to keep the 'show on the road' in Darren's absence as he and Annilese settled in to becoming parents and enjoying family life. As we waded through the seemingly endless emails on all manner of subjects, it certainly demonstrated to us just how hard he works and how much he puts into all aspects of our Parish. However, there was so much to celebrate during that time. Let's not forget how tirelessly Jonathan worked for us all, how many clergy, particularly William, were willing to help us out and how we enjoyed so much of their input to our worship in Esher. We are also extremely grateful for the work of Melanie, Kath, Stuart and Oliver who assisted in the running of the Parish and our services during the year. The PCC meanwhile continued to graft away in the background, extremely supportive of what we were doing and as always, contributing hugely to everything that happens in our Parish.

We are extremely grateful too for all the support we personally had, and indeed continue to have, from both our congregations. The running of our two churches and our wider efforts in the community, relies almost entirely on volunteers, volunteers who consistently and continually work so hard for our Parish in many ways. We should all be very proud of what we achieved together last year; how we did more than just holding things together, we actually made progress in many areas - cause for celebration for sure. Cause for celebration too when Darren returned to be with us in November - we are so glad to have him back!

Glancing through our InSpire Newsletters and our weekly pewsheets, it is incredible to reflect on just how many activities and events take place in our two churches and in our wider community. Again, this illustrates what an amazing army of volunteers with a huge variety of skills we can muster when needed, to serve each other and those in our Parish.

One of the highlights to celebrate is the building of our links with the Lower Green Community Centre - achieved in so many ways through our support of the Pay it Forward Scheme, their Emergency Foodbank and the hugely successful Crazy Crafts events held at the Centre. Our thanks to all involved in this invaluable outreach work.

The inaugural Peace & Contemplation evening was held in July last year, with the theme of Love - a new initiative to celebrate. This proved popular and the team involved has continued to develop these evenings with subsequent themes of Peace and Hope. A huge amount of work goes into the choices of readings, music and visuals for each theme and we are blessed in having so many talented and dedicated individuals involved, each contributing to the team effort - without doubt another cause for celebration.

Other regular events continue to flourish, including, (in no particular order), the May Fair, West End Flower Show, Christmas Tree lighting, Music on the Green, Book Group, Fellowship Group, Lent Group, Sunday School, Youth Group and our work with our two Church Schools, through our governors and trustees - the list goes on. Again, none of these could take place without people willingly volunteering their time and effort to help make these a success.

On a practical, more mundane but essential note, we continued to maintain the church buildings. As is always the way with old buildings, this is a never-ending process which requires both time and funding, both of which are given solely by our congregations. The need for regular income is an ever-increasing issue, as costs rise. All donations are of course always gratefully received, but it is a commitment to regular giving which enables us to budget and to plan more efficiently.

In addition to the day-to-day needs, there are additional bigger projects. We completed the successful installation of CCTV in August as an invaluable enhancement to our church security. This could not have happened without the generous giving from many members of our congregation - all the funding was raised via the Lent Appeal, for which we are extremely grateful.

Our Advent Appeal in 2024 was for The Eikon Charity, who work with children and young people in Surrey, helping them to feel safe, heard and supported. Understanding and giving early support for challenges in their lives can help prevent problems from getting bigger. Between us we raised nearly £2000, which will go a long way towards providing this much needed support for several families in Surrey. Thank you again for your generosity.

We completed the refurbishment of Cranbrook Drive and the property is now let and generating income to the Parish. We still have many challenging projects to fund but know that with your support we will be able to achieve these.

Lastly, but certainly not least, on a personal note we would like to express our thanks again for all your support over these last few years. It has been a privilege to serve in our capacity as Churchwardens; during this time we have worked alongside so many of you with the added benefit of getting to know each other better.

What a great team we are!

Thank you all.

Jane Tyrrell & Helen Coulson  
Parish Churchwardens

## **Finance Report**

The Parish had an income in 2024 of £211,524 (£257,340 in 2023) and spent £264,183 (£273,187 in 2023), leaving a deficit for the year of £52,659. In broad terms, therefore, it costs about £5,000 a week to keep the Parish's two churches functioning. No funding is received from central church or diocesan sources.

The main source of income was regular giving by standing order from our congregations (£95,219), whose generosity is much appreciated. This was, however, some £11,000 less than in the previous year, mainly because the number of people subscribing had fallen, from 116 in January 2024 to 89 by January 2025. We also received fewer donations and bequests. Helpfully, however, once we had completed the extensive refurbishment of the curate's house had been completed and a tenant found by Spring of 2024, rental income of over £22,000 was generated.

The biggest item of expenditure was the Parish Share: the Parish's share of the overall costs of the Diocese. This came to £93,575, a little less than in 2023, reflecting both efforts by the Diocese to keep costs down and lower attendance at our services. Repairs and maintenance of our two church buildings and the curate's house came to £55,737, the largest element, just under £37,000, being the remaining cost of the curate's house refurbishment paid in the year. The Parish finances were also still suffering from the previous tenant's failure to pay rent for many months and the costs of securing eviction.

The Parish donated £3,546 to charitable causes in the year, the largest donations being the Advent Appeal in favour of the Eikon Charity, and continued support for the Lower Green Community Centre. Given our stretched financial situation, and especially the costs arising from the curate's house, the Lent Appeal last year was used to raise funds to provide for the installation of CCTV cover for Christ Church rather than to donate to an external charitable cause. Donations from parishioners also met the costs of installing the defibrillator and first aid training sessions for volunteers.

Looking ahead, the Parish will need to re-launch its stewardship campaign, to increase the amount received from regular giving to cover its ordinary operating costs, and to fund initiatives such as replacement lighting at Christ Church.

Martin Fuller  
Parish Treasurer

## **Safeguarding Report**

### Summary

- Alison Mohamed and Polly Jordan were appointed as Safeguarding Officers in March 2019 and remain in post.
- Safeguarding posters are on display in both Churches.
- Contact details for the Parish Safeguarding Officers, Diocese Safeguarding Adviser and relevant helplines are displayed in both Churches.
- Dedicated Safeguarding email plus direct contact details for both Safeguarding Officers easily accessible.
- Safeguarding is a standing agenda item at every PCC meeting.
- Safeguarding tab clearly visible on website. This provides details of the Parish Safeguarding officers and Diocese Safeguarding advisers.

### Outstanding

- Progress has been made with furthering Safeguarding Training compliance.

### COVID

- We have continually kept our covid regulations under review, and have retained the simultaneous administration of the sacraments (the president dips the bread in the wine before giving it to the communicant), and the suspension of the physical sharing of The Peace.
- Our goal continues to be to strive to keep our Churches as safe as possible and keep the best interests of our more vulnerable members as our top priority.

### Plans

- On 27 January 2024 we held an Emergency First Aid at Work Course at Christ Church. Surrey First Aid provided the training which was attended by 24 participants. A great day was had by all, and participants enjoyed working together to gain confidence in their first aid skills whilst enjoying a day of great fellowship.
- Funds were raised at this time to purchase, instal and maintain a defibrillator for Christ Church. We purchased a Mindray C1A defibrillator (AED suitable for adult and paediatric use) via a Government price matched scheme. The defibrillator cabinet is installed on the external Church wall, in the car park, Church Street entrance. The defibrillator is registered on The Circuit, which is the national defibrillator network connecting to the ambulance service. In the event of a collapse/cardiac arrest, a member of the public can call 999 and the ambulance service can direct them to our defibrillator and give them the access code to the locked cabinet.
- No training is necessary to be able to use the defibrillator but in January 2025 we ran a morning of Basic Life Support (BLS) with Automated External Defibrillator (AED) training which 35 of our volunteers attended. This will be covered in next year's APCM Report.

- In terms of funds for the First Aid Account for 2024, the breakdown can be seen here:
  - £2,135 raised.
  - £840 to cover the cost of Surrey First Aid providing the training.
  - £900 for the defibrillator (via a Government price matched scheme).
  - £492 for the installation of the defibrillator heated cabinet and electrics.
  - £97 shortfall (which was covered by further fundraising in 2025).

### Conclusion

Overall, the PCC is making progress with regard to prioritising Safeguarding in our Churches and compliance with the duty to have 'due regard' to the House of Bishops' Safeguarding Policy and Practice Guidelines.

As a Parish we have an excellent record for the number of volunteers and Parishioners who have taken part in our First Aid Training events and the enthusiasm and support for this has been wonderful to see.

Polly Jordan & Alison Mohamed  
Parish Safeguarding Officers

### **Electoral Roll Report**

During 2024 overall membership of the Electoral Roll remained relatively static. Several long-standing church friends sadly died. All nine individuals had been members of the Roll.

By the end of 2024 the Roll had 130 members from 102 households. Of these, 78 from 63 households are resident in the parish and 52 from 39 households are not resident in the parish.

During 2025, leading up to the APCM on Sunday 18 May, the parish was obliged under the Church Representation Rules to draw up a new Electoral Roll (as it is every sixth year). This resulted in a new Roll of 105 members.

Melanie Williams  
Parish Administrator & Electoral Roll Officer

### **Parochial Church Council (PCC) Report**

Six PCC meetings were held in 2024, taking place in January, March, April, July, September and November. All were held at Christ Church.

The Annual Meeting of Parishioners and the Annual Parochial Church Meeting were held on Sunday 19 May. Helen Coulson and Jane Tyrrell were again elected as churchwardens. Those elected to the PCC as lay members comprised Michael Banks and Jennifer Meade, having completed their three-year terms, and Ann Battensby, having been co-opted in September 2023. Peter Bedford had reached the end of his six-year term, but agreed to continue for the time being as PCC Secretary. Hugh Miller had reached the end of his three-year term and did not stand for re-election, but remained engaged in a variety of fabric issues. The Rector completed his one-year Adoption Leave on 5 November.

The major issues and items of business that arose during the year were as follows:

- Addressing financial pressures, given the ongoing disparity between income and expenditure, and the need to increase regular giving.
- Key fabric matters, including the refurbishment of the former curate's house at Cranbrook Drive and its return to the rental market, plus the need to establish a permanent team to oversee maintenance.
- Ensuring full compliance with safeguarding regulations, and pursuit of measures such as first aid training and provision of a defibrillator at Christ Church.
- Continued outreach and engagement with the local community, including through inter-faith relations and links with business.
- The introduction of alternative events, such as the secular Peace and Contemplation evenings.
- Continued support for Parish music, ranging from Music on the Green to new organ and choral scholarships.
- Further expansion of the role of the Children, Young People and Families worker, across the community.
- Continued emphasis on bellringing activities, including recruitment and training of further volunteers.
- Addressing security matters at both churches, including installation of CCTV at Christ Church.
- Information technology issues, in particular the update of key Parish Office facilities.
- Support to charities and local causes, ranging from the Lower Green Community Centre to the Christmas shoebox campaign.

Peter Bedford  
Honorary Secretary

## **Deanery Synod Report**

The Parish of Esher is part of the Emly Deanery, a group of 13 parishes within the Diocese of Guildford. There were three Deanery Synod meetings in 2024, as below:

Thursday 14 March 2024 at St Nicholas' Church, Thames Ditton

Matt Grove made a presentation on The Foundation in Ministry Programme. This is a two-year course that gives a grounding in theology in the first year before looking at particular areas of ministry in the second year. Those who complete the course are 'Local Assistant Ministers' or LAMs, who can then serve in that area of ministry in their local church. Alastair Etheridge, the Diocesan lead for Youth work, made a presentation on the Youth Catalyst project, which seeks to build up our youth work. In the summer, the church commissioner's funded programme hired a full-time youth hub leader, Revd Joshua Baines, based at Esher High School, to work with all the churches in our deanery.

#### Thursday 9 May 2024 at St James' Church, Weybridge

There was a presentation from Steve Collins, the programme manager for achieving Net Zero carbon emissions across the dioceses of Chichester, Guildford & Portsmouth and Alison Moulden, the Guildford Diocesan environmental officer. There were three things our parish had been asked to do: Fill in the Energy Footprint tool (it's simpler this year); Get on with Eco Church (it's going to get harder soon); Get an energy audit

This was the last Emly Deanery Synod with Revd Andrew Cowie as Area Dean. He was thanked for all his efforts. His replacement as Area Dean is Revd Jackie Richardson, the vicar of St. Peter's, Hersham.

#### Thursday 8 October 2024 at St Paul's Church, East Molesey

The Deanery Lay chair, Brian Howells, advised that there were two vacancies in the House of Laity for Diocesan Synod from Emly Deanery. I expressed an interest and advised our Rector. (Note: I did not actually put my name forward until the first Deanery Synod meeting in 2025).

A presentation was made by Andy Poole, school-hub leader in Dorking, regarding Generation Alpha (those born from 2010 onwards). He summarised with four opportunities: Kingdom of God is near; Community; Mission; Reflective faith. Generation Alpha are looking for 'coaches' not 'teachers'.

I have been emailed a copy of the presentations made at the May and October meetings. If anyone would like any of them, please let me know.

William Stevens

Deputy Churchwarden & Deanery Synod Representative

### **Children, Young People & Families Report**

#### Overview

2024 was a very busy year for our children and families, and we have achieved much progress in growing our Sunday School and Youth Group offerings, helping to embed our vision for discipleship in the Parish. I've worked closely with our Parish church schools, welcomed new baptism families, created presence and impact in the wider community, sold merchandise, grown our databases and social media presence (Facebook and Instagram @esherparish), as well as running our usual calendar of family-friendly events and helping out with seasonal church services.

#### Sunday School

We have a steadily growing cohort at Sunday School and the children never cease to amaze us with their artwork, much of which is displayed at the back of Christ Church. They approach everything we do with a wonderful sense of curiosity and will often take an idea and put their own unique spin on it, which is always very inspiring. For each new child that joins, we create a Sunday School Welcome Pack (containing our Sunday School values, pictures of our churches, pencil, candle and set of prayer starter cards) to be their little box of church at home. The children enjoy making

large items as a group - a great way to promote inclusivity, working together and belonging. Weekly emails of past/future activity in Sunday School and other relevant information, are sent out most weeks of the year to our database of families.

### Youth Group

Our Youth Group numbers are growing slowly and we meet once a month for spiritual nourishment, community, learning, games and food. The children really enjoy the variety of activities that we offer and have parent volunteers join us - 'I could not encourage parents enough to get involved in a programme like this. I was expecting just to be a 'helper' but it was much more than that. Being part of your own child's mental, social and spiritual development is a very special thing - and I can't think of anywhere else you could get that! It brought me closer to my children. I felt like I was helping Kath to access the kids' inner feelings about how they see they world. I felt privileged to be part of it' (YG parent-helper).

### Community

#### Shoeboxes

At the end of November, we delivered Parish-filled shoeboxes to the Link to Hope distribution centre in Ferring on the south coast, before they were shipped to those living in difficult circumstances in Ukraine, Romania, Bulgaria and Moldova. The number of boxes the parish filled was less than 2023, as Esher Church School did not promote it in 2024, but we hope to engage them again, along with Esher High School in 2025.

#### Crazy Crafts

2024 was another great year of Crazy Crafts events in partnership with the Lower Green Community, and we ran sessions at Easter, Harvest and Christmas. Attendance is increasing as the brand is getting more known in the area, and we advertise via posters and flyers, delivered to Lower Green, Esher Church School and the wider parish.

#### Scouts

At the end of April we hosted the St. George's Day service at Christ Church for the Esher District Scouts' renewal of their promises, and parade of district and group colours. The service was accompanied by a 15-piece scout band from Claygate, and Stuart Whatton on the organ. Special guests included Revd Mike Branscombe from St. Andrew's, the Deputy Mayor of Elmbridge and local councillors.

#### Church Schools

We continue to forge our relationships with Esher Church School and Esher High School, and have hosted services for both schools, welcomed the ECS choir at 10.30am services in Christ Church, served through governorship (alongside Bob Lonnon, who leads the Christian Distinctiveness committee) and supported EHS Christian studies with the invaluable help of Revd Jonathan Andrew.

## Christmas

Following the success of 2023, Christingle-making in 2024 was arranged for the same evening as the lighting of the Christ Church Christmas tree, with donations towards the oranges from Waitrose and Tesco in Esher. It was a great opportunity to showcase who we are, give a taster of what families can get involved in, meet new friends and give people an immersive experience in volunteering. With Darren's return in November, we were able to have two of our very popular No-Rehearsal Nativity Play Crib Services on Christmas Eve again - one at St George's West End and the other at Christ Church.

Kathryn Chapman

Children, Young People & Families Worker

## **Esher Church of England High School Report**

During the year we continued to support and strengthen our links with Esher High School. Many in our congregation give of their time to support the school, either as parents, governors or trustees.

The school is a hive of activity through years 7-11 and alongside the academic education the pupils receive they continue to explore and support the community and wider social issues.

In the summer of 2024 the school celebrated excellent results for the year 11 GCSE leavers – well done to all the students on their success.

As a church community we have had the opportunity to welcome and engage with students in many different ways. Year 10 Music GCSE students enjoyed working with one of our Music on the Green performers in exploring his composition and working with that in their own ensemble compositions. We also experienced a wonderful musical contribution at their Christmas service.

Year 7 were welcomed at the start of the year services in September and exploration of key areas are supported in RE throughout the school. Bishop Andrew paid a visit to the school to see the excellent education in practice. Bishop Andrew has also recently been appointed a Member of Enlighten Learning Trust, the Academy Trust of which Esher High is a part and will work alongside Darren and other Members and Trustees to support the education of students in our community.

Esher High students have focussed this year on exploring their own values ***Belong, Be More, Be Esher***. These were clearly demonstrated in their fantastic response to the Elmbridge Foodbank collection at Harvest with many items generously donated for their local community.

The school has a fantastic ethos and the opportunities provided by the staff for all the students are amazing; aside from the extensive school curriculum students are involved in community engagement, sport, music, overseas trips, exploring careers and higher education opportunities, the list is endless.

Don't just take our word for it – explore the parent podcasts and hear for yourself by going to Spotify by clicking [here](#).

Helen Coulson  
Churchwarden

## **Music Report**

### Liturgical Music

Falling somewhere between the concept of a service, a concert and a guided meditation, a major new initiative which got underway during 2024 was the roughly termly series of 'Peace & Contemplation' evenings. This is being reported on elsewhere, but suffice to say that a key part of its winning formula has been some live performing input from myself and other parish musicians, in addition to carefully curated recorded music.

Meanwhile, the Parish Choir continued to provide a backbone of musical support to worship services through their annual calendar cycle, and I am pleased to record that all our existing adult volunteer singers who were part of the choir at the end of 2023 were still on board at the end of 2024 (albeit with greatly varying degrees of attendance, a situation which continues to hamper our effectiveness). We also welcomed one new soprano, Myfanwy Tranmer, who has provided an extremely welcome boost to the top line when her professional music theatre commitments allow her to be with us.

This year has mainly been notable for happenings on the 'youth music' front, with our new choral scholarship scheme finally getting off the ground and an organ loft increasingly populated by budding teenage organists! In the autumn we welcomed our first soprano and alto choral scholars – Natalie Mechelewska and Alexandra Sweeny, both music students at Royal Holloway – and at Christmastime our senior organ scholar Rowan Marshall was translated into a bass choral scholar. Concomitantly, Theo Tang was promoted to senior organ scholar and Robert Cunningham joined us as junior organ scholar.

Theo and Robert, along with Annabelle and Tom Doolan, have all been receiving in-house organ coaching from me and – following a successful exercise to get Christ Church registered as a venue for ABRSM examinations - all four of them took grade exams during the course of the year, achieving a most impressive clean sweep of distinctions at Grades 6, 5, 4 and 3 respectively. Most of their grade pieces have also had outings as worship service voluntaries at Christ Church or St George's or both!

A highlight of the year was when all four of our young organists joined myself and our parish associate organist Barbara Wadley in central London on 21 June for a 'Performathon' on the pipe organ at London Bridge Station as part of National Make Music Day. (More recently, Theo has also been 'lent out' for some significant away fixtures, including playing the organ for Hampton Prep School's Centenary Carol Service as well as for the main Christmas Day Eucharist at Teddington Parish Church.)

Meanwhile, Barbara has taken up a new position as Director of Music at St Andrew's URC in Cheam, as well as becoming the main Music Teacher at Esher Church School. This means we are sadly no longer able to benefit from her input on Sundays (and the organist roster for West End services has consequently reduced from five to four), but we are nonetheless delighted to have her working in partnership with us to make a success of the visits by members of ECS Choir as a contribution to our All Age Services roughly once a term.

Amidst all the comings and goings in the organ loft, one constant has been the quiet professionalism of our parish assistant organist Oliver Macfarlane, who continues to be the rock on which both our choir and congregational singing rely and who provides us with such a meaty diet of organ voluntaries throughout the year. Thank you, Oliver, and my renewed thanks to everyone who has lent their musical talents to the cause of our worshipping community during 2024.

### Music on the Green

The main MOTG lunchtime concert series continued to flourish during 2024, with performers ranging from baroque flute and theorbo through a lute and guitar duo to solo showcases for French horn, cello and sax respectively, plus two trio combinations (clarinet/cello/piano and violin/cello/piano) and two jazz-focused concerts. The jazz fixtures have proved especially popular and, mindful of this, it is my intention to aim for up to two jazz concerts per year going forward.

Music in the Tower in late March featured a former national laureate of Lithuania, Emilija Karaliute, who proved an enthusiastic advocate for her zither-like folk instrument the kanklės, and gave us a programme entitled '*The Power of Nature: Melodies from the Forest*', which was interspersed with readings from selected Lithuanian writers.

At the tail end of the year, in November, we held a concert in honour of the round-number anniversaries of two significant composers – Bruckner (born 1824) and Fauré (died 1924) - while also marking the 170th anniversary of Christ Church as the parish and civic church of Esher. Our parish choir, augmented by a considerable number of external singers, performed Fauré's Requiem and Cantique plus a selection of Bruckner motets, supplemented by some short instrumental works by those composers.

As ever, an enormous debt of gratitude is owed to the other figures within the MOTG team: Michael Banks for his invaluable support with publicity and lighting, Debbie Banks for overseeing the much-praised catering operations, Melanie Williams in the parish office, Tom Radford as 'chauffeur-in-chief' and Jan Sayer for her assistance with Music in the Tower. MOTG would not have built its stellar reputation without the hard work of its many volunteers, so thank you to one and all.

Stuart Whatton  
Parish Director of Music

## Bellringers' Report

Another year seems to have just slipped by but when we look at the detail it's been quite busy.

Our bells are liked throughout the Chertsey District and we were delighted to host two sets of visitors for their own ringing, along with three bands for Quarter Peals (a continuous ringing of the bells for about 45 minutes and involving 1250 changes).

We also rang for three delightful weddings and staying with the celebratory theme, we rang for St George's Day, our second Bell Sunday service and Ring Out for Peace - to commemorate the 80th anniversary of the D-Day landings on June 6th.

Sadly, our ringing also included eight funerals this year.

A total of 17 visitors were welcomed to the Tower for the Esher May Fayre. We always give a demonstration of our ringing and allow those who wish to, a chance to chime the bell (two very different things!).

The new Ringing Master and Assistant Ringing Master for the Chertsey District, Rachel and Eliot Johnson, visited our Tower this year and were very complimentary about our ringing. Buoyed up by this we entered the District Striking Competition held at St Mary's East Molesey and came fifth.

During the summer months our numbers were low due to holidays and planned surgery for one of our ringers and an unplanned illness for another! Thankfully both ringers are back on their feet and we are ringing and practising weekly.

We are starting to ring once a month with St Mary's, Oatlands, as this allows us to ring with a different and more experienced band and to do so on very different ropes! This enhances all our ringing.

Two of the band undertook further training in the teaching of ringing to beginners, so we now have three qualified teachers. Whilst we have no new ringers ourselves, all three practise this skill with beginners in other towers within the District. Teaching someone to handle a 3cwt bell, that's 200kg in new money, takes time, courage and perseverance on behalf of the beginner. And then we move them to a heavier bell - not that the weight of the bell makes the slightest bit of difference as it's all about technique.



Finally, a nugget of information – you may not know this! On Remembrance Day at 11am the clock does not strike – it cannot do so as the clock chiming mechanism is turned off to allow the bells to be rung in the lead-up to the service. Therefore, the strike of 11 is done manually by the ringer on the tenor bell – it's nerve-wracking stuff!

Ann Battensby  
Parish Tower Bell Captain

## **St George's West End Report**

2024 was a rewarding year for St George's as we welcomed several new members to our congregation and continue to go from strength to strength. After the 9am Service, we visit the Prince of Wales for coffee and a chat, which provides a good opportunity to catch up with each other's news and to check on the wellbeing of any who are absent.

Our Mothering Sunday and Easter Services were very well attended and the beautiful Easter gardens, one inside the church and the other on the porch, were much admired. St George's Day was celebrated by festooning the fence with bunting and in May the congregation turned out to tackle the undergrowth that was threatening to rot the perimeter fencing. Also in May we had 22 visitors from the Churches Conservation Trust who had travelled from far and wide (one had come from Australia) to see the churches in Esher, and they greatly admired our 'temporary' church and learning about its history.

Our major fundraising event remains the West End Village Show in August, when we open our doors for people to enjoy this unique church and purchase our popular home-made cakes and marmalade and visit our card and gift stall. We make a huge effort to ensure this event is a success as we rely on our fundraising to pay for the ongoing maintenance of St George's.

September heralds our fun Pet Service - this was our 16th - and we had a large number of people bringing their enthusiastic dogs, some of whom attempted to join in the hymns! This year we welcomed Guide Dog trainee puppy Enzo with his carer Sue, who explained about the work involved, and we were delighted to present her with a cheque for this wonderful charity.

At our Service on the 3rd November we took the opportunity to thank Jonathan for holding the fort during Darren's absence, not only for presiding on Sundays but also conducting baptisms, weddings and funerals, providing pastoral support and still finding time to run the book club. We presented him with an olive tree, wine and garden centre vouchers, to show our huge appreciation for all he does for the Parish.

We had another garden working party in November, to harvest the vast quantities of leaves, before preparing for Advent and the Christmas Services. As always the church was beautifully decorated for the popular Crib Service on Christmas Eve, followed by the Village Carol Concert (a secular event), and the Eucharist on Christmas morning.

Thanks are due to everyone at St George's for the many hours they devote to maintaining the church and garden, working tirelessly and quietly behind the scenes for the benefit of all.

Andrea Lindow

Deputy Churchwarden, St George's Church

## **Community & Business Outreach Report**

We continue to enjoy a strong relationship with the Esher Chamber of Commerce and attend their meetings each month. This allows us to keep the business sector informed of our events. We have held three successful breakfast meetings in Christ Church. Attempts to have a better understanding of other Faiths has been frustrated by the war in Gaza.

The 'tradition' of the Mayor lighting up our Christmas Tree took place on November 29 and was attended by those preparing for Christingle, members of our congregation, the public and the Chamber of Commerce. Carols were sung by the Barison Singers followed by all attending. Mince pies and mulled wine were served to help make it an enjoyable start to the Christmas period.

Michael Banks  
Community & Business Outreach Coordinator

## **Peace and Contemplation**

Peace and Contemplation evenings have been introduced to provide for an hour of personal introspection in a conducive atmosphere. It allows for an oasis of peace in our busy lives. It is also designed to give an additional appeal to those not regularly attending church and is free and open to all.

Two evenings have been held in 2024 which have been well received and their development is planned to continue in 2025. It is pleasing to note that all the excellent live music in November was provided by Christ Church members

Michael Banks  
Community & Business Outreach Coordinator

## **Pastoral Support Team Report**

This year has been quieter than past years which, I sincerely hope, means that the majority of people do not require our help.

However, I know there are a minority who do need support but are reticent in asking for it! If any of you know someone who would benefit from our help, please try and encourage them to contact me (01372 464483 or [wendytanqueray@gmail.com](mailto:wendytanqueray@gmail.com)).

I sincerely thank my very caring team - Andrea Lindow, Karen Sarkissian and Will Wood - all of whom are raring to go! I know from the families of those we have helped in the past and who have passed away, that our support was greatly appreciated, and I pray that we are asked to help many more in the future.

Wendy Tanqueray  
Pastoral Visitor Coordinator

## **Fellowship Group Report**

Another year older, another year wiser, or so they say!

Indeed, I'd like to think some insights of wisdom passed our lips in the last year. Certainly, lots of lively discussion took place surrounding our acts of worship, and as ever there was an immense amount to pray for and express. We had changed our meeting time to 11am instead of 10am, as with advancing years we felt a later time was preferable. However, our interactions took so long, cutting across lunchtime and resulting in certain members missing lunch, that we now meet at 10.30am, preceded by excellent coffee provided by Sally Radford, so the actual start time is now 10.50am, which seems to work well.

We have sadly lost three long-standing dearly loved members of our group and look back fondly at their contribution. Vicky Jenkins passed away earlier in the year after a quite short illness and we remember her friendly supportive presence and contributions. John Patrick passed away in November and we value the quiet reflections, knowledge and wisdom that he brought to our group. Veronica King moved to a retirement village in Gerrards Cross and we miss her sharp direct perceptive comments. Three members we are so grateful to have had as part of us.

We've had some insightful discussions during the year, including the decline in national and local worship, the need to spread the Word and our own role in service to the community. We've spent special time in prayer for the concerning tragic events across the world and in our own country, and also for those in our community here in Esher. There is so much for which prayer is needed. We are delighted to have Darren back with us and for joining us at our January meeting.

Starting as a small prayer group in 2010, then growing into The Fellowship by 2012, it is incredible that we are still going strong - and as always we welcome new members. Why not give us a try?

Jan Sayer  
Fellowship Group Leader

## **InSpire Report**

Now in its tenth year the parish newsletter InSpire has established itself as the place to find out the different aspects of our churches' lives and all who are involved in the day-to-day activities.

The editorial team are very grateful for the support from the community and InSpire has even reached the stage where people come to us, Bridget Williams, Jane Tyrrell and Juliet Philip, with stories to be included. Both Bridget and Jane are at the 'coalface' of our two churches and Juliet edits and paginates InSpire alongside distributing it. Unfortunately, this year the team meetings have been less over breakfast and more a grabbed cup of coffee or online!

We would still like to increase the numbers receiving the issues but because of GDPR people have to actively sign up and we cannot just take the information from the electoral roll. If you are not receiving it and would like to - email only I am afraid - please let us know and we can add you to the list.

We remain in the position where having a printed version comes under the 'would be nice to have' category as it would be expensive and labour intensive compared to the current iteration. We cannot see this changing in the near future.

Juliet Philip  
InSpire Editor

## Book Group Report

As it approached its fifth anniversary of formation, our parish Book Group continued to flourish in 2024. We have a core of members who come along every time and others who join in as their diaries permit or when a chosen title particularly whets their appetite.

Our reading again ranged widely from eye-opening memoirs such as Carlo Levi's *Christ Stopped at Eboli* and George Orwell's *Down and Out in Paris and London* to challenging novels such as *Klara and the Sun* by Kazuo Ishiguro and Emile Zola's *Therese Raquin*. On a perhaps lighter note, we also enjoyed Graham Green's *Travels with my Aunt* and Tom Mitchell's *The Penguin Lesson*. Whatever, our group chooses, it always leads to a worthwhile discussion, and to continued social chat as we tidy up after ourselves, share out the remaining cakes and do the washing up!

I for one really appreciate the group for the way it encourages me to read outside my normal 'comfort zone' and to learn about and appreciate new things. I know that others feel the same. Our mix of members mean that people can sometimes bring their own experiences to bear which further enriches our conversation and helps us to get to know one another better.

We always publicise our gatherings in the weekly pewsheets so, if you feel you might be interested, do give us a try!

Revd Jonathan Andrew  
Book Group Leader

On behalf of the PCC



Jane Tyrrell  
Churchwarden



Helen Coulson  
Churchwarden



Peter Bedford  
Hon Secretary

# **Minutes of the Parish of Esher Annual Meeting of Parishioners and Annual Parochial Church Meeting held in Christ Church, Esher on Sunday 9 May 2024 at 12 noon.**

## **ANNUAL MEETING OF PARISHIONERS**

### **1 Opening Prayers**

Jane Tyrrell welcomed those present and opened with a prayer.

She then referred to the Annual Report for 2023, thanking all those involved with the running of the Parish and our two churches, including the many volunteers across the whole range of activities, who contribute so much of their time and are greatly appreciated. On the staff side, special thanks are due to the Director of Music, Parish Administrator and Children & Families Worker. In all, we are very fortunate to have such a strong and enthusiastic team across the board, who work tirelessly in support of the Parish.

### **2 Apologies for absence**

Apologies were received from Jackie Andrew, Jonathan Andrew, Kath Chapman, Bob Lonnon, Christine Steeds and Stuart Whatton.

### **3 Election of Churchwardens**

Two nominations were received for the position of churchwarden – Helen Coulson and Jane Tyrrell - both were duly elected.

## **ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING**

### **4 Minutes from last year's meeting**

The minutes of the meeting held on 14 May 2023 were unanimously approved as a true record. Proposed by Keith Chapple and seconded by Bridget Williams.

### **5 Matters arising from those minutes**

There were no matters arising.

### **6 Parish Annual Report 2023**

#### **Parish Financial Statements 2023**

Martin Fuller introduced his report, and underlined that the costs to run the Parish were approximately £5,000 per week. Thus, whilst voluntary giving had risen by around 10 percent, we are faced with a continuing financial challenge.

- The situation with the curate's house in Cranbrook Drive had a serious impact on church finances, given that the tenants had stopped paying rent in January, the eviction process was lengthy and costly, and we needed to put the property back into a tenable condition. The major remodelling programme cost £60,000 in 2023 (with more to come in 2024), but huge thanks are due for the unstinting efforts of Hugh Miller, with a major input by Helen Coulson, that have seen the project to a successful fruition. The anticipated rent will be almost

double than before, with a resultant very positive and welcome impact on Parish funds. In the meantime, the lighting project is on hold.

- Helen again underlined the outstanding work conducted by Hugh Miller, and thanked Ian Royce for his work behind the scenes, but pointed out that we no longer have a Fabric Committee. Indeed, strategic oversight is now being dealt with by herself and Jane, being the two churchwardens. This is not sustainable, and we would thus welcome volunteers to engage with fabric issues across the
- Helen thanked Martin Fuller for his outstanding work as Treasurer, given that this requires considerable effort, and is very much appreciated. She also thanked Alan Doolan and Brian Elliott for finalising the gift aid claim.

The meeting agreed to accept the Financial Statements, as proposed by Jane Tyrrell and seconded by Keith Chapple.

## **7 Appointment of Independent Examiner for 2024**

Martin tabled the further appointment of Gordon Manickam as Independent Examiner. Gordon provides his services pro bono, we are very grateful for his endeavours in this respect, and thanks will be conveyed to him formally. His appointment for 2024 was approved, having been proposed by Will Stevens and seconded by Brian Elliot.

## **8 Elections of PCC members for three years**

There were three nominations for lay membership of the PCC, being Michael Banks and Jennifer Meade, who had just completed their three-year terms, and Ann Battensby, who had been co-opted in September 2023. All the aforementioned were duly elected.

## **9 Appointment of sidespeople**

Helen thanked all who give their time in helping with the various church duties, including sidespeople, and proposed that those on the rota should continue in their various roles, and this was endorsed by those present.

## **10 Any Other Business**

PCC Minutes Keith Chapple suggested that the minutes might be distributed via email, in addition to hard copies being displayed in both churches, and this will be considered further.

CCTV A query was raised on the progress of CCTV installation, an issue for 2024, but suffice to say that the requisite funds of £5,000 had been raised and work was due to start in July 2024.

PCC Secretary Jane voiced thanks for the continuing efforts of the current incumbent!

## **11 Closing Prayers**

Helen then closed the meeting at 12.25pm and invited all present to say the Grace.

Peter Bedford

Honorary Secretary PCC

## Independent Examiner's Report

To the Parochial Church Council of Esher

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I report on the accounts for the year ended 31 December 2024 as set out on the following pages.

### Respective responsibilities of the Trustees and Independent Examiner

As the members of the PCC you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts; you consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act) and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to:

- Examine the accounts under section 145 of the 2011 Act;
- Follow the procedures laid down in the General Directions given by the Charity Commissioners section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act; and
- State whether particular matters have come to my attention.

### Basis of Independent Examiner's Statement

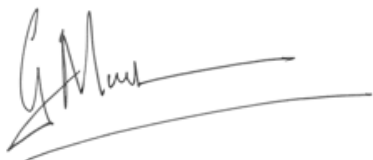
My examination was carried out in accordance with the General Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from the management committee concerning any such matters.

The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in a full audit, and consequently I do not express an audit opinion on the accounts.

### Independent Examiner's Statement

In connection with my examination, no matters have come to my attention:

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



Gordon Manickam CIA FCCIA  
84 Greenways  
Hinchley Wood  
KT10 0QJ

May 2025

## Esher PCC Statement of Financial Activities for the year ended 31 December 2024

### Income and Expenditure for the year ended 31 December 2024

#### Incoming Resources

| £s                                             | Unrestricted   | Designated    | Restricted    | 2024           | 2023           |
|------------------------------------------------|----------------|---------------|---------------|----------------|----------------|
| <i>Incoming resources from generated funds</i> |                |               |               |                |                |
| Regular giving                                 | 95,219         | -             | -             | 95,219         | 106,012        |
| Gift Aid                                       | 17,186         | -             | 2,049         | 19,236         | 44,588         |
| Church collections                             | 16,303         | -             | -             | 16,303         | 18,286         |
| Donations & bequests                           | 3,640          | 445           | 756           | 4,842          | 23,466         |
| Sales of donated investments                   | 2,015          | -             | -             | 2,015          | 1,753          |
| Sundry receipts                                | 3,775          | 1,161         | 32            | 4,969          | 3,370          |
| Church fundraising events                      | 1,067          | 1,024         | -             | 2,092          | 1,827          |
| Card & notelet sales                           | -              | 255           | -             | 255            | 267            |
| Church fees                                    | 8,204          | -             | -             | 8,204          | 5,441          |
| Music on the Green                             | -              | 7,350         | -             | 7,350          | 8,616          |
| Investment income (dividends)                  | 446            | -             | 20,608        | 21,054         | 19,691         |
| Traidcraft & merchandise sales                 | 244            | 145           | -             | 389            | 1,134          |
| Rental income                                  | -              | 22,031        | -             | 22,031         | 3,207          |
| Totals                                         | 148,104        | 32,412        | 23,447        | 203,964        | 237,663        |
| <i>Other incoming resources</i>                |                |               |               |                |                |
| Appeal donations                               | -              | 60            | 7,500         | 7,560          | 8,915          |
| Legacies                                       | -              | -             | -             | -              | 10,761         |
| Totals                                         |                | 60            | 7500          | 7,560          | 19,676         |
| <b>Grand Totals</b>                            | <b>148,104</b> | <b>32,472</b> | <b>30,947</b> | <b>211,524</b> | <b>257,340</b> |

## Resources Used

| £s                               | Unrestricted | Designated | Restricted | 2024   | 2023   |
|----------------------------------|--------------|------------|------------|--------|--------|
| <i>Cost of generating funds</i>  |              |            |            |        |        |
| Music on the Green               | -            | 5,264      | -          | 5,264  | 7,337  |
| Fundraising events               | 77           | -          | -          | 77     | 184    |
| Flyer print costs                | 625          | -          | -          | 625    | 625    |
| Totals                           | 702          | 5,264      | -          | 5,967  | 8,187  |
| <i>Cost of Parish activities</i> |              |            |            |        |        |
| Grants & appeal payments         | 290          | -          | 5,328      | 5,618  | 6,672  |
| Parish share                     | 93,575       | -          | -          | 93,575 | 95,301 |
| Clergy telephone                 | 827          | -          | -          | 827    | 908    |
| Clergy car & travel              | 43           | -          | -          | 43     | 347    |
| Clergy other expenses            | 122          | -          | -          | 122    | 594    |
| Rectory gas/electricity          | 1,004        | -          | -          | 1,004  | 1,158  |
| Rectory running costs            | 1,081        | -          | -          | 1,081  | 830    |
| Repairs & maintenance            | 11,341       | 38,575     | 5,820      | 55,737 | 69,197 |
| Cleaning                         | 2,403        | 230        | -          | 2,633  | 486    |
| Electricity - Christ Church      | 10,393       | -          | -          | 10,393 | 7,314  |
| Electricity - St George's        | 1,716        | -          | -          | 1,716  | 1,356  |
| Gas - Christ Church              | 9,528        | -          | -          | 9,528  | 4,899  |
| Water bills - Christ Church      | 248          | 40         | -          | 289    | 191    |
| Water bills - St George's        | 87           | -          | -          | 87     | 88     |
| Insurance - Christ Church        | 3,758        | 903        | -          | 4,661  | 4,610  |
| Insurance - St George's          | 510          | -          | -          | 510    | 496    |
| Sundry expenses/petty cash       | 2,931        | 82         | -          | 3,014  | 9,294  |
| Communion table                  | 1,044        | -          | -          | 1,044  | 564    |
| Flowers                          | 450          | -          | -          | 450    | 444    |
| Organists' fees                  | 10,350       | -          | -          | 10,350 | 9,600  |
| Organ/piano maintenance          | 2,882        | -          | -          | 2,882  | 1,494  |
| Choir expenses & music           | 312          | -          | -          | 312    | 377    |

Resources Used (continued)

| £s                                           | Unrestricted   | Designated    | Restricted    | 2024           | 2023           |
|----------------------------------------------|----------------|---------------|---------------|----------------|----------------|
| <i>Cost of Parish activities (continued)</i> |                |               |               |                |                |
| Organ & choral scholarships                  | -              | -             | 2,800         | 2,800          | 1,000          |
| Church meetings                              | 39             | -             | -             | 39             | -              |
| Training & courses                           | -              | -             | -             | -              | 1,471          |
| Youth worker                                 | -              | -             | 14,008        | 14,008         | 10,706         |
| Youth activities                             | -              | -             | 1,967         | 1,967          | 2,476          |
| Office salaries/taxes                        | 23,369         | -             | -             | 23,369         | 21,001         |
| Printing & stationery                        | 1,006          | -             | -             | 1,006          | 879            |
| Church telecoms/internet                     | 1,995          | -             | -             | 1,995          | 2,018          |
| Photocopier costs                            | 1,675          | -             | -             | 1,675          | 2,361          |
| Depreciation                                 | 1,988          | 70            | 1,802         | 3,861          | 5,148          |
| Bank charges                                 | 634            | -             | -             | 634            | 666            |
| Office sundry costs                          | 973            | -             | -             | 973            | 1,041          |
| Totals                                       | 186,586        | 39,902        | 31,727        | 258,216        | 264,999        |
| <b>Grand Totals</b>                          | <b>187,289</b> | <b>45,167</b> | <b>31,727</b> | <b>264,183</b> | <b>273,187</b> |

## Balance sheet as at 31 December 2024

| £s                                          | General Fund | Designated Funds | Restricted Funds | 2024    | 2023    |
|---------------------------------------------|--------------|------------------|------------------|---------|---------|
| <i>Fixed assets</i>                         |              |                  |                  |         |         |
| Tangible assets                             | 805,966      | 211              | 5,406            | 811,583 | 815,445 |
| Investments                                 | -            | -                | 1,354            | 1,354   | 1,258   |
| Fixed assets                                | 805,966      | 211              | 6,760            | 812,938 | 816,703 |
| <i>Current assets</i>                       |              |                  |                  |         |         |
| Debtors                                     | 1,877        | -                | 464              | 2,341   | 31,011  |
| Cash at bank & in hand                      | (71,236)     | 141,781          | 43,665           | 114,210 | 135,444 |
| Current assets                              | (69,359)     | 141,781          | 44,129           | 116,551 | 166,456 |
| <i>Liabilities</i>                          |              |                  |                  |         |         |
| Creditors (amounts falling due in one year) | 2,672        | 76               | 2,142            | 4,891   | 5,998   |
| Net current assets less current liabilities | (72,032)     | 141,705          | 41,987           | 111,660 | 160,457 |
| Total assets less current liabilities       | 733,934      | 141,916          | 48,748           | 924,599 | 977,161 |
| Total net assets less liabilities           | 733,934      | 141,916          | 48,748           | 924,599 | 977,161 |

## Balance Sheet Totals by Funds

| £s                         | General Fund   | Designated Funds | Restricted Funds | 2024           | 2023           |
|----------------------------|----------------|------------------|------------------|----------------|----------------|
| <i>Unrestricted</i>        |                |                  |                  |                |                |
| General Fund               | 733,934        | -                | -                | 733,934        | 773,118        |
| <i>Designated</i>          |                |                  |                  |                |                |
| Lighting Renovation        | -              | 10,395           | -                | 10,395         | 10,300         |
| Music on the Green         | -              | 14,377           | -                | 14,377         | 12,292         |
| West End                   | -              | 31,160           | -                | 31,160         | 30,000         |
| Cranbrook Drive            | -              | 22,419           | -                | 22,419         | 37,954         |
| Bell Fund                  | -              | 161              | -                | 161            | 161            |
| Legacies                   | -              | 63,402           | -                | 63,402         | 63,902         |
| <i>Restricted</i>          |                |                  |                  |                |                |
| Advent Appeal              | -              | -                | (302)            | (302)          | 532            |
| Property                   | -              | -                | 5,549            | 5,549          | 5,427          |
| Fews Cottage               | -              | -                | 28,302           | 28,302         | 26,496         |
| Spire Appeal               | -              | -                | 6                | 6              | 6              |
| Other Appeals              | -              | -                | -                | -              | 7              |
| Boiler Renovation          | -              | -                | 5,406            | 5,406          | 7,208          |
| Children & Young People    | -              | -                | 4,495            | 4,495          | 4,463          |
| Garden of Remembrance      | -              | -                | 5,289            | 5,289          | 5,289          |
| <b>Funds of the Parish</b> | <b>733,934</b> | <b>141,916</b>   | <b>48,748</b>    | <b>924,599</b> | <b>977,161</b> |

## Grants for Charitable Purposes

| £s                                                 | Total        |
|----------------------------------------------------|--------------|
| Lower Green Community Centre                       | 1,773        |
| Kathryn's Mercy Home, India (Sponsorship of child) | 290          |
| Macmillan Cancer Support (Big Coffee Morning)      | 218          |
| Royal British Legion                               | 279          |
| Children's Society (Christingle)                   | 24           |
| Advent Appeal 2024 (Eikon Charity)                 | 1,963        |
| <b>Total</b>                                       | <b>3,546</b> |

## Notes to the accounts for the year ended 31 December 2024

### Accounting policies

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Charities Act 2011, the Church Accounting Regulations 2006 and Accounting and Reporting Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with Financial Reporting Standard 102 (FRS 102). The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention except for the valuation of property and investment assets, which are shown at market value. The charity constitutes a public benefit entity as defined by FRS 102.

### Funds

General funds represent the funds of the PCC that are not subject to any restrictions regarding their use and are available for application to the general purposes of the PCC. Funds designated for a particular purpose by the PCC are also unrestricted. The accounts include all transactions, assets and liabilities for which the PCC is responsible in law. They do not include the accounts of separately designated charities. There are no endowment funds.

### Incoming resources

Collections are recognised when received by the PCC. Planned giving receivable under Gift Aid is recognised when received. Income tax recoverable on Gift Aid donations is recognised when the related income is recognised. Grants and legacies to the PCC are accounted for when the PCC is notified of its legal entitlement, the amount due is quantifiable and its ultimate receipt by the PCC is probable. Dividends on investments are accounted for as they accrue. Unrealised gains or losses on revaluation of investments and property are accounted for on revaluation at the year end.

### Resources expended

Grants and donations are accounted for when awarded, if that creates a binding obligation on the PCC.

### Activities directly relating to the work of the Parish

The Diocesan parish share is accounted for when payable.

### Tangible fixed assets

Consecrated land and buildings are excluded from the accounts by the Charities Act 2011. No value is placed on movable church furnishings. All expenditure on such items is written-off as incurred and separately disclosed in the accounts. The curate's house, 74 Cranbrook Drive, is included at a market value estimated in 2021. Equipment used within the Church premises is depreciated on a reducing balance basis of 25% of asset Net Book Value, or in the case of computers, 33.33% of Net Book Value. Individual items costing less than £1,000 are written-off when acquired.

### Current assets

Short-term deposits are held with the CBF Church of England Funds.

### Employees

The Church employed two people in 2024: the Parish Administrator and a Children & Families Worker. No benefits or expenses were paid to any member of the PCC.





Parish Office, Christ Church, Church Street, Esher Surrey KT10 8QS

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Website: [www.esherparish.org.uk](http://www.esherparish.org.uk)

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# Accounts

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**PARISH OF ESHER**  
Christ Church, Esher with St George's, West End



**ANNUAL REPORT &  
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
of the  
**PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL**

for the year ended 31 December 2023

Growing together in faith, hope and love



PARISH OF ESHER  
Christ Church, Esher with St George's, West End

**ANNUAL REPORT &  
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
of the  
PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL  
of the PARISH of ESHER**

for the year ended 31 December 2023

Growing together in faith, hope and love

Rector: The Reverend Darren McCallig  
Honorary Assistant Priest: The Venerable David Gerrard  
Honorary Assistant Priest: The Reverend Jonathan Andrew



Churches: Christ Church, Esher and St George's, West End, Esher

Parish Office: Christ Church, Church Street, Esher KT10 8QS

Bankers: National Westminster Bank plc, 73 High Street, Walton-on Thames KT12 1DW

Charity Registration Number: 1134847

Independent Examiner: Gordon Manickam CIA FCCIA



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## The role and membership of the Parochial Church Council, and the Church officers and officials during 2023

The overall management of the church is the responsibility of the Rector, The Reverend Darren McCallig, and the two churchwardens. The Esher Parochial Church Council (PCC) has the responsibility of working with these three, in promoting in the Parish the whole mission of the church: pastoral, evangelical, social and ecumenical. It also has maintenance responsibilities for the two church buildings, Christ Church and St George's, West End.

Members of the PCC may be ex-officio, such as the Rector and the churchwardens, elected by the Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM), or co-opted, in accordance with the church representation rules.

|                                                 |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
|-------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Rector                                          | Revd Darren McCallig                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
| Churchwardens                                   | Helen Coulson, Jane Tyrrell                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
| Treasurer                                       | Martin Fuller                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
| PCC Secretary                                   | Peter Bedford                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
| Deanery Synod Representatives                   | Polly Jordan, Mair Molteno (until May 2023), Will Stevens                                                                                                                                                                                               |
| Elected Representatives of the Laity on the PCC | Teresa Allen (from May 2023), Michael Banks, Ann Battensby (from Sep 2023), Peter Bedford (until May 2023), Martin Fuller, Andrea Lindow, Jennifer Meade, Hugh Miller (until May 2023), Margaret Miller, Mair Molteno (from May 2023), Bridget Williams |

### Other Parish Appointments

|                                           |                                                                       |
|-------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Honorary Assistant Priests                | Ven David Gerrard, Revd Jonathan Andrew                               |
| Parish Administrator                      | Melanie Williams                                                      |
| Director of Music                         | Stuart Whatton                                                        |
| Assistant Organist                        | Oliver Macfarlane                                                     |
| Organist Emeritus                         | Keith Howell-Jones                                                    |
| Senior Organ Scholar                      | Rowan Marshall                                                        |
| Junior Organ Scholar                      | Theo Tang                                                             |
| Parish Bookkeeper                         | Vacancy (covered by Martin Fuller)                                    |
| Fabric Chairperson                        | Hugh Miller                                                           |
| Safeguarding Officers                     | Polly Jordan, Alison Mohamed                                          |
| Deputy Churchwardens                      | Andrea Lindow (St George's Church)<br>William Stevens (Christ Church) |
| Community & Business Outreach Coordinator | Michael Banks                                                         |
| Tower Bell Captain                        | Ann Battensby                                                         |
| Children, Young People & Families Worker  | Kathryn Chapman                                                       |
| Flower Coordinator                        | Carol Calvert                                                         |
| Gift Aid Officer                          | Alan Doolan                                                           |
| Pastoral Team Coordinator                 | Wendy Tanqueray                                                       |
| Fellowship Group Leader                   | Jan Sayer                                                             |
| Book Group Leader                         | Revd Jonathan Andrew                                                  |
| InSpire Editor                            | Juliet Philip                                                         |

Peter Bedford  
Honorary Secretary

## Rector's Report

Meister Eckhart, the fourteenth century German mystic, is reputed to have said that if the only prayer we ever pray in our whole lives is 'thank you' it will be enough! One may have theological quibbles with such a sweeping statement, but it's certainly a good place to start this Rector's Report for 2023. I say that because, as I begin my fifth year as your priest (where has the time gone!) and as I write this while on parental leave, that's my overwhelming feeling – deep, deep gratitude for all of you and everything you do to maintain and grow the life of this parish.

As the various submissions in this Annual Report make clear, the Parish of Esher is a remarkable place. We are blessed with extraordinary staff and volunteers who go above and beyond in order to show and share God's love in worship and in service. Everything from flower arranging to bellringing, from crazy craft days to lunchtime concerts – none of it would be possible without the commitment of so many of you.

In fact, I'm reminded of something a former colleague of mine in the Diocese in Europe – Canon Barbara Moss, priest at the Anglican Church in Gothenburg – used to say. Apparently the most common question she was asked by curious members of the well-funded and well-staffed local Swedish Church was 'How many people work in your church?' To which the redoubtable Barbara would reply 'Almost everyone!'

Something similar could be said here in Esher. So, whether you support the work of the parish practically, prayerfully or financially (or all three!) please know that your contribution is valued and appreciated. Everyone's participation is absolutely crucial to keeping the doors of our church buildings open, our worship life sustained and our local community served in a spirit of faith, hope and love.

That, in the end, is what it's all about – encountering in words, music, silence and sacrament something of the 'Love that moves the sun and other stars' and embodying that love in our everyday lives. And we do it – by the grace of God – not in order to put 'bums on pews' or to attain certain 'strategic targets' (though I'm glad to say that 2023 saw continued growth in many aspects of parish life). No, we do it because – as the First Letter of John puts it so succinctly – 'We love because God first loved us.' (1 John 4.19).

God bless, Darren.

The Revd Darren McCallig  
Rector of Esher

## Churchwardens' Report

Looking back through last year's various issues of Inspire to provide us with inspiration, we realise just how busy we have been, just how many numerous and varied activities we are involved with as a church and as a vital part of our community here in Esher. Our weekly pew sheets are always packed full of information and notices of forthcoming events, some occurring regularly throughout the year, others special occasions.

It should be noted first and foremost, that none of these events could take place, indeed none of our services would run, without the continuing support of all our volunteers. With Darren going on parental leave in November the support of you all has been immense. So many of you give up much of your time to serve our Parish in numerous different ways. Thank you to each and every one of you for putting yourselves forward and for your willingness to help.

During the year we marked many events, but one special milestone last year was the recognition and appreciation of David Gerrard, ordained 60 years previously. How fortunate and privileged our congregations have been to have enjoyed years of David's wisdom and ministry. Many people attended the service to hear a superb and well-deserved tribute to David from Darren, with David himself then treating us to one of his marvellous sermons on preaching.

No review of last year would be complete without mention of the Coronation weekend. Our bellringers were involved in the Ringing for the King initiative, attracting several beginners to join our regular team. What a wonderful way to involve members of our wider community in our church. We also held a special Choral Evensong to mark the Coronation.

The start of the new academic year saw us welcome Daisy, the ice cream van to our Ice Cream Sundae and Blessing of the Bags service. This always popular service attracted a number of children and their families from Esher Church School. Our Children and Families Worker, Kath is doing a wonderful job in enhancing the links we have with our local schools. Christ Church was used by Esher Church School, Esher High and Claremont for their Christmas and End of Year services. We also had a visit from the Esher Church School Choir for our Christingle Service - the church was packed and the atmosphere so joyful as befits the start of Advent.

On Remembrance Sunday, Christ Church hosted the annual Civic Service. A sizeable crowd gathered around the Esher War Memorial, with wreaths laid by a number of organisations, notably many young people from Esher Church School, Esher High, Brownies, Guides, Cubs, Scouts and Air Cadets. Many came into the church after the service outside, including over 30 children and young people in attendance - the church was again full, an illustration of how central our church is in the community at such times.

Our local community involvement is enhanced by the relationship Michael Banks has so successfully built with the Esher Chamber of Commerce. Christ Church has hosted breakfast meetings during the year, and more especially the Esher Chamber of Commerce, among others, joined us for the lighting of our Christmas tree, accompanied by carols, mince pies and mulled wine. It was wonderful to see the church filled with

people from our community and so obviously enjoying themselves. A number took time to join in the making of the Christingles for the service that weekend. It truly was a marvellous community event, and again emphasises the important role our church has to play here in Esher.

We have also been building our connections with the Lower Green Community Centre, mainly through Kath and her Crazy Craft events held at the Centre. We were approached by the Centre early in the year, to ask if there was any way we could help to support their continuing work - mainly through helping to fund the ever increasing costs in keeping the Centre open. As a result, our Lent Appeal in 2023 was to raise money for the Centre and we donated £2085.00 towards their running costs.

Looking further afield, we have supported international initiatives such as the Link to Hope Christmas shoebox appeal - providing much needed gifts to the poorest people living in villages without basic amenities in Ukraine, Bulgaria, Moldova and Romania. Together with the Scouts, we managed to fill 77 boxes for delivery to families - a great result which hopefully helped to make a small difference. In addition, our Advent Appeal was in support of the Archbishop's of Canterbury and Jerusalem joint appeal for the Episcopal Diocese of Jerusalem. The money donated went towards supporting Anglican ministries in Gaza, Palestine and Israel.

As we are all aware, costs have risen this year and like many others we are very definitely noticing the effects of increased energy bills and all our other running costs. At the start of our Cherish, Nourish, Flourish Stewardship campaign, Darren made a rough calculation that it costs us £5000 a week to run, maintain and staff the church. This is currently not matched by our regular giving and we rely on generous legacies to keep our finances anywhere near balanced. During our Stewardship Campaign we invited members of our two congregations to share their thoughts on what the Parish means to them. Highlights included the sense of community, the warm welcome, the energy of the church, the number of events and outreach that takes place, how much our churches mean to all of us and the fact that we are here for our community. The need to increase our regular giving income is apparent, and we should all be encouraged to find ways to enable this to happen.

The theme that keeps coming through everything we have written is that our church serves the community. We are there for them at major life events, a regular stream of families bringing their children to be baptised in the church, couples wanting to marry in church and even more so, families who wish to hold funerals in both our churches. We need to be there for the wider community and all our regular congregation to welcome and support them. Our need is to develop our means of raising regular income, as it is our responsibility to ensure our church indeed flourishes and endures in its mission.

We trust that you will continue to support us as we work to minister to all in our community.

Thank you.

Jane Tyrrell & Helen Coulson  
Parish Churchwardens

## **Finance Report**

In 2023 the Parish had an income of £257,340 (£221,902 in 2022) and spent £273,187 (£251,843 in 2022). We therefore had a deficit of £15,847 (after a deficit of £29,941 in 2022).

Regular giving by standing order into our bank account continues to be our main source of funds, and thanks to the generosity of our congregations the totals increased by some 10% this year compared with last year's. Money received from church collections has also held up well. We also received some generous donations and legacies in 2023. The Gift Aid receipts were artificially high, as they included some receipts for 2022 that were received too late to be booked to that year.

In both 2022 and 2023 we have had unusually heavy spending on building maintenance: in 2022 it was £38,000 spent on the refurbishment of St George's with money raised by the West End community; and in 2023 some £60,000 on the refurbishment of the curate's house in Cranbrook Drive (with another £27,000 so far this year). The loss of rental income from the start of the year, the costs associated with the eviction process and the need to put the property back into tenantable condition once possession had been obtained have had a serious impact on church finances.

The substantial increases in gas and electricity prices have also had a predictably adverse effect. A self-help cleaning programme for Christ Church, in place of the contract cleaners used in 2022, reduced costs in this area (although by the end of the year we had returned to using a paid cleaner).

The costs associated with employment of a Children & Families Worker have increased, both because 2023 was the first full year of her employment, and because her working hours were increased from 14 to 21 hours a week in recognition of the success of the appointment in terms of youth outreach.

In spite of the financial pressures, the Parish raised £6,860 for charitable purposes, as shown in the accounts.

Martin Fuller  
Parish Treasurer

## **Safeguarding Report**

### Summary

- Alison Mohamed and Polly Jordan were appointed as Safeguarding Officers in March 2019 and remain in post.
- Safeguarding posters are on display in both Churches.
- Contact details for the Parish Safeguarding Officers, Diocese Safeguarding Adviser and relevant helplines are displayed in both Churches.
- Dedicated Safeguarding email plus direct contact details for both Safeguarding Officers are easily accessible.

- Safeguarding is a standing agenda item at every PCC meeting.
- Safeguarding tab is clearly visible on the website. This provides details of the Parish Safeguarding officers and Diocese Safeguarding advisers.
- Another successful training session for the 'Raising Awareness of Domestic Abuse' module was held by Polly in March.

#### Outstanding

- Some PCC members, employed workers and other volunteers have outstanding Safeguarding Training to complete.
- Ongoing work is required to ensure DBS compliance.

#### COVID

- We have continually kept our covid regulations under review, and have retained the simultaneous administration of the sacraments (i.e. the president dips the bread in the wine before giving it to the communicant), and the suspension of the physical sharing of The Peace.
- Our goal continues to be to strive to keep our Churches as safe as possible and keep the best interests of our more vulnerable members as our top priority.

#### Plans

- We have discussed holding a 'Safeguarding Sunday' with focus on Safeguarding within our Churches to raise awareness of the importance of safeguarding and the structures and support available within our Churches and the Diocese. Jane Huttly, Diocese Safeguarding Adviser and Head of Policy and Training has kindly agreed to come and speak.
- We have planned a First Aid Training day for January 2024, and are seeking participation across the PCC and wider congregation.
- We intend to raise funds in early 2024 to purchase, install and maintain a defibrillator for Christ Church, for use both in the Church and by the local community.
- Further work to ensure all volunteers are up to date with DBS checks and Safeguarding Training.

#### Conclusion

Overall, the PCC is making progress with regard to prioritising Safeguarding in our Churches and compliance with the duty to have 'due regard' to the House of Bishops' Safeguarding Policy and Practice Guidelines. However, there is further work to be done as outlined above.

Polly Jordan & Alison Mohamed  
Parish Safeguarding Officers

## **Fabric Report**

### Christ Church

The proposed revamping of the entire Lighting and Electrical Systems within the Church that was detailed in the 2022 Report was most regrettably put on hold since there was a substantial lack of funds to facilitate the scheme. The Lighting consultants were stood down and will willingly take up their role again when funds permit the scheme to progress.

In line with the above and per the previous year only the most essential repairs and maintenance items have been undertaken in the year since funds are very limited.

One essential item was the substantial repair to the car barrier when it was badly damaged from an unidentified car driving into it!

An item of expenditure that is to prove essential in 2024 is a substantial improvement in the security of the Church. This follows a break during daytime in 2022. Whilst the many internal locks within the Church have been enhanced by a locksmith, the advice of the Police was to have a CCTV system installed.

Following consultation with the Police, the Diocese and other churches a recognised security company has provided a comprehensive scheme and quote. The Diocese has approved the scheme and the fitting of the cameras. The 2024 Lent Appeal will focus on raising the funding for the security system. The quoted cost is £4 850.00 plus vat.

In the last quarter of 2023 we were able to start the refurbishment of Cranbrook Drive. This is due to complete in February 2024 and we look forward to securing new tenants for the property.

With the standing down of Olly Dickinson, the Fabric Committee consisted of just Hugh Miller greatly assisted by Ian Royce. As in previous years Ian Royce has continued to undertake numerous jobs of minor maintenance and minor works. His contribution to the Church is invaluable. After some fifteen years of service on the PCC and the Fabric Committee Hugh Miller is standing down and a replacement is badly needed.

### St George's, West End

To the full credit of the St George's Committee and the congregation numerous items of improvement were undertaken in 2023. Amongst these were: installation of a new garden shed; halogen lights were replaced throughout with LED lights; several rotten window sills were replaced; installation of a new disabled ramp to allow access via the vestry door. In addition, a folding disabled ramp was sourced and supplied to Christ Church.

An Asbestos survey was commissioned, and no asbestos was detected. This will now allow an investigation of the sub-floor structure by a structural engineer.

Finally, Smartwater marking was applied to all the valuable items within the Church.

Mair Molteno and Andrea Lindow continue to dedicate themselves to the upkeep of the fabric of St George's and with all round support from its congregation the long-term future of the Church is secure in this department.

Hugh Miller

Fabric Chairperson

## **Electoral Roll Report**

Overall membership of the Electoral Roll has remained relatively stable during the year. Sadly several long standing church friends have died recently. Of these ten were members of the Roll. Over the past year 11 new people have been added to the Roll.

The Roll now has 134 members from 104 households. Of these, 80 from 63 households are resident in the parish and 54 from 41 households are not resident in the parish.

Melanie Williams

Parish Administrator & Electoral Roll Officer

## **Parochial Church Council (PCC) Report**

Six PCC meetings were held in 2023, taking place in February, March, May, July, September and November. All were held at Christ Church.

The Annual Meeting of Parishioners and the Annual Parochial Church Meeting were held on Sunday 14 May. Helen Coulson and Jane Tyrrell were again elected as churchwardens. Those elected to the PCC as lay members comprised Martin Fuller and Bridget Williams, having completed their three-year terms, Mair Molteno, having completed her term with the Deanery Synod, and Teresa Allen as a new member. Polly Jordan and Will Stevens were elected to the Deanery Synod, having finished their current terms (a new triennial period commenced in 2023). Ann Battensby was elected by the PCC in September. Peter Bedford had reached the end of his six-year term, but agreed to continue for the time being as PCC Secretary. Hugh Miller had reached the end of his three-year term and did not stand for re-election, but continued as Fabric Chairman and was 'in attendance' at PCC meetings. The Rector commenced his one-year Adoption Leave on 21 November.

The major issues and items of business that arose during the year were as follows:

- Addressing financial pressures, including the way forward on stewardship and fundraising.
- Key fabric matters, in particular the repossession and refurbishment of the former curate's house at Cranbrook Drive.
- Ensuring full compliance with safeguarding requirements.
- Continued outreach and engagement with the local community, including through links with businesses.
- Enhancement of outreach and communication, including via social media.
- Continued support for Parish music, from Music on the Green to organ scholarships.
- Expansion of the role of the Children, Young People and Families worker, including via Sunday School and the Youth Group.
- Continued emphasis on bellringing activities, including recruitment of further volunteers.
- Addressing security matters at Christ Church and St George's.
- Support to charities and local causes, including the people of Ukraine, the Lower Green Community Centre and the Christmas shoebox campaign.

Peter Bedford

Honorary Secretary

## Deanery Synod Report

The Parish of Esher is part of the Emly Deanery (a group of 13 parishes within the Diocese of Guildford) and there were three meetings in the year, with the following speakers:

Ray Lee, the Strategic Director for Elmbridge Borough Council, who encouraged us to work with our local council in order to better serve our local communities.

Revd David Senior., the Mission Enabler for Stewardship and Evangelism in the Guildford Diocese, who spoke about stewardship. Apart from encouraging monthly standing orders, he mentioned that the church was poor in obtaining legacies, as regular Anglican worshippers are three times as likely to give to charities other than their church. He mentioned that Guildford was the poorest diocese in the country in terms of reserves (which in many cases was due to earls and dukes in other dioceses giving estates to the church many years ago) but the richest in terms of average income, causing the parish share in our diocese to be so high.

Alistair Etheridge, the Guildford Diocese Director for Youth Ministry, who spoke about the Youth Catalyst project. The Diocese has been given £3.2 million to enable 16 apprentice youth leaders, four hub leaders from secondary schools (including Esher High) and a worship and social media gathering team.

As a parish, we are very grateful to our Area Dean, the Revd Andrew Cowie, and to our Lay Chair, Mr Brian Howells, for their faithful stewardship of the Deanery.

Will Stevens

Deputy Churchwarden

## Children, Young People & Families Report

### Overview

What a year! 2023 has been a time of enormous activity and growth for our youth provision. Sunday School has been firmly established at Christ Church, the diocesan First Timers course was completed, our community Crazy Craft



days moved into its second year, a new Youth Group for 10-13 year olds was launched, our parish schools were welcomed into Christ Church, school foundation governance was developed, parish merchandise was sold, I took over management of our baptism families and took my very first service - the Crib service on Christmas Eve. Our parish values of Faith, Hope and Love, alongside the additional Sunday School values of Curiosity and Service, have been very much alive and well this year!

It's been wonderful to notice how much the role of Children & Families Worker has deepened my faith. With the guidance and support from Darren, the Church Wardens, Melanie and Stuart, the joy and inspiration from the parish and our wider community, and of course, the amazing young people and their families, I am very blessed to be serving in our parish. I feel such a valued member of the team and rejoice in all that the role gifts me. Thank you so much to everyone for helping make my first full year in post such a meaningful and enjoyable time.

When I embarked on this role, I had no idea how much it would enrich my life. Getting to hang out with our young people helps remind me of the power of seeing the world through fresh, wondrous eyes. As we grow into adulthood and become distracted by societal pressures, it's all too easy to ignore the child inside of us - our spiritual innocence, beautiful creativity, questioning minds, and longing for connection and play. Children have so much to reflect what's important, we just need to stop long enough to notice.

### Sunday School

Sunday School continues every week through the year at Christ Church (except for August) during the 10.30am service. There's a core of around 15 gorgeous mini-people that come along to learn, create, have fun and pray together. They never cease to amaze me with their insights and knowledge.

For each new recruit, we produce one of these Sunday School Welcome Packs, stuffed full of hand-made goodies including, our values cards, pictures of our churches, a pencil, candle and set of prayer starter cards. It's their little box of church-at-home and is made to help foster their faith in their daily life and store some of the things we make. We also welcome a large number of other children who come to Christ Church on an adhoc basis or as part of our



many baptism celebrations. During these services, and at all All Age services, we run a creche area at the back of the church with soft furnishings, puzzles, games, colouring and small crafts, so children have activity provision within the service.

In our Sunday School sessions we regularly discuss how our values link to our learning which is hugely important for establishing and building life-long spirituality and faith. We've produced some striking values bunting which is used to adorn the communion altar for our All Age services and we made a similar set for St George's, West End.

The children are always delighted to be invited to show their creativity to the rest of the congregation at the end of the service. It's come to feel a very important part of unifying as a congregation and community, plus it helps the children to feel seen, heard and validated - an important need for us all. The beginning of Sunday School features prayer, where we offer up to God the things we're worrying about or struggling with. It's a lovely way to bear witness to each other in this way. Weekly emails of past/future activity in Sunday School and other relevant information are sent out most weeks of the year to our database of families. The same information is also posted on the parish's Facebook and Instagram pages, @EsherParish.

One of the ways we are encouraging inter-generational connection is during our Lent activities that we did for the first time in 2023. We ask the children to have five minutes less screen time and instead use this as an opportunity for daily gratitude reflection. Alongside this we encourage the rest of the congregation to think about



what they appreciate via weekly Lent Reflection prompts - questions to ponder and respond to, such as, *'What do you appreciate most about church?'* and, *'When have you felt closest to God?'* The responses (collected anonymously) were so lovely that we decided to create a set of Lent Reflections cards that people could use all year round. Reflecting on other people's

responses is a great way to deepen and expand your own faith - it's a beautiful cycle of knowledge and bearing witness. It also helps us appreciate the important things we have in our lives (friendship, family, food, church, safety, shelter etc.) and, whilst doing so, we appreciate and honour Jesus's suffering and discomfort during his time in the wilderness.

Throughout the year our activities are many and varied. An annual favourite in the Sunday School calendar (and all thanks to Darren) is Chalking the Doors, an ancient Christian tradition marking the arrival of a new year. It's done to invite Jesus to be a guest in our homes as a listener of conversations, a guide in troubled times and a blessing in times of thanksgiving. It also represents the hospitality of the Holy Family to the Wise Men (and all Gentiles), encouraging us to welcome in the presence of God.

Another firm favourite with the children (more Darren-inspired activity), is burying the Hallelujah. As a celebratory word, Hallelujah is removed from church liturgy during Lent and can be marked by this small ceremony that dates back to the Middle Ages. Hallelujah is inscribed on a board and buried a little ahead of Lent, before being resurrected with rejoicing on Easter Day. The children really enjoy venturing outdoors and making the Easter Garden. It's great to have the space to be able to connect with nature by planting the flowers and making the crosses from fallen sticks. Easter was completed with a very popular egg hunt in the church grounds after the 10.30am service in Christ Church, open to everyone.

We have also been utilising the entrance to the Leopold Room in Christ Church by hanging Remembrance and Christmas bunting there, plus we used the pillars to produce these beautiful rainbow hangings, in conjunction with Esher Church School. In the Act of Remembrance service on 12 November we had our first Esher Parish Youth poppy wreath placed on the war memorial by one of our Sunday School cohort, it was very lovely to watch.



### First Timers Course

My diocesan First Timers course ended in July and we each had a final presentation to do on our biggest learnings. We presented in front of our peers, their line managers and the Bishop. The year-long programme (which is run for those who are new in post in the same/similar roles) covered 144 hours of training so there was a huge amount to choose from. I decided to use my 10mins slot to thank my peers and those facilitating the course for something they had done or said that had greatly impacted me; something they otherwise might not have known. It was lovely to have the opportunity to reflect things back to them because we usually never know the impact we have.

### Crazy Craft Days

The free community Crazy Crafts Days we put on during 2023 were a massive success - for Easter we had more than double the amount of children than our Christmas 2022 event. Our sessions at Harvest and Christmas 2023 were also really well supported. It's wonderful to be spreading a message of love to families that we might not otherwise reach and we are hugely grateful to Jenny and her team at the Lower Green Community Centre who partner with us to put on these events on.



Biscuit decoration, magnet colouring and making greetings cards continue to be the most popular activities, along with our famous Kindness Jars - small pots containing kind phrases that the children write and then gift to someone. We've even introduced a Crazy Craft Crazy Corner where the children can let their imagination run free and create something super-amazing out of our Bits-and-Bobs box. We've had rockets, fires and even jelly fish made - creativity at it's very best!

### Link to Hope Shoebox Appeal

In the Autumn we launched our annual Link to Hope Christmas Shoebox Appeal, inviting parishioners and our parish schools to grab an empty box and fill it with specific items to gift to families and the elderly in difficult circumstances in Ukraine Romania, Bulgaria, and Moldova.

The appeal has been running since 1992 and they have delivered more than a million shoeboxes to hundreds of different locations. Link to Hope ensures that the whole family benefits from the contents of the boxes, so no-one gets left out at Christmas. Their vision is that one day every person in Eastern Europe will have a safe environment to live in and have access to basic healthcare, human rights, employment and education - for more visit [www.linktohope.co.uk](http://www.linktohope.co.uk)

I delivered a whopping 77 generously filled and beautifully wrapped boxes to the Link to Hope depot in Ferring, near Worthing. Thank you to everyone who participated.

## Youth Group

It was brilliant to launch our new monthly Youth Group for 10-13 year olds in October at Christ Church. The group meets on the first Sunday of each month for food, friendship and fun. We aim to provide the young people with freedom to explore their faith and spirituality in a safe space, and we run the sessions with an emphasis on acceptance, listening and kindness. We've had some beautiful and deep conversations, dived into important topics such as our values, intuition and how their spirituality helps shape who they are and the decisions they made. It's always an enlightening and meaningful 90mins, full of vibrant discussion and lots of laughing.

The first session was on our core values and which are important within Youth Group. The no.1 value for the group is Family and other significant ones were Happiness, Caring and Fun. Clarification of our values is important for us understand what we meaningfully move towards and away from, with a considered heart, and is the basis of everything we do. The November session was all about getting to know and understand our inner critic, and for our end of year finale in December, I challenged them to create the longest paper chains they could!

We always finish our sessions off with prayer, focussing on what the children would like to help with or who they want prayer for, and, like Sunday School, these moments are incredibly special and often very moving. It's exciting to wonder what great things they will do in the future, all they need to do is be more of who they already are.

## Parish merchandise



One member of the congregation was so taken by the churches picture cards in the Sunday School Welcome Boxes that she wanted to buy her own copies. As a result, I made more so everyone had the chance to purchase their own. Amazingly, I took nearly £90 on the first day of selling! These are available all year round for purchase and make really lovely gifts.

Hot on the heels of this success, came our Lent Reflection boxes and also some parish fridge magnets with Bible quotes on them. Everything is available for sale to help raise funds for our beautiful parish churches.

## Christmas

The annual Christingle-making took place at the same time as our Christmas tree light-up event. We had loads of people helping us, including members of the community who had come for mince pies, mulled wine and carols - it was a really lovely evening. At the Christingle service, we were blessed to have the Esher Church School choir joining us to sing some wonderful songs - it was a very festive occasion.



Thank you to everyone who came to my very first Crib service in December! I was amazed when people started arriving a full hour before it was due to start! One couple, who were visiting from Germany, said that if they don't get to their crib service back home, an hour before it starts, they don't get a seat! By the time we started, the church was packed (the head count was around 220) and we ran out of orders of service, so I think that was a good sign!

During the service we performed the no-rehearsal nativity play with some very game children and adults taking part. We were also treated to a beautiful song sung by the ladies from the Jordan family, and the service ended with an audience-participatory version of The 12 Days of Christmas. It was recommended to me in November, and sounded so good I had to try it out. The carol is sung sitting down and each time your birth month comes up you stand up.

It was hilarious as people bobbed up and down all round Christ Church - babies were also proudly elevated for their birth month and 'five gold rings' was sung with magnificent gusto in every verse. It was such a joy.

Kathryn Chapman  
Children, Young People & Families Worker

## **Esher Church School & Esher Church of England High School Report**

We have two Church Schools within our Parish, something that is very unique. There are only three CofE Secondary schools in the Diocese and we have strong links with both our primary and secondary schools, supporting them through governance and links with our Children and Families worker Kath Chapman.

At Christmas some of the congregation got involved with the Esher High School Community Choir, singing two songs in their December carol service at Christ Church. Earlier that term, we also welcomed the new year seven cohort with a special service. To welcome them we gave gift packs to all 240 children to take home, containing a candle, pencil, magnet, a copy of the school prayer and information about our Youth Group.

During 2023 the High School has continued to support our children and families in the Parish. The opportunities afforded our young people who attend the High School are amazing; from vocational experiences, supporting and visiting overseas charitable work in Zambia to engagement and mentoring from university tutors for those looking to go on to higher education.

Christmas saw the annual exhibition of the Diocese of Guildford Schools, show-casing art created in response to the theme, God's Gift. The whole Esher Church Primary School community was involved in making this stunning contribution, lead by the Faith and Art prefects. The work includes cut-out hands of every child in the school and intricate paper flowers and leaves. The wreath now has pride of place in the ECS entrance lobby - it's an absolute wonder to behold.



We are pleased to be able to support both our schools with governors from our Parish. This is an immensely demanding and responsible position and we want to thank all those involved for their time and talents in supporting the work of the schools, alongside Darren, Jonathan and Kath.

Post Covid consequences still place increasing demands on schools to support our young people and we thank both our schools and the staff for their incredible work.

Kathryn Chapman, Children, Young People & Families Worker  
Helen Coulson, Churchwarden

## **Pastoral Support Team Report**

The past year, like the curate's egg, has been busy in parts!

No two weeks are the same and often people do not want a visit but just advice. Sadly, a few people have passed away, but I know our help was greatly appreciated.

I am most grateful for the continuing support of my helpers, Jan Sayer, Andrea Lindow and Karen Sarkissian, without whom the Pastoral Support Team would be unable to function, and am delighted to report that William Wood has joined us. This is good news as I've had requests which I have been unable to process as ladies are not allowed to visit a man without a chaperone! Rules are rules, so having William in the team is a huge plus.

We are here to help so if anyone requires help or knows someone who does, you only need to call or email me to get things started (01372 464483 or [wendytanqueray@gmail.com](mailto:wendytanqueray@gmail.com)).

Wendy Tanqueray  
Pastoral Visitor Coordinator

## **Fellowship Group Report**

Our Fellowship group has continued to flourish during the year, our numbers at a record capacity for the Lady Chapel.

We continue to meet the first Wednesday of each month at 11.00am and we begin with coffee in the main body of the church, kindly thanks to Sally. We then adjourn to the Lady Chapel where we commence our gathering with an act of worship. Melanie provides us with beautifully presented service booklets, and each month is linked to the seasons and major Christian festivals of the calendar year. Usually there is an underlying theme arising from the Bible Readings which can provoke lively discussion and debate. Central to this are our prayers for those known to us, for the community or world beyond, followed by a period of silence for private prayer and reflection. We follow our service with discussion related to our act of worship.

Our Christmas social was very different this year as we had to hold it in the Leopold Room alongside Claremont Schools' annual Carol concert in the main church. We had to wait in the kitchen while numbers of children queued for the toilet, all in good humour! It was actually quite lovely and seasonal to sip our mulled wine and canapés to the strain of Hark the Herald! After all we were celebrating the birth of a very special baby!

It is our bond of friendship that is the essence of our success and the trust that has grown between us. Another step along the way on our journey of faith. My sincere thanks to all who continue to support us. Long may we continue!

Jan Sayer  
Fellowship Group Leader

## **Community & Business Outreach Report**

Christ Church is now a well-established member of the Esher Chamber of Commerce. This has allowed us to host breakfasts and presentations using the AV system. As a result, we've seen a good number of people in the church who haven't visited before.

The foodbank operation was suspended through a lack of demand exacerbated by food stocks being attacked by our church mice. The remaining useable items were taken to the Lower Green Community Centre, where relations with Christ Church continue to be strengthened.

Elmbridge Multi-Faith Forum were invited to give a broad ranging presentation which was well received. Follow up actions have been held whilst the war in Gaza continues.

The 2023 Christmas Tree Lighting-up Ceremony can be considered a great success with 92 people attending, including many members of the Chamber of Commerce. The Mayor opened the event, the church was candlelit with mulled wine and mince pies served in a warm and convivial atmosphere. A new Christ Church tradition has been born.

Michael Banks  
Community & Business Outreach Coordinator

## **InSpire Report**

*InSpire* continues to grow with input coming from a wider range of contributors and the topics continuing to expand.

The editorial team remains Bridget Williams, Jane Tyrrell and Juliet Philip, with the latter having the task of editing and pulling *InSpire* together and distributing it. Despite many personal challenges over the past year, the team continues to meet four to six weeks before the issue is published to decide on the content and focus of the next version – still finding that a breakfast meeting is the best way forward!

There remains a need to widen the audience that each issue goes to and increase the readership of each issue. *InSpire* averages around 70% of readers per distribution, which is considered a good return, but it would be good to see that higher.

There has been no movement on having a printed version, though it is not an idea that has been dismissed. As a printed version, by necessity, would be shorter and less pictorial it is something that needs very careful consideration.

The 33rd issue was published at Easter - *InSpire* has run for eight years in its current form.

Juliet Philip  
*InSpire* Editor

## **Exploring the Bible - Discussion Evenings Report**

Following our successful 2022 series of discussion evenings in which we took a whistle-stop tour of the Old Testament, in Lent 2023 we ran a further series on the four Gospels – Matthew, Mark, Luke and John. We explored why we have four accounts of Jesus's life rather than a single integrated story, how the four accounts appear to borrow from one another, but also how they differ both in content and in emphasis. We reflected on how these four different 'voices' complement one another and how, taken together, they can draw us closer to the figure of Jesus whom we revere as God and Man.

Later, in May we hosted a fascinating one-off meeting of the Elmbridge Interfaith Forum at which Jewish, Hindu, Muslim and Christian speakers shared their thoughts on how we can live together in harmony and respect, while remaining true to our own traditions and beliefs.

Finally, in Advent we finished our tour of the Bible by looking at the remainder of the New Testament, focusing on the Letters of Paul, the Acts of the Apostles and the Book of Revelation. We explored what these very different writings tell us about the experience and developing faith of the Church in the years immediately after Jesus's death, resurrection and ascension. We considered how, under the guidance of the Holy Spirit, the new Christian communities came to understand their role in building the Kingdom of God in the often hostile world of the first century. Again, we reflected on how these very different groups of writings complement one another and how they started to document the tradition of faith which we still share today.

Revd Jonathan Andrew  
Honorary Assistant Priest

## **Book Group Report**

The Book Group continues to thrive, meeting on a Monday afternoon in Christ Church ten or eleven times a year.

The group is an eclectic one with an interesting mixture of reading tastes and personalities. The average attendance at each meeting is around a dozen, sometimes as many as fifteen and at others just ten. Unusually for a book group, the membership is pretty well an even split between men and women which adds nicely to the dynamics of the meetings.

Whilst the Group is led by Revd Jonathan Andrew, it is run on democratic lines with everyone being able to submit suggestions for the next book to read and then voting for their preference off a shortlist. This has led to a very diverse range of books being read in the past year – from Bonnie Garmus's bestseller *Lessons in Chemistry*, through Orwell's *Down and out in Paris and London* to *The Map that Changed the World* by Simon Winchester.

Discussions are wide ranging with every opinion acceptable, with sometimes diametrically opposed views leading to a lively debate. However, as this all takes place over tea, cakes and biscuits, provided by the members, it is never heated.

The highlight of the year is the now traditional pre-Christmas meeting where there is no set book to read but every member is encouraged to bring a short seasonal reading or poem to share with the group – whilst enjoying appropriate festive fare.

So, something that started during lockdown with four 'zoomers' and a dog has grown, under the aegis of Jonathan Andrew, into a fully-fledged Book Group with a robust and always welcoming membership.

Juliet Philip

On behalf of Revd Jonathan Andrew

Book Group Leader

## **Music Report**

### Liturgical Music

From a current standpoint, the disruptions of Covid – in terms of its restrictions on congregational singing, choirs and general gatherings – feel like a strange nightmare now mercifully receding into the distance. (I am put in mind of Isaac Watt's famous hymn words about time like an ever-rolling stream and things flying away forgotten, as a dream...).

Choir numbers have continued on a broadly stable trajectory, and we were pleased to welcome Hilary Greaves as a new recruit to the soprano line at the very tail end of 2023. However, the problem I outlined in last year's report – that of getting everyone regularly under the same roof at the same time - persists, and this continues to limit the ambitiousness of what we can attempt, both in terms of repertoire and in terms of any special events beyond the regular cycle of Sunday services.

We did, however, mount a Festal Choral Evensong for Coronation Weekend in May, welcoming a handful of visiting singers from All Saints Weston Green to swell our ranks. Another memorable highlight was Alice Coulson's wedding on 12 August (with performing forces and a repertoire that wouldn't have been out of place in Westminster Abbey!), and it was also a delight to feature, for the first time, Tom Doolan playing his bugle for the Last Post during our Act of Remembrance on Esher Green on Remembrance Sunday.

On the organ scholar front, Rowan Marshall and Theo Tang have diligently continued to serve as our senior and junior organ scholars respectively, and it has been good to watch them grow in both confidence and competence over the past twelve months. Two other young musicians from our church community (Annabelle and Tom Doolan) have also begun organ lessons with me, as well as a locally-based putative parish organ scholar (Robert Cunningham), marking the beginnings of a de facto Esher Organ Academy!

During the year we realised, very sadly, that Keith Howell-Jones' health would not permit him to return to the organ bench as we had hoped when losing him to illness in late 2022. As there was no specific cut-off point for Keith's participation, we did not have a proper chance to say a final goodbye and thank you to him for his huge record of service to the parish's music over several decades – but, as a symbolic tribute, we included his lovely carol composition 'Sing We a Song of Mary's Child' in the music choices for December's Festival of Nine Lessons & Carols. We all owe Keith a huge debt of gratitude in more ways than we can ever repay, and we shall continue to keep him in our thoughts and prayers.

With Keith now retired from the organ bench at West End as well as Christ Church, we were delighted to appoint Barbara Wadley as our new Parish Associate Organist; Barbara has already endeared herself to both congregations with her versatile and enthusiastic approach to music-making. With Barbara's arrival on the scene, we have moved to a new arrangement for covering West End services, involving a five-strong rota of the three adult organists and both organ scholars.

My particular thanks go to our Assistant Organist Oliver Macfarlane for his organ playing week-in week-out at Christ Church, including treating us to some spectacular closing voluntaries; to Diana Johns for her piano depping; and to all our choir members for their multifarious contributions to our regular parish worship.

### Music on the Green

2023 was a year of substantial happenings on the parish music front generally, with some extremely memorable events to look back on.

In February, we held a second fundraising concert in aid of Ukraine humanitarian causes marking the first anniversary of the Russian invasion, with a programme of predominantly instrumental chamber music performed by a cadre of musicians, curated by Alla Sirenko.

In its first post-pandemic edition, Music in the Tower in April featured Dvi Doli, a delightful female duo from Ukraine, who bewitched the audience with a programme mixing voice and their national folk instrument the bandura, and blending Ukrainian with Western repertoire.

Parish musicians provided background organ music at St George's West End for their Open House, on 17 May, to celebrate the completion of the church's refurbishment project.

On 3 June our parish choir mounted a fine performance of the Mozart Requiem in collaboration with the Barisons Singers and members of Brighton College Choral Society, with chamber accompaniment from a string trio of visiting members of the Vienna Philharmonic Orchestra (procured via the contacts of the Barisons Singers conductor!).

On 4 July we marked the exact 400th anniversary of the death of William Byrd, the master composer of the English Renaissance, with a harpsichord recital at Old St George's given by Yat-Soon Yeo, including some illuminating scholarly commentary on the music of Byrd and his contemporaries.

Meanwhile, the MOTG Wednesday lunchtime series powered ahead on full throttle with ten concerts throughout the year, playing to audiences of about 80. In addition to a most enjoyable two-pianos recital, our featured solo instruments included the violin, oboe, bass clarinet and classical accordion; other notable performances were given by the Lumas Wind Quintet, Trio Lavolta and the Alex Wilson Jazz Trio. The latter was such a success that we shall make a point of including at least one jazz-specific fixture a year in future.

As ever, I owe a huge debt of gratitude to my fellow MOTG Committee members: Melanie Williams in the parish office, Michael Banks for his work on auxiliary lighting and general PR, Debbie Banks for continuing to lead our dynamic volunteer catering team, and Jan Sayer for her general assistance. Thanks are also due to our rector Darren for his continued enthusiastic support of our parish's musical outreach efforts.

Stuart Whatton  
Parish Director of Music

## Bellringers' Report



The year started with our Christmas celebrations which are always after Christmas! This year we had a supper with Bell Ringer friends at the Wheatsheaf.

The big event of the year was the Coronation of Charles III. Following a call out from the Church Council of Bell ringers (CCBR) to Ring for the King (R4K) we had eight people arrive last March all determined to be part of this historic event.

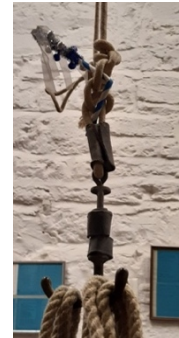
We developed a full-on training programme (not at all easy with that number of people) and included all members of the Tower for assistance and much need encouragement. Come the day, we had seven R4Ks plus a full Esher band of eight ringers.



All the ringing was wonderful (even though I say so myself) and the R4Ks were hugely successful in their assisted ringing. It was a very emotional event for all concerned.

Recruitment and retention of ringers is crucial to the survival of our band so we were very disheartened that not one of R4Ks decided to continue with their ringing. They had all thoroughly enjoyed themselves and we were praised for our training and encouragement but ... It should be noted that the last ringer recruited from our Parish was myself some six years ago!

Darren held an 'inaugural' Bell Sunday service in May. The band rang prior to the service and then took part with readings and prayers. The best bit was the lovely decoration the children made for us. This is now attached to our 'spider' in the Tower.



New muffles were acquired for the bells making our bells sound very different and much deeper on Remembrance Day; they also meant we could dispense with the thick woolly socks previously used to augment the very thin and well-worn muffles!

Prior to being able to use the new muffles we had some serious housework to do first. To make them usable, all the clappers need two coats of non-stick paint. As this can only be applied whilst the bells are in their down position, this necessitated yours truly climbing up onto the bell frame and then dropping down to lie on my back under the bell itself. All this with a pot of paint and a brush in my hand!

We do not have a Wednesday evening practice during Holy Week but instead clean the Tower of its winter inhabitants – flies, ladybirds and cobwebs, plus a fair amount of sawdust from the insulation.



We were delighted to ring for one wedding (Alice Coulson) this year and tolled the bell for several funerals. We rang celebratory bells (six bells) for the David Archer funeral service.

It is not possible for a single Tower to teach everything a ringer needs to know in the furtherance of their ringing career. Therefore, we strongly encourage the visiting of other Towers and warmly welcome visitors to Esher. In addition, most of our members attended at least one other Surrey or Chertsey ringing district training course last year. Morgan Rook, our Steeple Keeper and I attended a four-day residential course in Bradfield, Berks. These courses are attended at our own expense and in our own time. The benefit of such courses cannot be underestimated.

In furtherance of ringing experience, we organised our first Tower outing in November visiting Send, West Clandon, Shere and Bramley with a very nice lunch in the middle. We learnt much by ringing on different bells but were all thoroughly exhausted at the end of the day!

Ann Battensby  
Parish Tower Bell Captain



## **St George's West End Report**

In the new year we were delighted to receive a generous and unexpected donation from the Village Show Committee, towards our ongoing Renovation Fund. Their substantial cheque, together with other donations both large and small, helped fund improvements and repairs to St George's throughout the year, and will contribute to our remaining renovation project – the mammoth task of rectifying the sloping floor and replacing the 65 year old floor tiles.

Our Mothering Sunday, Palm Sunday and Easter Sunday services were all well attended and we welcomed many new faces to our redecorated church. Outside, the small gardening team had worked their socks off all winter, in all weather, replanting, weeding and tidying the garden in readiness for the arrival of Spring.

St George's Day saw our wooden fencing adorned with bunting, when we held a Healing Service during our 9am Eucharist. Two weeks on, rows of Union Jacks joined the St George's flags on the fence, as we celebrated the Coronation of King Charles III.

We left all the bunting in place for our special 'Thank you' event in May, which was our opportunity to thank all those who had so generously donated money to our Restoration Fund. We were able to chat to everyone, while enjoying wine and refreshments, as Oliver and Barbara played the organ. We were delighted to be able to thank everyone in person and 'show off' our beautifully restored and repainted church, which was much admired.

The Village Show in August is our major fundraising event. A great deal of work goes on behind the scenes before the big day and it is very much a community effort as we work together to make the day a success. This year was no exception, as we welcomed a stream of both regulars and newcomers who bought our homemade bread, cakes, marmalade, cards and gifts - we were so successful that we rapidly sold out early this year!

Autumn brings the fun of our Pet Service, as we never know which animals will turn up - but this year our first arrival was a beautiful horse, who cropped the grass verge outside the church, overseen by her owner. Both horse and rider enjoyed the Service through the open front door and watched the arrival of seven dogs of varying ages and sizes, two cats and 28 humans, all of whom behaved impeccably!

Harvest Festival saw the church beautifully decorated. On the 11th November Darren and Jonathan joined a few of us to help clear the vast quantity of autumn leaves from the rear garden, and at 11 o'clock we downed tools to bow our heads for the two minutes silence. Movingly, as the leaves fell around us, we remembered the fallen. Our Remembrance Service Eucharist the next day was well attended, when the church was decorated with poppies.

On Christmas Eve the Norwegian Church held their traditional Christmas Service in St George's - and they continue to enjoy worshiping regularly each month in our church. The popular Village Carol Concert (a secular event) followed afterwards. On Christmas Day the church was overflowing with visitors as well as the regular congregation. St George's always looks particularly beautiful at Christmas, the plain interior being enhanced by an Advent wreath hanging from the rafters, candles, holy and ivy, a Christmas tree, the crib and numerous flower arrangements.

During the year we have purchased and installed a new garden shed, fitted new lights and replaced halogen bulbs with LED ones, bought and installed a new heater and repaired and replaced several rotten window sills. Most significantly, we purchased and installed a new disabled ramp to allow access via the vestry door, and sourced a folding disabled ramp for Christ Church. The Smartwater marking has been carried out and we commissioned an Asbestos Survey and Report - and were greatly relieved no asbestos was detected.

For such a tiny church, we have achieved a great deal this year, thanks to our continued successful fundraising, generous donations and an enormous amount of time and effort by a small, dedicated group of volunteers. Regular meetings are held throughout the year, when ideas are discussed and plans are made. These volunteers continue to keep this unique, tiny village church the thriving community it is today, and to them a huge amount of thanks and gratitude are due.

Andrea Lindow  
Deputy Churchwarden, St George's Church

On behalf of the PCC



Jane Tyrrell  
Churchwarden



Helen Coulson  
Churchwarden



Peter Bedford  
Hon Secretary

## **Minutes of the Annual Parochial Church Meeting held in Christ Church, Esher on Sunday 14 May 2023 at 12 noon.**

### **1 Opening Prayers**

The Rector, the Revd Darren McCallig, welcomed those present and opened with a prayer.

He then referred to his report, with special thanks to the churchwardens, the two Honorary Assistant Priests, the PCC as a whole, the Parish Administrator, and all those holding appointments and mentioned in the APCM report and the Minutes of last year's meeting. He made special mention also of the sidespeople, the readers, the intercessors, the school Governors, those providing refreshments, the host of others that he had not named, and everyone else who contributed so much of their time to the wellbeing of our two churches and the Parish as a whole.

### **2 Apologies for absence**

Jackie Andrew, Jonathan Andrew, Wendy Tanqueray, Stuart Whatton

### **3 Election of Churchwardens**

Two nominations were received – Helen Coulson and Jane Tyrrell - both were duly elected.

## **ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING**

### **4 Minutes from last year's meeting**

The minutes of the meeting held on 29 May 2022 were unanimously approved as a true record. Proposed by Andrea Lindow and seconded by Bridget Williams.

### **5 Matters arising from those minutes**

There were no matters arising.

### **6 Parish Annual Report 2022**

#### **Parish Financial Statements 2022**

Martin Fuller introduced his report, and stated that income had held up fairly well. However, we do not cover all our outgoings, given a wide range of expenses, and necessary maintenance work, such as the refurbishment of St George's West End.

- The General Fund is in deficit, but this has been covered by drawing on the Cranbrook Drive fund, although the property is due to be refurbished this year, so this source of funding will not remain available. We have been obliged to draw on Legacy funds, but the anticipated income from letting the improved Cranbrook Drive will help the situation in the future.
- In general discussion, a query was raised as to why income for 2022 was less than for 2021. This was largely explained by donations and bequests being less in 2022, rental income being lower, and the legacy to the West End designated fund in 2021.

- Mair Molteno made the strong point that the refurbishment of St George's West End had been funded at no cost to Parish funds. Firstly, there had been the large legacy, left specifically for the purpose of this work; and, secondly, the West End community had run a very successful fundraising campaign.
- Other points addressed the issue of router problems leading to unstable Wi-Fi coverage for the card machine, and a query on advertising income generated by the Christmas newsletter in 2021.

The meeting agreed to accept the Financial Statements, as proposed by Will Stevens and seconded by Brian Elliott.

## **7 Other Reports**

### Music

Brian Elliott congratulated Stuart Whatton, Director of Music, on the continued success of Music on the Green. Not only does this attract many people to Christ Church, but it generates much-needed income. This reflects the huge amount of work put in by all concerned. Darren pointed out that there is now a new overlap with Esher Church School, where we have trialled a visit for a workshop immediately afterwards, and will do so again.

## **8 Appointment of Independent Examiner for 2023**

Martin tabled the further appointment of Gordon Manickam as Independent Examiner. Darren underlined that Gordon provides his services pro bono, and we are very grateful for his endeavours in this respect. His appointment was approved, having been proposed by Martin Fuller and seconded by Mair Molteno.

## **9 Elections to PCC**

There were four nominations for lay membership of the PCC, being Martin Fuller and Bridget Williams, who had just completed their three-year terms, Mair Molteno who has finished her term with the Deanery Synod, and Teresa Allen, a new member. Polly Jordan and Will Stevens were nominated for the Deanery Synod, having finished their current terms (a new triennial period commences in 2023). All the aforementioned were duly elected.

The Secretary mentioned that we expected Hugh Miller also to seek re-election, having just completed his three-year term, and if this be the case it will be handled by the PCC.

## **10 Any Other Business**

Bridget Williams voiced special thanks for the outstanding work conducted by Kath Chapman, since her appointment as Children & Families Worker in September 2022.

Brian Elliott asked for an update on the major programme for improved lighting in Christ Church. In the absence of Hugh Miller, Fabric Chair, Helen explained that much work had been done and that detailed costings and plans were in hand. Likely costs were in the region of £100,000 plus VAT, in line with figures mentioned at last year's APCM. However, given our current financial constraints, the PCC had agreed that the

programme be delayed, with priority given to the refurbishment of Cranbrook Drive. Helen Coulson voiced her thanks to all involved with the Parish, which continues to flourish, and singled out in particular the leadership shown by Darren as Rector, very ably supported by David Gerrard and Jonathan Andrew.

## **11 Closing Prayers**

Darren then closed the meeting at 1.05pm, and invited all present to say the Grace.

Peter Bedford

Honorary Secretary PCC

## Independent Examiner's Report

To the Parochial Church Council of Esher

---

I report on the accounts for the year ended 31 December 2023 as set out on the following pages.

### Respective responsibilities of the Trustees and Independent Examiner

As the members of the PCC you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts; you consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act) and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to:

- Examine the accounts under section 145 of the 2011 Act;
- Follow the procedures laid down in the General Directions given by the Charity Commissioners section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act; and
- State whether particular matters have come to my attention.

### Basis of Independent Examiner's Statement

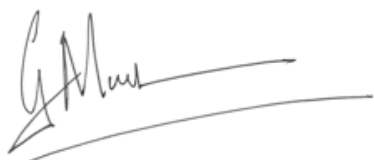
My examination was carried out in accordance with the General Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from the management committee concerning any such matters.

The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in a full audit, and consequently I do not express an audit opinion on the accounts.

### Independent Examiner's Statement

In connection with my examination, no matters have come to my attention:

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



Gordon Manickam CIA FCCIA

84 Greenways  
Hinchley Wood  
KT10 0QJ

May 2024

## Esher PCC Statement of Financial Activities for the year ended 31 December 2023

### Income and Expenditure for the year ended 31 December 2023

#### Incoming Resources

| £s                                             | Unrestricted   | Designated    | Restricted    | 2023           | 2022           |
|------------------------------------------------|----------------|---------------|---------------|----------------|----------------|
| <i>Incoming resources from generated funds</i> |                |               |               |                |                |
| Regular giving                                 | 106,012        | -             | -             | 106,012        | 95,942         |
| Gift Aid                                       | 43,188         | -             | 1,400         | 44,588         | 26,855         |
| Church collections                             | 18,166         | 120           | -             | 18,286         | 17,075         |
| Donations & bequests                           | 6,867          | 16,599        | -             | 23,466         | 17,349         |
| Sales of donated investments                   | 1,753          | -             | -             | 1,753          | 1,500          |
| Sundry receipts                                | 2,570          | 800           | -             | 3,370          | 3,636          |
| Church fundraising events                      | 945            | 881           | -             | 1,827          | 6,716          |
| Card & notelet sales                           | -              | 267           | -             | 267            | 396            |
| Newsletter advertising                         | -              | -             | -             | -              | 250            |
| Church fees                                    | 5,441          | -             | -             | 5,441          | 3,527          |
| Music on the Green                             | -              | 8,616         | -             | 8,616          | 6,494          |
| Investment income (dividends)                  | 412            | -             | 19,278        | 19,691         | 20,132         |
| Traidcraft/merchandise sales                   | 1,134          | -             | -             | 1,134          | 1,271          |
| Rental income                                  | -              | 3,207         | -             | 3,207          | 12,634         |
| Totals                                         | 186,493        | 30,492        | 20,678        | 237,663        | 213,783        |
| <i>Other incoming resources</i>                |                |               |               |                |                |
| Appeal donations                               | -              | 2,495         | 6,420         | 8,915          | 8,118          |
| Legacies                                       | -              | 10,761        | -             | 10,761         | -              |
| Totals                                         | -              | 13,256        | 6,420         | 19,676         | 8,118          |
| <b>Grand Totals</b>                            | <b>186,493</b> | <b>43,748</b> | <b>27,098</b> | <b>257,340</b> | <b>221,902</b> |

## Resources Used

| £s                               | Unrestricted | Designated | Restricted | 2023   | 2022   |
|----------------------------------|--------------|------------|------------|--------|--------|
| <i>Cost of generating funds</i>  |              |            |            |        |        |
| Music on the Green               | -            | 7,377      | -          | 7,337  | 5,386  |
| Cards & notelets                 | -            | -          | -          | -      | 1,984  |
| Fundraising events               | 184          | -          | -          | 184    | 4,944  |
| Traidcraft purchases             | -            | -          | -          | -      | 980    |
| Flyer print costs                | 625          | -          | -          | 625    | -      |
| Totals                           | 809          | 7,377      | -          | 8,187  | 13,296 |
| <i>Cost of Parish activities</i> |              |            |            |        |        |
| Grants & appeal payments         | 390          | -          | 6,282      | 6,672  | 7,349  |
| Parish share                     | 95,301       | -          | -          | 95,301 | 99,435 |
| Clergy telephone                 | 908          | -          | -          | 908    | 704    |
| Clergy car & travel              | 347          | -          | -          | 347    | 420    |
| Clergy other expenses            | 594          | -          | -          | 594    | 1,905  |
| Rectory gas/electricity          | 1,158        | -          | -          | 1,158  | 1,071  |
| Rectory running costs            | 830          | -          | -          | 830    | 631    |
| Repairs & maintenance            | 10,299       | 58,684     | 213        | 69,197 | 50,931 |
| Cleaning                         | 486          | -          | -          | 486    | 2,714  |
| Electricity - Christ Church      | 7,314        | -          | -          | 7,314  | 2,002  |
| Electricity - St George's        | 1,356        | -          | -          | 1,356  | 672    |
| Gas - Christ Church              | 4,899        | -          | -          | 4,899  | 3,217  |
| Water bills - Christ Church      | 191          | -          | -          | 191    | 126    |
| Water bills - St George's        | 88           | -          | -          | 88     | 40     |
| Insurance - Christ Church        | 3,905        | 705        | -          | 4,610  | 4,570  |
| Insurance - St George's          | 496          | -          | -          | 496    | 470    |
| Sundry expenses/petty cash       | 1,428        | 7,866      | -          | 9,294  | 2,737  |
| Communion table                  | 564          | -          | -          | 564    | 299    |
| Flowers                          | 444          | -          | -          | 444    | 650    |
| Surveyors' & architects' fees    | -            | -          | -          | -      | 6,563  |
| Organists' fees                  | 9,600        | -          | -          | 9,600  | 9,080  |

### Resources Used (continued)

| £s                                           | Unrestricted   | Designated    | Restricted    | 2023           | 2022           |
|----------------------------------------------|----------------|---------------|---------------|----------------|----------------|
| <i>Cost of Parish activities (continued)</i> |                |               |               |                |                |
| Organ/piano maintenance                      | 1,494          | -             | -             | 1,494          | 3,656          |
| Choir expenses & music                       | 377            | -             | -             | 377            | 303            |
| Organ scholarships                           | -              | -             | 1,000         | 1,000          | 48             |
| Church meetings                              | -              | -             | -             | -              | 81             |
| Training & courses                           | 1,024          | -             | 447           | 1,471          | 191            |
| Youth worker                                 | -              | -             | 10,706        | 10,706         | 2,918          |
| Youth activities                             | 2,476          | -             | -             | -              | 2,476          |
| Parish post                                  | -              | -             | -             | -              | 436            |
| Office salaries/taxes                        | 21,001         | -             | -             | 21,001         | 21,149         |
| Printing & stationery                        | 879            | -             | -             | 879            | 1,545          |
| Church telecoms/internet                     | 2,018          | -             | -             | 2,018          | 2,401          |
| Photocopier costs                            | 2,361          | -             | -             | 2,361          | 1,011          |
| Postage                                      | -              | -             | -             | -              | 120            |
| Depreciation                                 | 2,651          | 93            | 2,402         | 5,148          | 6,864          |
| Bank charges                                 | 666            | -             | -             | 666            | 660            |
| Office sundry costs                          | 1,041          | -             | -             | 1,041          | 1,565          |
| Totals                                       | 176,596        | 67,349        | 21,053        | 264,999        | 238,547        |
| <b>Grand Totals</b>                          | <b>177,406</b> | <b>74,727</b> | <b>21,053</b> | <b>273,187</b> | <b>251,843</b> |

### **Tangible Fixed Assets**

| £s                            | Property       | Equipment     | Total          |
|-------------------------------|----------------|---------------|----------------|
| Balance at 1 Jan 2023         | 800,000        | -             | -              |
| <u>Equipment at cost</u>      |                | 136,009       |                |
| Less accumulated depreciation | -              | (120,563)     | -              |
| Balance at 1 Jan 2023         |                | 15,446        |                |
| Less depreciation in 2023     | -              | (5,148)       | -              |
| <b>Balance at 31 Dec 2023</b> | <b>800,000</b> | <b>10,298</b> | <b>810,298</b> |

## Balance sheet as at 31 December 2023

| £s                                          | General Fund | Designated Funds | Restricted Funds | 2023    | 2022      |
|---------------------------------------------|--------------|------------------|------------------|---------|-----------|
| <i>Fixed assets</i>                         |              |                  |                  |         |           |
| Tangible assets                             | 807,955      | 281              | 7,208            | 815,445 | 820,593   |
| Investments                                 | -            | -                | 1,258            | 1,258   | 1,150     |
| Fixed assets                                | 807,955      | 281              | 8,466            | 816,703 | 821,743   |
| <i>Current assets</i>                       |              |                  |                  |         |           |
| Debtors                                     | 30,467       | -                | 544              | 31,011  | 13,260    |
| Cash at bank & in hand                      | (62,386)     | 154,585          | 43,245           | 135,444 | 175,574   |
| Current assets                              | (31,919)     | 154,585          | 43,790           | 166,456 | 188,834   |
| <i>Liabilities</i>                          |              |                  |                  |         |           |
| Creditors (amounts falling due in one year) | 2,917        | 255              | 2,825            | 5,998   | 6,663     |
| Net current assets less current liabilities | (34,837)     | 154,329          | 40,965           | 160,457 | 182,171   |
| Total assets less current liabilities       | 773,118      | 154,611          | 49,431           | 977,161 | 1,003,914 |
| Total net assets less liabilities           | 773,118      | 154,611          | 49,431           | 977,161 | 1,003,914 |

## Grants for Charitable Purposes

| £s                                                         | Total        |
|------------------------------------------------------------|--------------|
| Lent Appeal 2023 (Lower Green Community Centre)            | 2,085        |
| Kathryn's Mercy Home, India (Sponsorship of child)         | 180          |
| Tree Aid (Queen's Jubilee Green Canopy appeal)             | 297          |
| Harvest (East Elmbridge Food Bank)                         | 263          |
| Macmillan Cancer Support (Big Coffee Morning)              | 222          |
| Royal British Legion                                       | 165          |
| Children's Society (Christingle)                           | 139          |
| Esher Church School - bibles                               | 210          |
| Advent Appeal 2023 (Archbishops' Appeal for the Holy Land) | 3,299        |
| <b>Total</b>                                               | <b>6,860</b> |

## Balance Sheet Totals by Funds

| £s                         | General Fund   | Designated Funds | Restricted Funds | 2023           | 2022             |
|----------------------------|----------------|------------------|------------------|----------------|------------------|
| <i>Unrestricted</i>        |                |                  |                  |                |                  |
| General Fund               | 773,118        | -                | -                | 773,118        | 775,662          |
| <i>Designated</i>          |                |                  |                  |                |                  |
| Lighting Renovation        | -              | 10,300           | -                | 10,300         | 7,712            |
| Music on the Green         | -              | 12,292           | -                | 12,292         | 11,053           |
| West End                   | -              | 30,000           | -                | 30,000         | 18,881           |
| Cranbrook Drive            | -              | 37,954           | -                | 37,954         | 96,548           |
| Bell Fund                  | -              | 161              | -                | 161            | 161              |
| Legacies                   | -              | 63,902           | -                | 63,902         | 48,639           |
| <i>Restricted</i>          |                |                  |                  |                |                  |
| Advent Appeal              | -              | -                | 532              | 532            | (1,795)          |
| Property                   | -              | -                | 5,427            | 5,427          | 5,293            |
| Fews Cottage               | -              | -                | 26,496           | 26,496         | 21,874           |
| Spire Appeal               | -              | -                | 6                | 6              | 6                |
| Other Appeals              | -              | -                | 7                | 7              | 297              |
| Boiler Renovation          | -              | -                | 7,208            | 7,208          | 9,611            |
| Children & Young People    | -              | -                | 4,463            | 4,463          | 4,463            |
| Garden of Remembrance      | -              | -                | 5,289            | 5,289          | 5,503            |
| Lent Appeal                | -              | -                | -                | -              | -                |
| <b>Funds of the Parish</b> | <b>773,118</b> | <b>154,611</b>   | <b>49,431</b>    | <b>977,161</b> | <b>1,003,914</b> |

## Notes to the accounts for the year ended 31 December 2023

### Accounting policies

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Charities Act 2011, the Church Accounting Regulations 2006 and Accounting and Reporting Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with Financial Reporting Standard 102 (FRS 102). The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention except for the valuation of property and investment assets, which are shown at market value. The charity constitutes a public benefit entity as defined by FRS 102.

### Funds

General funds represent the funds of the PCC that are not subject to any restrictions regarding their use and are available for application to the general purposes of the PCC. Funds designated for a particular purpose by the PCC are also unrestricted. The accounts include all transactions, assets and liabilities for which the PCC is responsible in law. They do not include the accounts of separately designated charities. There are no endowment funds.

### Incoming resources

Collections are recognised when received by the PCC. Planned giving receivable under Gift Aid is recognised when received. Income tax recoverable on Gift Aid donations is recognised when the related income is recognised. Grants and legacies to the PCC are accounted for when the PCC is notified of its legal entitlement, the amount due is quantifiable and its ultimate receipt by the PCC is probable. Dividends on investments are accounted for as they accrue. Unrealised gains or losses on revaluation of investments and property are accounted for on revaluation at the year end.

### Resources expended

Grants and donations are accounted for when awarded, if that creates a binding obligation on the PCC.

### Activities directly relating to the work of the Parish

The Diocesan parish share is accounted for when payable.

### Tangible fixed assets

Consecrated land and buildings are excluded from the accounts by the Charities Act 2011. No value is placed on movable church furnishings. All expenditure on such items is written-off as incurred and separately disclosed in the accounts. The curate's house, 74 Cranbrook Drive, is included at a market value estimated in 2021. Equipment used within the Church premises is depreciated on a reducing balance basis of 25% of asset Net Book Value, or in the case of computers, 33.33% of Net Book Value. Individual items costing less than £1,000 are written-off when acquired.

### Current assets

Short-term deposits are held with the CBF Church of England Funds.

### Employees

The Church employed two people in 2023: the Parish Administrator and a Children & Families Worker. No benefits or expenses were paid to any member of the PCC.





Parish Office, Christ Church, Church Street, Esher Surrey KT10 8QS

Telephone: 01372 462282

Email: [office@esherparish.org.uk](mailto:office@esherparish.org.uk)

Website: [www.esherparish.org.uk](http://www.esherparish.org.uk)

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# Accounts

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**PARISH OF ESHER**  
Christ Church, Esher with St George's, West End



**ANNUAL REPORT &  
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
of the  
**PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL**  
for the year ended 31 December 2022

Growing together in faith, hope and love



PARISH OF ESHER  
Christ Church, Esher with St George's, West End

**ANNUAL REPORT &  
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
of the  
PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL  
of the PARISH of ESHER**

for the year ended 31 December 2022

Growing together in faith, hope and love

Rector: The Reverend Darren McCallig  
Honorary Assistant Priest: The Venerable David Gerrard  
Honorary Assistant Priest: The Reverend Jonathan Andrew



Churches: Christ Church, Esher and St George's, West End, Esher

Parish Office: Christ Church, Church Street, Esher KT10 8QS

Bankers: National Westminster Bank plc, 73 High Street, Walton-on Thames KT12 1DW

Charity Registration Number: 1134847

Independent Examiner: Gordon Manickam CIA FCCIA



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## The role and membership of the Parochial Church Council, and the Church officers and officials during 2022

The overall management of the church is the responsibility of the Rector, The Reverend Darren McCallig, and the two churchwardens. The Esher Parochial Church Council (PCC) has the responsibility of working with these three, in promoting in the Parish the whole mission of the church: pastoral, evangelical, social and ecumenical. It also has maintenance responsibilities for the two church buildings, Christ Church and St George's, West End.

Members of the PCC may be ex-officio, such as the Rector and the churchwardens, elected by the Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM), or co-opted, in accordance with the church representation rules.

|                                                 |                                                                                                                                                                              |
|-------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Rector                                          | Revd Darren McCallig                                                                                                                                                         |
| Churchwardens                                   | Helen Coulson, Jane Tyrrell                                                                                                                                                  |
| Treasurer                                       | Martin Fuller                                                                                                                                                                |
| PCC Secretary                                   | Peter Bedford                                                                                                                                                                |
| Deanery Synod Representatives                   | Polly Jordan, Mair Molteno, Will Stevens                                                                                                                                     |
| Elected Representatives of the Laity on the PCC | Michael Banks, Peter Bedford, Kathryn Chapman (until May 2022), Martin Fuller, Andrea Lindow, Jennifer Meade, Hugh Miller, Margaret Miller (from Sep 2022), Bridget Williams |

### Other Parish Appointments

|                                             |                                                                |
|---------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------|
| Honorary Assistant Priests                  | Ven David Gerrard, Revd Jonathan Andrews                       |
| Parish Administrator                        | Melanie Williams                                               |
| Children & Families Worker                  | Kathryn Chapman                                                |
| Director of Music                           | Stuart Whatton                                                 |
| Assistant Organist                          | Oliver Macfarlane                                              |
| Organist Emeritus & Lead Musician, West End | Keith Howell-Jones                                             |
| Senior Organ Scholar                        | George Ashley                                                  |
| Junior Organ Scholar                        | Rowan Marshall                                                 |
| Deputy Churchwardens                        | William Stevens, Andrea Lindow (St George's Church)            |
| Parish Bookkeeper                           | Vacancy (covered by Martin Fuller)                             |
| Gift Aid Officer                            | Brian Elliott                                                  |
| Safeguarding Officers                       | Polly Jordan, Alison Mohamed                                   |
| Pastoral Visitor Coordinator                | Wendy Tanqueray                                                |
| Fabric Chairperson                          | Hugh Miller                                                    |
| Tower Bell Captain                          | Jennifer Meade (until Sep 2022), Ann Battensby (from Sep 2022) |
| Fellowship Group Leader                     | Jan Sayer                                                      |
| Book Group Leader                           | Revd Jonathan Andrew                                           |
| Friends Coordinator                         | Jane Tyrrell                                                   |
| Flower Coordinator                          | Carol Calvert                                                  |
| InSpire Team                                | Juliet Philip, Jane Tyrrell, Bridget Williams                  |
| Community & Business Outreach Coordinator   | Michael Banks                                                  |

## Rector's Report

It is a joy to be Rector of this Parish. From the first day I visited Esher for the interviews – some three and a half years ago now – I have met so many incredibly kind and faithful people. The reports in this document bear witness to the generosity and commitment of the veritable army of volunteers, and three part-time staff, who help our church community function and flourish. Thank you one and all. Thank you for supporting and praying for me (keep those prayers coming!) And thank you for all you do to sustain the mission and ministry of this place.

Indeed, when you consider what we have been through these past three years or so – the dislocations and losses caused by Covid, plus the various national and international challenges – it is both astonishing and encouraging to find a parish in such good heart. As I write this report in Holy Week yet another survey has just been published detailing the difficulties facing the Church of England. We're told that, on average, attendance has declined by between a quarter and a third in churches across the land since 2019.

Thankfully, here in Esher, we are bucking that trend in a significant way. All three traditional measures of church growth – electoral roll numbers, regular giving and Sunday attendance – are now above 2019 levels and, please God, will continue to grow. Not that we should be overly focused on statistics. As the old saying goes, 'Not everything that can be counted counts and not everything that counts can be counted.'

Besides, I would add that – for Christians – the essential growth to which we are called is, as Saint Paul reminds us, an increase in spiritual maturity and in becoming Christ-like: 'We must grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ.' (Ephesians 3.15b). That grace-enabled growing and maturing is our highest calling and is measured – not on spreadsheets – but in lives characterised by love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control (Galatians 5.22).

Moreover, in all that we do we ought to be mindful of Saint Paul's admonition to the Christians of Corinth when they boasted about their missionary 'success.' The Apostle reminded them that while they had undertaken specific and necessary preparatory tasks – 'I planted and Apollos watered' – it was ultimately God alone who brought new life and increase. 'So neither the one who plants nor the one who waters is anything, but only God who gives the growth.'

So, I commend this Annual Report to you, and let us – by the grace of God – keep planting and watering! But, most of all, let us commend our beloved parish and its people to the One who alone gives the growth.

The Revd Darren McCallig  
Rector of Esher

## Churchwardens' Report

2022 will be remembered by many as a year in which we focused on our wonderful Queen, both in rejoicing and in sadness.

In the Summer we celebrated the Queen's incredible 70 years on the throne, with the church and churchyard resplendent with celebratory bunting and a delicious Platinum Jubilee Afternoon Tea. This was followed by a Festal Jubilee Evensong service, which included the world Premier performance of the beautiful anthem "Put thou thy trust in God" – a fitting tribute to our Queen and acknowledgement of her enduring faith and sense of duty. Many of us joined in the celebrations and thanksgiving for our Queen, for her constant presence and her years of devotion and service to our country.

The sudden realisation that this constancy was about to come to an end came on receipt of an email from the Diocese on the afternoon of September 8 entitled 'Bridges Protocols on the death of HM the Queen.' This was before the official announcement, and contained guidance on how best to respond to community needs. This was followed by a confirmation AD Clerum from the Bishop of Guildford reiterating things we could do as a local Parish to support our congregations and community. The response from our various teams of volunteers was incredible – the church was prepared with the appropriate liturgical colour purple, candles and books of condolence were made available, beautiful white flower arrangements were put in place and muffled bells rang out across Esher. The liturgy for the following Sunday was changed at what was very short notice, a special pewsheets prepared and Darren delivered a wonderful sermon in tribute to our Queen.

The church was open again on the day of the Queen's funeral, with the service and procession of the cortège live streamed to those who wished to watch with others in a peaceful and supportive environment. Around 60 people attended, each provided with an Order of Service. Many members of our local community made their way to Christ Church during this time of mourning, and we can be proud that our church looked and felt just right for those who needed quiet time and space.

In May we held a service of thanksgiving for all our wonderful volunteers who do so much within our churches and community. This was followed by drinks and a lasagne supper, which judging by the volume of chat was enjoyed by all. This sense of community and fellowship was evident again when we came together to provide the nearly 400 afternoon teas to all the visitors at the West End Village Flower Show, which returned this year after an absence of two years. It was wonderful to see so many people from the community coming together and enjoying afternoon tea in glorious sunshine.

We have recently supplemented the online volunteer rota with a more "in person" approach, although online is still in place too. How heartening it is to have so many new and existing volunteers coming forward to fulfil the numerous roles required each week to keep our churches running smoothly. The rota is quickly filled for the following month, and new volunteers have expressed their appreciation of being asked to help too. Being involved is a great way of meeting people and feeling part of the team. Thank you to everyone who has been and continues to be part of that team.

Meeting people and having a chat over coffee and biscuits after the service is thankfully something we have been able to return to after all the COVID restrictions. Having moved the back pews to create more space for our volunteer supper, we took the decision to leave them arranged in such a way as to create a space more conducive to people gathering together and circulating to talk to different people after our services. This space is also now used, among other things, for PCC meetings, Lent groups and Friends' coffee mornings.

The Friends' coffee mornings have continued throughout the year, and have provided the opportunity to catch up and share ideas. It has to be said however, that this is an area for further development as our original plans were to provide a range of activities and encourage people in from our wider community. This is not something we have had the capacity to do to date, but this year has seen development in our relations with our local community in other ways, such as our links established with the Lower Green Community Centre and the Esher Chamber of Commerce.

I am sure there is more we could say about the numerous events and activities which have taken place in the last year (some will be covered in other reports), but this summary serves to illustrate just how far we have progressed in so many ways since the lifting of COVID restrictions. This has really been our first relatively "normal" year since Darren arrived, which has enabled us to do so much more than our previous few years. In terms of our Eucharist, after careful consideration and discussion with our excellent safeguarding team, we took the decision to introduce simultaneous administration by intinction which we continue to this date. This we felt was an important step forward, whilst protecting the vulnerable in our congregations and indeed the presiding Priest who has to finish the wine left in the cup.

With a return to more 'normal' ways we have been able to focus on our outreach with the appointment of our new Children and Families Worker, Kath Chapman. The work she is doing with our young children and families is wonderful to see in action and it is encouraging to see all generations involved in the worship and life of our churches.

As ever, finances and our church buildings estate keep us occupied and are a constant challenge. We continue to look for ways to increase our regular giving and manage our finances, particularly when facing the challenges that we all have in the economy with rising prices, particularly in utilities and increasing other costs that impact the maintenance of our buildings. We have engaged with the Diocese on our parish share and challenged them to understand what the wider Diocese is doing to drive costs down for the benefit of all.

However, the reality of the situation, as our Treasurer has reported, is that our income is not keeping pace with our expenditure and we are having to supplement this from other income sources, which is not sustainable in the long term.

As part of our good estate management, we have still sought to keep our buildings in good repair and you will read in the Fabric and West End reports about the work that we have been able to undertake. We have a schedule of upcoming work from our quinquennial buildings inspection that we are acutely aware of. Our main focus has been everyday maintenance, the redecoration and repair of St. George's, West End, and the need for new lighting in Christ Church. The consultation process with lighting

experts has started and we have detailed plans and costings. We are actively looking at ways of raising the money to complete these projects, but need to put realistic timeframes on these as we do not have reserves that we can call upon to fund these.

Finally, it must be said that whilst we have all worked and contributed so much this year, we could not have come as far as we have without the support of all our staff, our deputy churchwardens, Andrea and Will, our supporting clergy and you our fellow parishioners. Thank you all.

In all this we have been guided by Darren's presence, leadership and teaching. Many have commented that we are very lucky he is with us, indeed we are and we know we would all want to say a very big thank you Darren for all you do for our Parish.

Jane Tyrrell & Helen Coulson  
Parish Churchwardens

## **Finance Report**

In 2022 the Church spent some £30,000 more than it received in income, drawing on reserves to meet exceptional items, as described below. As in previous years, the General Fund recorded a deficit, in 2022 of £35,000, which was offset by a surplus on the Designated Funds.

### Income

The Church's income in 2022 was £222,000 (against £269,000 in 2021). Although regular giving and church collections had held up well, and Music on the Green had raised more than in 2021, donations and bequests were at a lower level, as was rental income.

Thanks to a generous donation from a member of the congregation, a contactless payment system was set up last autumn at Christ Church, and by the start of March 2023 had received £4,290 in donations, a third of which were Gift Aided. It would be fair to assume that at least a proportion of this money would not have been received had a contactless system not been available.

### Expenditure

The Church spent £252,000 in 2022, compared with £221,000 in 2021. The largest increase was on repairs and maintenance of our two churches: £51,000 (£20,000 in 2021). The main reason for this was the refurbishment of St George's, West End, which cost some £38,000: £25,000 was met by a legacy from previous years, and £13,000 was drawn from the St George's designated fund. A successful refurbishment fundraising campaign led by the St George's committee generated £11,000 and, together with other income to the fund, left the fund with £18,500 at the year-end – greater than its opening balance of £16,000. Donations to the St George's appeal have continued this year.

The main item of expenditure, the Parish Share (our contribution to the Diocese's shared costs, including our own) actually reduced (£99,000 down from £103,000) as a result of the adjustment of attendance numbers from previous years. Our gas and electricity bills benefitted from fixed price tariffs, but these are coming to an end and

we will see significant increases in 2023. The Diocese contributed £1,000 from its own funds to meet exceptional energy costs and has offered a further £1,000 for this purpose in 2023. The Church donated £7,411 to charitable causes, as recorded in the accounts. In addition, the concert in aid of Ukraine raised another £4,120.

For most of the year we had a vacancy for a youth worker, and costs under that heading were therefore lower than in 2021. Expenditure was however incurred on professional fees: architects engaged for the proposed lighting project; and solicitors advising on a complicated bequest.

Martin Fuller  
Parish Treasurer

## **Safeguarding Report**

### Summary

- Alison Mohamed and Polly Jordan were appointed as Safeguarding Officers in March 2019 and remain in post.
- Safeguarding posters have recently been updated and are on display in both Churches.
- Contact details for the Parish Safeguarding Officers, Diocese Safeguarding Adviser and relevant helplines are displayed in both Churches.
- Dedicated Safeguarding email plus direct contact details for both Safeguarding Officers easily accessible.
- Safeguarding is a standing agenda item at every PCC meeting.
- Safeguarding tab clearly visible on website. This provides details of the Parish Safeguarding officers and Diocese Safeguarding advisers.
- We are making good progress towards safeguarding compliance in our Churches.
- A successful training session for the 'Raising Awareness of Domestic Abuse' module was held by Polly on 22nd May 2022.

### Summary

- Safeguarding Action Plan to be drawn up and approved by the PCC.
- Volunteer list still to be updated (last done and confirmed by PCC on 22 January 2020).
- Some PCC members, employed workers and other volunteers have outstanding Safeguarding Training to complete although compliance is improving.
- Ongoing work to ensure DBS compliance.

### COVID

- As a Parish we responded very quickly to the imminent threat posed by SARS-CoV-2 (Covid-19) in early 2020. On 3rd March 2020 there was agreement to suspend physical sharing of The Peace and our Communion policy was revised. We also issued guidance on handwashing and provided hand gels around the churches. This was in advance of any guidance from the Church of England.

- We have continually kept this under review and following a covid regulations meeting on 4th October 2022 a decision was made to allow the simultaneous administration of the sacraments (i.e. the president dips the bread in the wine before giving it to the communicant). The response to this has been positive.
- The suspension of the physical sharing of The Peace remains in place.
- Our goal continues to be to strive to keep our Churches as safe as possible and keep the best interests of our more vulnerable members as our top priority.

### Plans

- We plan to hold a 'Safeguarding Sunday' with focus on Safeguarding within our Churches to raise awareness of the importance of safeguarding and the structures and support available within our Churches and the Diocese. Jane Huttly, Diocese Safeguarding Adviser and Head of Policy and Training has kindly agreed to come and speak, arrangements for this are ongoing
- First Aid Training – plans to hold a first aid training course for our volunteers had to be postponed due to Covid, however, plans for this are underway to hold this in 2023
- Plans to fund the purchase and installation of a defibrillator outside Christ Church, which would be available for use by our Church and also the wider community were also postponed during the pandemic but we hope to act on these plans in 2023

### Conclusion

Overall, the PCC is making progress with regard to prioritising Safeguarding in our Churches and compliance with the duty to have 'due regard' to the House of Bishops' Safeguarding Policy and Practice Guidelines. However, there is further work to be done as outlined above.

Polly Jordan & Alison Mohamed  
Parish Safeguarding Officers

## **Fabric Report**

Christ Church

As with the previous year only the most essential repair and redecoration was undertaken in the past year since available funds remain extremely limited.

In late December the two primary pumps in the boiler room and serving the heating throughout the church began to malfunction. To the credit of our regular mechanical contractor, C&W Heating, they went to great lengths to source new pumps and install them in the immediate run up to Christmas. The cost of this was £ 4,986 including VAT.

The proposed revamping of the entire lighting and electric systems within the Church (as reported on last year) was progressed with the approved lighting consultants and the updated estimate of cost is circa £110,000 exclusive of vat. The funds generally available within the Church are £45,000 and there have in addition been pledges amounting to £20,000. So a shortfall of £45,000 remains!

Whilst we are hopeful of raising circa £20,000 from The Benefact Trust (and this cannot be guaranteed) there remains a balance of circa £25,000 to be found if the project is to go ahead.

The Scheme comprises four elements, which are all interlinked, namely:

- Basic task lighting for the entire church.
- Roof and wall lighting to enhance the overall ambience.
- Focus lighting for features within the church and to provide for specific events.
- Lighting of the dais for MOTG concerts/plays/events

The intended programme in simple terms is:

- 31 August 2023 – project approval by the Diocese
- 16 October 2023 – call for tenders from four selected contractors
- 21 November 2023 – receipt of tenders
- 16 December 2023 – award of contract
- 23 January 2024 – works start on site (this may require the closure of the church)
- 3 April 2024 – completion and handover together with operational training for church personnel (NB Good Friday is the 7 April 2024).

Clearly it will be very wrong to contract for the works if there are insufficient funds at that time; in which case the project would need to be delayed for at least a year. As such active fund-raising needs to commence forthwith.

As last year, the Fabric Committee consists of just Hugh Miller, Olly Dickinson and Ian Royce – who constantly undertakes various minor works around the Church and his contribution is invaluable. At least one other member, if not two, would be most welcome to the Fabric Committee to spread the load and which is considerable.

### St George's, West End

In August the entire exterior of St Georges was re-painted with the decorators working carefully and very hard to take the old paint down to the steel subsurface and that would therefore guarantee sound paintwork for many years to come. The steel wall sheets were all found to be in very, very good condition with very little evidence of rust damage. The timber surrounds to all of the windows were also substantially sealed so as to prevent ingress of water behind the frames and prevent possible wood rot. Prior to commencing the foregoing work the electrics were upgraded and the entire right-hand side of the roof had been replaced.

In November the same decorators undertook the entire repainting of the internal and walls, ceilings and roof beams. An excellent standard of finish was achieved.

The total cost of the foregoing works, all completed in 2022, was just under £39,000.

To the full credit of the St George's Committee, its congregation and its outside supporters all of the monies required to complete the works were raised and funded by them.

Wyatt & Caruthers Jebb (the Structural Engineers), working free of charge, recently undertook a further survey of the floor levels and found that there had been further very minor settlement. They currently put this down to the free discharge of the rainwater pipes into the immediate surrounding ground. They have put forward several possible solutions for dealing with this problem including initially creating soak away pits on either side of the Church. An estimate of cost for these works is £7,000.

Mair Molteno and Andrea Lindow continue to dedicate themselves to the upkeep of the fabric of St George's and they are doing an excellent job in securing its long-term future.

Hugh Miller  
Fabric Chairperson

### **Electoral Roll Report**

Membership of the Electoral Roll has remained reasonably stable during 2022 although anecdotally it would seem church attendance has increased. With this in mind it might be beneficial to promote membership of the Roll throughout the year and specifically to new people worshipping at Christ Church and St George's Church.

Sadly one long standing church friend and member of the Roll passed away during the past year. Just recently three new people have been added to the Roll.

The Roll now has 133 members from 106 households. Of these, 77 from 64 households are resident in the parish and 56 from 43 households are not resident in the parish.

Melanie Williams  
Parish Administrator & Electoral Roll Officer

### **Parochial Church Council (PCC) Report**

Six PCC meetings were held in 2022, taking place in January, March, May, September, November, and December (Special Meeting on Finance). The first three were held via Zoom, due to Covid considerations, and the final three were held at Christ Church under normal conditions.

The PCC held an 'Away Morning' in February at Christ Church. This informal brainstorming looked at a number of key issues, namely: where we are as a Parish; the challenges we face; and priorities for action.

The Annual Parochial Church Meeting was held on Sunday 29 May. Helen Coulson and Jane Tyrrell were again elected as churchwardens, and Andrea Lindow was again elected to the PCC, having completed her three-year term. Kathryn Chapman had reached the end of her three-year term and did not stand for re-election. However, the PCC agreed in September that she should be permitted to be 'in attendance' at PCC meetings, in her new capacity as Children & Families Worker. Margaret Miller was elected to the PCC in September.

The major issues and items of business that arose during the year were as follows:

- Safeguarding measures due to Covid regulations, and the relaxation of restrictions to the degree possible.
- Production of the Church Development Plan for the Parish, presented to the Archdeacon during his visitation in April.
- Key fabric matters, such as the internal lighting at Christ Church and the refurbishment of St George's.
- Addressing financial pressures, including the impact of the Parish Share, and the way forward on stewardship and fundraising.
- Enhancement of communication, including via multiple church events using Zoom, the distribution of Easter cards and Christmas cards, Friends coffee mornings, and the use of social media.
- Outreach and engagement with the community, including via local businesses.
- The way ahead for Parish music over the years ahead, including scholarships, both organ and choral.
- Recruitment of a Children & Families worker, to re-energise the engagement of youngsters in the Parish.
- Support to charities and causes, including the people of Ukraine, the Lower Green Community Centre, Molesey Churches Night Centre, and the Christmas shoebox campaign.

Peter Bedford

Parochial Church Council Secretary

## **Deanery Synod Report**

The Parish of Esher is part of Emly Deanery (a group of 13 parishes within the Diocese of Guildford) and the Deanery Synod met three times in 2022.

The March 2022 meeting was held at St Peter's Community and Youth Hub in West Molesey. The main item of business was a presentation on a new initiative called 'Greenhouse.' The Revd Jens Mankel, Diocesan Fresh Expressions Adviser and Alistair Etheridge, the Diocesan mission enabler for Youth Ministry explained the idea, which is to design, cultivate and grow so-called 'fresh expressions' of Church. Such initiatives, they said, could include things like lunch clubs, Forest Church, café church, craft groups, keep fit groups and/or online church.

The May Deanery Synod meeting, which was held at St Nicholas' Thames Ditton had, as its main agenda item, the question of how churches can respond to the issues of domestic abuse and rising levels of mental health issues, and what we can do to promote wellbeing in our congregations and our communities. This was facilitated through a conversation with Alison Shine, a recently retired GP with special interest in supporting people who've been subjected to domestic abuse and Rachel Hennessy, Consultant Psychiatrist who is the Psychiatric Advisor to the Diocesan Deliverance Ministry.

The October Deanery Synod meeting was also held at St Nicholas' Thames Ditton. The main speaker was Alex Tear, the Diocesan Director of Education. Alex leads the Education team based at Church House Guildford and provides strategic leadership for education within the diocese. Before taking up his current post he was the Director of Education for Rochester Diocese for 6 years and Acting Chief Executive officer at a Diocesan Multi-Academy Trust (MAT). He spoke to us about recent changes in the educational landscape, and in particular about the move to have all schools join MATs by 2030, or at least have plans to join one. He also spoke about the important relationship between parishes and their local schools – something we are blessed with here in Esher with both a church primary and a church secondary school.

We are very grateful to our Area Dean, the Revd Andrew Cowie, and to our Lay Chair, Mr. Brian Howells, for their faithful stewardship of the Deanery.

The Revd Darren McCallig  
Rector of Esher

## **Children, Young People & Families Report**

I began the role as part-time Children & Families Worker for the Parish of Esher in early September and work 14 hours a week alongside being a freelance photographer. It is wonderful to be serving in the parish in such a meaningful way and there are (surprisingly) many cross-overs in my roles and I'm enjoying discovering more similarities as I grow in each - emphases on values, listening to our spiritual/soulful callings, self-awareness, playful discovery and creating safe spaces to express and explore who we are.

### Vision and Aims

The initial aim for the parish is to re-establish and grow the Sunday School at Christ Church with high quality and creative theme-based activities that the children help shape whilst experiencing them as fun, engaging and thought-provoking. We are also growing our community relationships with activities at the Lower Green Community Centre and will be deepening our relationship with our church schools.

We have a slow and steady approach to this, recognising the importance of cultivating relationships, growing trust, creating a safe spaces in which to explore spirituality, humanity and faith. We have a cohort of around 15 children (up to the age of 12) and weekly attendance averages 3-5 children. We also have a wonderful group of four mums and dads who help run Sunday School.

The theme-based activities allow for a slowing down of teaching/learning as many will run over more than one week. This enables children to invest more deeply in the activities, input into larger projects even if they miss a week and allow for the messages to have more time to be absorbed, processed and strengthened.

New routines have been put in place to encourage intergenerational visibility - a Sunday School candle that is lit at the front of Christ Church at the start of each service and the children show what they've created at the end. In doing so, their creativity/learning is visible and frequently displayed at the back of the church for the congregation to enjoy. It instils pride and joy in the children and allows them to take

ownership of their talents whilst the congregation bear witness to their creativity and growth. We will also be running activities for the congregation to get involved in.

We provide drinks and snacks for the children every week and at every All Age and Baptism service we run a creche to ensure we're still visibly supporting families when Sunday School isn't running and encourage visiting children to join the fun at Sunday School when it is. The Sunday School room is being steadily filled with resources and we're finding cost-effective and free ways to get stock and furnishings.

As well as deepening our current relationships with families, we're also actively approaching and welcoming new families when they attend church. We are cultivating and growing the Sunday School database with a weekly update of what we've done and what's coming up (along with images), plus we are developing our online presence with regular Facebook posts and adhoc events postings. We also have plans to trial a parish Instagram page.

## Sunday School Highlights

### Values

We kicked-off the 2022/23 academic year by deciding our Sunday School Values and created a large cross to display them on. It lives proudly on the Sunday School room door.

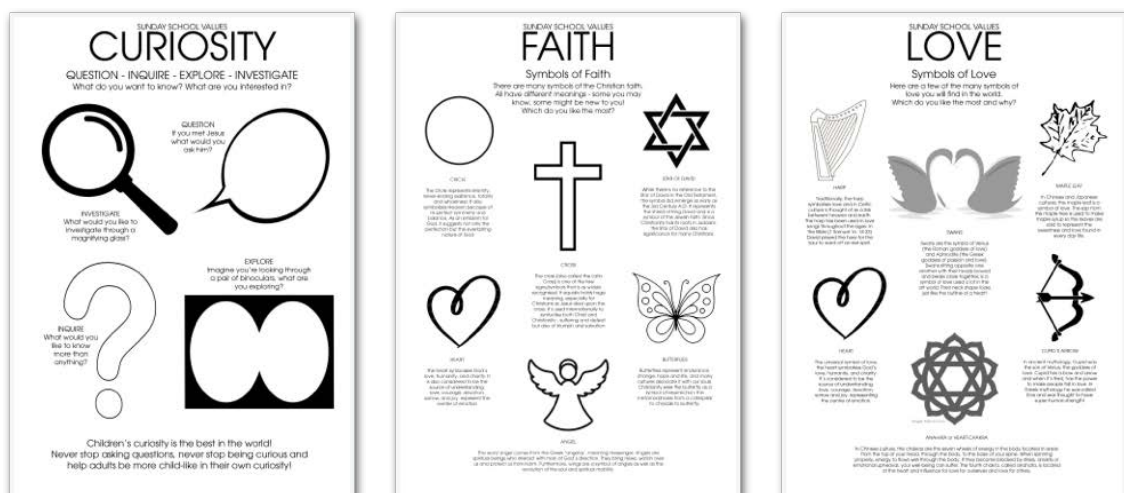
Esher Parish have three values of faith, hope and love and the children decided on the remaining two, curiosity and service.

We now have a lovely strap line - *Parish of Esher Sunday School, where curiosity and service meet faith, hope and love.*

I have created resources for the children that dig deeper into what these words mean in the Christian and more general context.



These resources are displayed at the back of Christ Church and are free for anyone to take, use and enjoy.

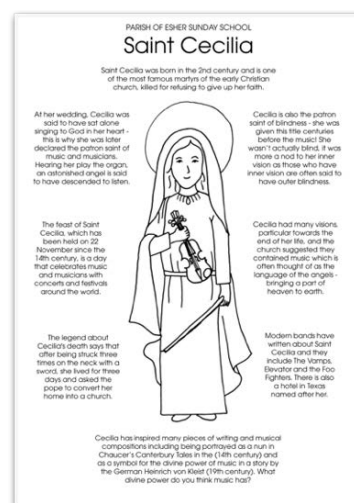
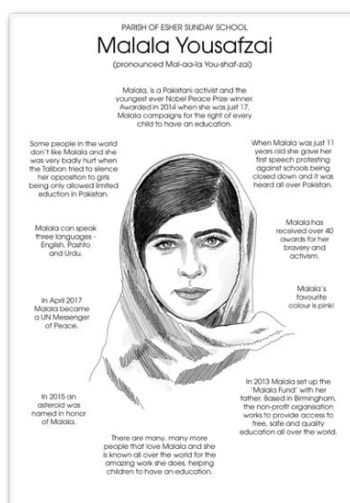


## Stained 'glass' creations

Our most ambitious activity in the autumn was creating a life-size stained 'glass' Malala and a smaller one of Saint Cecilia in response to the theme of All Saints. A modern day saint and a past saint.

When Malala arrived to be made, she was greeted with a huge amount of excitement from the children. They had a wonderful time cutting and sticking the coloured cellophane, and were incredibly proud of what they'd created. It remains on display at the back of Christ Church. We love the magic that occurs in co-creation.

We also created colouring/factual worksheets about each saint for the children to start to fill in and take home. We hope that the information is useful enough to hang around at home and used/referred to again, engaging adults and bringing church into the every day.



## Harvest

During Harvest we made different style pumpkins to hang in both lobbies as a lovely creative welcome to everyone that comes into Christ Church, and for Remembrance Sunday these were replaced by our gorgeously colourful Peace Doves



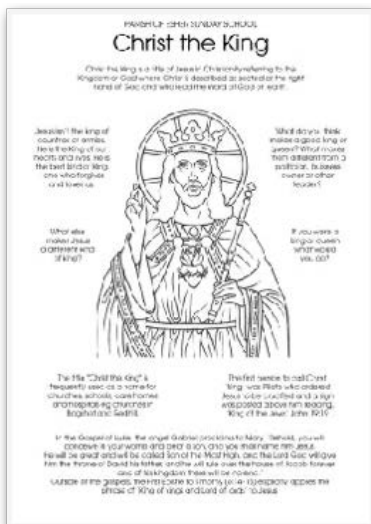
## Ice Cream Sunday

Our first Ice Cream Sunday took place in October with the help of Daisy's ice cream van. It was a huge hit and proves that ice cream is always popular whatever time of year it is. More are planned for the parish in 2023.



## Christ the King

We are really enjoying getting to know our amazing families - here is Sally and Marlow enjoying making paper crowns when we learned about the title of Jesus and Christ the King and made crowns in celebration.



## Christmas

Christmas was a beautiful hive of fabulous creations and we made decorations for home and church plus, Christmas cards, snowflakes and paper chains. It was such an active and fun month, and a wonderful end to my first term in post.



## Community Work

We began our community work through with our first Crazy Crafts day on Saturday 10 December at the Lower Green Community Centre. There were loads of fun things for all the family to do including making decorations and gifts, designing Christmas cards, icing gingerbread biscuits and creating our fabulous Kindness Jars. A free lunch was provided for the children and each child received a goody bag to take home their creations in.



It was an incredibly successful day and, alongside the amazing support from everyone at Lower Green, we had a fantastic group of Scouts helping out. Following on from its success and wonderful feedback from everyone that came, we have secured dates for three similar activities in 2023 - Crazy Crafts at Easter, Harvest and Christmas! We hope they'll become a regular and sought-after feature in families annual calendars. We are also in talks with Lower Green about a possible multi-church lead toddler group.

### First Timers Course

For the academic year 2022/23, I'm attending a course run by the diocese called First Timers. The course is for those who are new in post to the same/similar roles. We're learning about meaningful engagement with children, young people and families, safeguarding, spirituality, generational theory etc.

Part of the course are three assignments, designed to be written alongside our role and help clarify our vision, mission, goals, strengths and highlight areas for improvement. It's a joy to meet other people and spend time at Church House in Guildford where much of the course is run.

We've also attended safe-guarding training, gained a deeper understanding of how fundamental it is to a healthy and thriving church environment, and been encouraged to share with our parishes how it's everyone's responsibility to have the relevant training for the safety of all our congregation and those we work with.

### Future Planning/Aims

- Liaise with St George's regarding children and family activities plus inter-generational opportunities at and with West End
- Promote the importance of Safeguarding amongst parish stakeholders; support the Safeguarding leads

- Strengthening relationships with the Lower Green Community Centre
- Develop new and existing relationships with the children and families
- Explore creative ways to engage existing and new children and families
- Continue to be children-lead in activity planning/execution
- Devise/execute a monthly service for pre-teens
- Encourage inter-generational activity through engaging creativity
- Join Esher Church School as Foundation Governor

Kathryn Chapman  
Children & Families Worker

## **Esher Church of England High School Report**

At Esher High School there was a significant period of reflection at the start of the academic year in 2021 to ensure that the curriculum that teachers planned to deliver was appropriate and ready for the demands of the year ahead as pupils returned from Covid disruption.

This past year has been busy with the return of many 'normal' aspects of school life that we took for granted pre-Covid; the transition of year 6 pupils to the start of their secondary school career in year 7, the return of school trips both at home and overseas and GCSE exams.

As an academy school in the Enlighten Learning Trust the school seeks to provide opportunities for all based on five key principles –

- Excellent education
- Employer of choice
- Ethical governance
- Robust infrastructure
- Sustainable growth

Ofsted visited Esher High School in March and made positive comments about the hierarchical, well designed curriculum provision that was evident in the subjects in which they conducted deep dives. The way the school aligns different curriculum areas so pupils experience learning across subjects such as English and history was noted positively. The overall development of knowledge and skills was clear, and staff were able to explain their vision for their curriculum and the support they receive to the inspection team. Ofsted's feedback included excellent comments about the leadership, culture and opportunity for all students at the school. Overall, both the school and the Trust were pleased with the judgement of 'good' and it highlighted the improvements made over the period since the last inspection.

If you don't know much about the school do consider visiting on an open evening in the Autumn term, you would be most welcome.

Helen Coulson  
Pastoral Visitor Coordinator

## **Pastoral Visiting Team Report**

There was quite a lot of activity in 2022, but not as much as there had been before Covid. I never know from week to week how things will go. Sometimes it can be extremely busy and then there will be a quiet week, followed by another busy one. I think people find it difficult to find the courage to lift the 'phone and seek help, but once they do, they are pleasantly surprised that many of their problems can be solved easily.

I have now got a lovely new helper - Karen Sarkissian - who has done all the required checks and is ready to go!

Unfortunately, the monthly teas, organised by Mair Molteno, did not take place in 2022 for several reasons, but we have drivers and hosts in situ and hope to restart these.

If anyone feels they need help, or knows of someone else who does, please contact me on 01372 464483, and I will take it from there. I would like to thank my helpers – Jan Sayer, Andrea Lindow and Karen Sarkissian, without whom the Pastoral Support Team would be unable to function.

Wendy Tanqueray  
Pastoral Visitor Coordinator

## **Fellowship Group Report**

We continued to enjoy meeting in person after the long dreary months of lockdown; so much so that our numbers increased significantly during the year. Our concern continues to be that we shall no longer fit into the Lady Chapel, something we traditionally enjoy for its feeling of intimacy and freedom to be ourselves! With the handful of apologies each month we've so far avoided this, but no doubt if needs must, we shall adapt accordingly. It is lovely however to have new members. In December we enjoyed mulled wine and mince pies before proceeding to the Chapel for worship, a nice conclusion to the year.

As some of you know my children and grandchildren live in Catalunya in Spain, and circumstances contributed to my decision not to move there but to travel there for a few months each year instead, thus inevitably missing certain Fellowship meetings. However, I'm happy and very grateful to Diana Johns, Wendy Tanqueray and Tom Radford for so ably holding the fort in my absence.

Our motto 'we go where the Spirit leads us' does take us into interesting realms and very little is off limits. However, the essence of our meetings is the exploration of our faith, arising from the Act of Worship which we begin with and in which individual prayer plays an important part. Our first meeting took place in January 2010 so we have become a part of the history of Christ Church. Long may we continue!

Jan Sayer  
Fellowship Group Leader

## Community & Business Outreach Report

Christ Church is now a firmly established member of the Esher Chamber of Commerce and their monthly meetings provide the opportunity to inform the Esher business community of our events and objectives. We have successfully hosted a Chamber breakfast meeting in the church which involved using our audio-visual equipment for a presentation by Surrey County Council. The event was well received and introduced members to the church's facilities. We have been asked to repeat these meetings on a regular basis.

This meeting led to the possibility of applying for a grant for our lighting project and the successful hire of the church to the Esher Theatre for rehearsals. Other hire possibilities are being progressed.

An attempt was made to open a foodbank at the church but this has been suspended following a lack of demand. Likewise, the Council approached us to organise a clothing bank but we deemed our premises unsuitable. Meanwhile good relations with the Lower Green Community Centre have been strengthened and emergency foodbank supplies have been obtained and stored in church to meet any demand.

Leaflets for Music on the Green and other church events are distributed amongst Chamber of Commerce members as required. An additional banner site facing down Church Street has been erected.

Finally, the Mayor attended a public Lighting Up ceremony of our church Christmas Tree accompanied by the choir singing carols and mulled wine and mince pies being served. It has been agreed that this should be an annual event.

Michael Banks  
Community & Business Outreach Coordinator

## InSpire Report

The past twelve months have been more settled for the *InSpire* editorial team than the previous two years and we now have a good process going.

The editorial team is Bridget Williams, Jane Tyrrell and Juliet Philip, the latter having the task of editing and pulling *InSpire* together and distributing it. We meet four times a year about four to six weeks before the issue is due out to discuss possible topics and allocate the gathering of information accordingly. (Possibly because we have elected to make this a breakfast meeting, we find it works very well.)

We have had some lovely responses and comments on the issues in the past year and it has been gratifying to know that people are reading and enjoying it – even on holiday! We would still like to increase the readership if we can and to that end a note was put in the pew sheets in March to encourage people to sign up to receive it.

After an initial flurry of interest in sponsoring a printed version of the newsletter everything went quiet and it is still something that the team are looking into. A printed version, by necessity, would be shorter and less pictorial so there is an ongoing debate on the practicality of such an enterprise.

Our issue next Summer will be the thirtieth, which seems like a milestone for something that was expected to last for a year or two while something else was sorted out.

Juliet Philip  
InSpire Editor

## **Exploring the Bible - Discussion Evenings Report**

In Autumn 2022 we decided to try something new. Over the course of five Tuesday evenings a group of us gathered in Christ Church to learn more about the Old Testament – to dig more deeply into those ancient and often familiar stories and other writings, and to reflect on how they might help us hear God’s voice in the world in which we find ourselves today. Our evenings explored:

Genesis – Creation and Fall

- The way scientific and religious truth complement one another
- Free will and its abuse
- God’s gifts and how we exploit or cherish them

Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers – the Law

- Rules, grace, freedom and duty in a risk-averse, tick-box world

Joshua, Judges – the Promise of the Land

- Our views of the alien – immigration and culture
- A people’s identity in the land they hold
- Today’s conflicts in Europe and the Middle East

Samuel, Kings – the Role of the Ruler

- Use and abuse of power
- How all leaders seem to fail
- Thoughts on today’s politics

Isaiah – the Prophetic Power of Poetry

- Holy Scripture as literature
- Literature as ‘scripture’
- The universal call of the divine

Some 25 of us took part and, although not everyone managed to come along every week, that did not matter as everyone seemed happy to listen, to talk and to share. Sometimes we discussed the questions prepared in advance, but conversation flowed freely around our reactions to the Bible passages we had considered and their resonances in our own times. Of course, Esher people love to talk, and it was really good to see people getting to know one another rather more deeply than is possible over coffee after church.

We look forward to learning more about the wealth of scripture in the months and years to come.

Revd Jonathan Andrew  
Honorary Assistant Priest

## Book Group Report

Our Parish Book Group is now well into its second year and is flourishing. When we first formed back in the autumn of 2020 we were seriously constrained by coronavirus regulations, but our meetings managed to get going on Zoom, and we started to get to know one another and share the sort of books we enjoyed. For the last few months, however, we have been able to meet in church and our membership and attendance has increased dramatically.

Like so much of church life (and life in general), 2022 was a year of transition for the Book Group as we emerged from the constraints of Covid and became more relaxed in meeting under what we used to consider normal conditions. The result has been that we have grown even more comfortable in each other's company and several new members have become involved.

We have continued to enjoy a wide range of literature – often books which one or more of our members had enjoyed in the past and which they wanted to share, thereby encouraging us to read books beyond our usual comfort zone. I will not list everything in our wide-ranging menu in 2022, but I particularly valued *East West Street* by Philippe Sands. This was a prescient choice for our January meeting as we learned something about the 20th century history of Ukraine and how events there had influenced the development of international law and the recognition of crimes against humanity and genocide as particularly heinous. *English Pastoral* by James Rebanks provoked a lively discussion about the ethics and economics of modern farming, while *Voices of Morebath* by Eamon Duffy helped us engage with the reality of the Reformation in a small country village – some of the dynamics of church life did not seem to have changed much over the centuries! On a perhaps lighter, but still meaningful, note we also enjoyed Thomas Hardy's *The Mayor of Casterbridge* and JL Carr's *A Month in the Country*, in these cases enhanced for several of us by having watched screen adaptations.

The group continues to foster friendships both within the regular church family, and well beyond. In the run up to Christmas we enjoyed a new venture with a bring-and-share tea party, exchanging not only yuletide goodies, but also some seasonal poetry.

We always publicise our gatherings in the weekly pewsheets so, if you might be interested, do give us a try!

Revd Jonathan Andrew  
Honorary Assistant Priest & Book Group Leader

## Music Report

### Liturgical Music

2022 allowed us to begin to spread our musical wings again as the Covid crisis wound down.

Core choir membership remained - on paper at least - fairly stable, though there were some comings and goings at the margins: Lynn Coward and Charlotte Serajian-Esfahan both bowed out after short stints with us (Charlotte for reasons of new motherhood and

with the hope of returning to the fold some time down the line), while James Macdonald and Edmund Martey tried themselves out on the bass line, though neither has progressed to permanent membership. We were pleased to welcome Sam Cherry (a current Oxford choral scholar) to part-time membership of the choir when he is at home in Claygate during vacation time, and we were able to enjoy his *'In the Bleak Midwinter'* solo in the Christmas carol service.

Nonetheless, we have had to face up to a situation in which our actual number of active singers for any given service (or indeed rehearsal) is not back to where it was pre-pandemic. This problem is by no means unique to us – it seems to be one shared with choirs and performing groups up and down the country – and there is no single explanation for it (though in my view some sort of societal shift has occurred and a variety of health factors have also played their part) but empirically it has now become more difficult to muster the necessary choral forces for all our worship services at Christ Church, particularly on the soprano front.

Meanwhile, we began 2022 with two organ scholars - George Ashley and Rowan Marshall as our senior and junior postholders respectively – though sadly George (a Year 11 pupil at Tiffin's School) had to withdraw prematurely on health grounds. However, in the autumn we were delighted to welcome Theo Tang to our parish music team, so we ended 2022 with Rowan (now in Year 11 at King's College School Wimbledon) and Theo (Year 8, Hampton School) as our senior and junior organ scholars respectively – and, since both still have some years left in their school careers, there is the prospect of them remaining with us for a fair while yet.

In addition to the set piece choral concerts reported on elsewhere, one particular highlight of 2022 was a Festal Choral Evensong for Queen Elizabeth's Platinum Jubilee, for which we commissioned a new anthem by ex-Wells Cathedral organist Matthew Owens; the resulting work, *'Put Thou Thy Trust in God'*, was premiered at the service in early June.

Once again it is appropriate to conclude this narrative by expressing my thanks to Keith Howell-Jones, our Parish Organist Emeritus, for continuing to hold the musical fort at St George's West End; to Oliver Macfarlane for all his regular organ playing at Christ Church, including treating us to some splendid repertoire in his closing voluntaries in particular; to Diana Johns for her periodic input at the piano; and to our parish choir members for their respective contributions in the choir stalls across the year's cycle of worship.

### Music on the Green

Music on the Green celebrated its 10th anniversary in style in January 2022 with a wonderful performance of Schubert's Trout Quintet by our newly appointed ensemble-in-residence, Ensemble Pensiero. This was followed by an equally memorable lunchtime concert in February, in which Beethoven's Archduke Trio was the featured work.

Further highlights of the year's line-up in our main Wednesday series included an organ recital by the former sub-organist of Westminster Abbey, Christopher Herrick; a piano duet concert by the entertaining double act *'Piano À Deux'*; and a magnificent solo recital by the young Ukrainian pianist Maxim Artyomenko (which drew a standing ovation

after he replaced a no-show artist at extremely short notice). Other solo instruments showcased during the year were classical accordion, clarinet, cello and guitar.

By the end of the year, encouragingly, audience numbers were returning towards the level they had been pre-Covid.

We were also delighted that Music in the Tower (MITT) was able to resume after a pandemic-enforced two-year absence, as during Holy Week we welcomed the harpist Oliver Wass for a programme entitled 'Love and Loss, Dance and Death'.

Beyond restoring a full programme of monthly lunchtime recitals and reinstituting MITT, we sprang back from the pandemic with vigour by mounting no less than three weekend evening concerts, in April, May and November respectively. The April concert - a joint venture between our Parish Choir and the Oatlands Singers - featured a rare performance of Beethoven's oratorio 'Christ on the Mount of Olives' alongside a selection of Passiontide motets. The May concert, arranged in the wake of Russia's invasion of Ukraine, was a special fundraising concert for Ukrainian humanitarian relief, with the Mayor of Elmbridge as guest of honour. Finally, at Remembrancetide, our Parish Choir joined forces with the Barisons Singers for a moving performance of Karl Jenkins' cantata 'The Armed Man: A Mass for Peace'.

I take this opportunity to thank my fellow MOTG Committee members for their invaluable input: Melanie Williams in the parish office, Michael Banks for his work on auxiliary lighting and general PR, Debbie Banks for overseeing our catering operations, and Jan Sayer for her general assistance. Thanks are also due to Darren, our Rector, for his continued enthusiastic support of our parish's musical outreach efforts, which have burned as brightly as ever during 2022.

Stuart Whatton  
Parish Director of Music

## **Bellringers' Report**

We commenced the year with a group of beginners all keen to ring for Sunday services and Easter, which they did with tremendous success. We were able to ring all eight bells at Easter and everyone rang in their Esher band t-shirts – we looked incredibly smart and professional.

It became apparent one Sunday morning that the ropes were finally beginning to fail – watching bits of rope fluff fall off whilst ringing does not do much for your confidence! With the Queen's Platinum Jubilee coming up we were concerned at our ability to ring. Thankfully this required purchase was agreed and new ropes were produced. The band installed the ropes themselves; this involves going up into the belfry, removing the old ropes, tying in the new ones having first checked the length down in the ringing chamber – a long and dirty job!

New ropes in situ, we rang safely and joyously for the Platinum Jubilee, a thoroughly enjoyable occasion for the entire band. This despite the blue fluff from the brand-new sallys that we were covered in!

The shock passing of Her Majesty had us all ringing again and doing some quick changes with the muffles on the bells. For the reigning monarch a death is noted by the full muffling of the bells (you hear half muffled bells on Remembrance Day). Morgan Rook, our Steeple Keeper, and myself were back once again in the belfry putting the muffles on, removing them for the ringing to celebrate the accession of King Charles and on again for the Queen's funeral.

During the year we were also asked to ring for two weddings and three funerals. Unfortunately, we have lost a couple of ringers due to schooling and family reasons, but gained a new member who, despite only having rung for a matter of weeks, was still able to participate in the ringing for the Queen's funeral.

Myself, Amanda Doyle (Treasurer) and Morgan Rook all took part in specific external courses designed to teach us to teach new beginners and run a practice session. This was a necessity, as in September our AGM marked the official resignation of Jennifer Meade as our Tower Captain, a position she had held for nearly 30 years. We as a band are eternally grateful for all her experience and help not only during her tenancy as Captain but all that she continues to do today. As a show of our appreciation the Band presented Jen with a rose aptly named 'Jennifer' and a garden ornament in the likeness of one of her favourite dogs called Chaos.

Ann Battensby  
Parish Tower Bell Captain

## **St George's West End Report**

It was refreshing to be able to plan the St George's Church calendar 2022 without the uncertainty of Covid lockdowns.

Our Easter Day Eucharist was very well attended, and the congregation appreciated the beautiful flower arrangements and Easter garden inside, while the Easter garden outside was enjoyed by passers-by. We also planted an Easter Garden again this year at Christ Church, in the hollow created by the fallen cedar tree, which was much admired.

The small gardening team continued to work hard throughout the year - an especially challenging one due to the summer heatwave, when the hose pipe ban came into force and watering by hand was required daily. Through our efforts the plants survived and flourished, and the garden is appreciated by not only the congregation, but by many others who come and enjoy the stillness of this unique place.

The Norwegians continue to hold well attended monthly Services in St George's and greatly appreciate being able to worship in a building which reminds them of their churches back home. They are a charming group, who have become familiar, friendly faces over the twenty years they have attended St George's.

In June/July we used our funds to update our electrics and replace the entire right hand side roof panels which needed urgent attention, due to leaks above the organ. Following these repairs, the forthcoming return of the Village Show in August coincided with the launch of our major fundraising initiative to redecorate and renovate St George's. Not having been professionally painted since 2007, the external walls

required stripping back to bare metal, and the vestry woodwork and the rotten window cills and doors throughout needed major repairs. Thanks to a substantial legacy from a villager and our own continued fundraising efforts over the years, the exterior work commenced in August. The scaffolding provided a perfect space on which to display fundraising banners and those visiting the church at the Village Show were able to see the work in progress. Our cake and bread stalls, gift and card stalls and raffle raised funds, supplemented by generous donations, to be used towards the long outstanding, desperately required, interior renovation of the church.

In October we held our ever-popular Pet Service at St George's after its absence due to Covid - the first one held in West End by Darren. There was a bumper attendance this year with 15 dogs, a cat who spent the entire service on his owner's shoulder and 30 well behaved humans. It was a joyful and fun service, greatly enjoyed by all. Also that month, in response to our email campaign, we received a significant donation.

In November every home in the village received an appeal letter for the renovation of St George's and a number of very generous donations arrived from residents and the congregation alike. As a result, the interior repair and redecoration could commence and although this necessitated the closure of St George's for a month - during which time we worshipped in Christ Church - the finished result was well worth the upheaval. To date, the renovation and redecoration of St George's has already cost just under a staggering £40,000.

The interior refurbishment was completed in time to hold our Christmas services in the immaculate, renovated and repainted St George's. The church was crowded for the popular unrehearsed Crib Service on Christmas Eve after a two-year absence - the first held there by Darren. The church looked beautiful, it's newly painted walls enhanced by stunning flower arrangements, candles, a Christmas tree and crib. The popular Village Carol Concert followed afterwards, and the uplifting Christmas Day Eucharist was greatly enjoyed by the large congregation who attended.

2022 was a busy and rewarding one for St George's, with its major redecoration completed to such splendid effect. We continue to fundraise to enable us to complete the final part of the costly - but necessary - renovation programme by repairing the sloping floor and replacing the damaged 60-year-old tiling. We are also mindful that essential upgrading of the disabled access is required. However, we approach the future with confidence, knowing that St George's is not only important to its congregation, but also to the wider community who continue to value and support this unique village church.

Andrea Lindow  
Deputy Churchwarden, St George's Church

On behalf of the PCC



Jane Tyrrell  
Churchwarden



Helen Coulson  
Churchwarden



Peter Bedford  
Hon Secretary

## **Minutes of the Annual Parochial Church Meeting held in Christ Church, Esher on Sunday 29 May 2022 at 12 noon.**

### **1 Opening Prayers**

The Rector, Revd Darren McCallig, welcomed those present and opened with a prayer.

### **2 Apologies for absence**

Polly Jordan & Alison Mohamed.

### **3 Election of Churchwardens**

Two nominations were received – Helen Coulson proposed by Jane Tyrrell and seconded by Michael Banks, and Jane Tyrrell proposed by Michael Banks and seconded by Keith Chapple. Both were duly elected.

### **4 Minutes from last year's meeting**

The minutes of the meeting held on 23 May 2021 were unanimously approved as a true record. Proposed by Jane Tyrrell and seconded by Andrea Lindow.

### **5 Matters arising from those minutes**

There were no matters arising.

### **6 Parish Annual Report 2021**

The Rector referred to his report, with special thanks to the churchwardens, the two Honorary Assistant Priests, the PCC as a whole, and all those mentioned in the APCM report and the minutes of last year's meeting, who contribute so much to the church and the people of the parish. We are undoubtedly in a better and happier place, and the way forward outlined in our Church Development Plan reflects that we are set fair for the future. Many churches major on love, joy, peace, kindness, and self-control. We are growing in that respect, thank you to all, and we are beginning to flourish.

The Ven David Gerrard intervened to say that Darren had thanked everyone except himself, and it is because of him that we are flourishing.

Darren asked if there were any questions arising from the annual report other than about financial statements. There were no questions.

### **7 Parish Financial Statements 2021**

Martin Fuller introduced his report, and said that there was good news, in that the parish had paid its way in 2021. This was due to the continuing generosity of donors, for which the parish is very grateful, and this had kept us going. However, it is not all good news, as we draw on our designated funds to cover general expenses.

There are three major projects requiring funds in the future: firstly, the external decoration of St George's Church, West End, which will be covered by a generous legacy, and secondly the refurbishment of the Curate's house in Cranbrook Drive, and finally the extensive lighting project for Christ Church. We are far short of

sufficient funds to cover the latter project, and there may be a need to stage the whole process and to slim it down, and there will of course be a need to raise funds. Overall, the financial situation might be summarised as “we are doing alright, but could do better”.

In response, a question was raised regarding the cost of the lighting project, and Darren intervened to state that the PCC has not yet decided on this matter, an external project, and costing could be around £80-100,000.

Hugh Miller, the fabric chairperson, underlined that the lighting project is being worked on by consultants, and is conceptual at this stage.

- The upper cost could be £120,000, if VAT is payable. In particular scaffolding is expensive, and a staged approach would be problematic, since the scaffolding would have to be taken down and then re-erected, further increasing the cost. The total project could take around six to eight weeks and this may well necessitate the church being closed, an aspect he had not mentioned previously to the Rector or the PCC. Perhaps July and August might be a suitable period, but this would need careful consideration.
- It might be possible to reclaim the VAT, thus reducing the overall cost to £100,000. There may be around £40,000 available from the Cranbrook Drive designated fund, leaving a £60,000 shortfall and this would need to be raised by May 2023 at the latest. The present lighting is breaking down, is very expensive in its current form, for example to replace a lightbulb costs £300, and has a very high energy uptake.

A question was then raised about the Curate’s house in Cranbrook Drive and the associated costs of refurbishment and/or improvement.

- Hugh Miller said that this issue is less pressing than the others, but the current rent is £1300 per month, and this could be increased to around £2700 if improvements were made, including double glazing and a second bathroom. It may be possible to obtain a bank loan of around £100,000, since the house is valued at £800,000, with work possibly taking place in 2023 or 2024. When queried about the Cranbrook Drive fund, Martin Fuller pointed out that whilst it holds around £80,000, we are drawing on this for our day today expenditure.

Darren invited Andrea Lindow to point out some issues regarding St George’s Church and its associated expenditure.

- She said that the updating of the electrics, and the heating of the vestry, had been completed and this had cost around £750, and these funds have been raised by West End. As far as the exterior painting and associated work, the current estimate is £25,000, although this might increase. Thanks to the very generous legacy of £25,000 this takes away much of the pressure from that project.
- However, before the exterior work is conducted, there is a need to replace part of the right-hand side of the roof, which would cost around £7000, and this would be drawn from the St George’s designated fund. There is a need also to paint the inside of the church, and possibly to replace some flooring, and quotes would be obtained for both. The bottom line is that a great deal of fundraising would be needed to deal with these important items.

At this stage Helen Coulson in her capacity as churchwarden voiced special thanks for all the work undertaken by Martin Fuller and this was endorsed by applause from those present.

Darren mentioned that St George's would be a very practical solution if for any reason Christ Church had to be closed, for example two Sunday morning services, one at 9am and one at 10.30am. However, this was just a hypothetical discussion at present!

Darren then stated that the PCC has formally approved the accounts, but it would be appropriate for the APCM to receive the accounts, and he then asked for this to be done formally. The acceptance of the accounts was proposed by Mair Molteno, seconded by Kathryn Chapman, and supported by all.

A point was then raised from the floor that the parish and those attending our churches needed regular information on PCC matters. For example, access to the minutes of PCC meetings and also regular feedback. Darren said that this was a good point and would be discussed by the PCC, for example might there be merit in a short meeting summary following PCC meetings and for this to be distributed.

## **8 Elections to PCC**

There was one nomination for PCC membership, being Andrea Lindow, who has just completed her three-year term, and she was elected, proposed by Keith Chapple and seconded by Mair Molteno. Darren stated that the PCC itself can elect members, and those interested in joining should make direct contact with him or PCC members, and we would strongly encourage such a move.

## **9 Appointment of Independent Examiner**

Martin underlined the very substantial work conducted by Gordon Manickam as independent examiner and stated that he is willing again to undertake this role. His appointment was approved, proposed by Helen Coulson, and seconded by Will Stevens. The floor proposed that we should send a letter of thanks to Gordon Manickam, not only because of his very efficient approach, but the fact that he undertakes this work pro bono. Darren agreed and this will be done.

## **10 Any Other Business**

Bridget Williams wanted to raise the issue of fundraising. She said that it was important for all people to be involved across the board and for us to spread the word on the need for the involvement of others.

David Gerrard made the point that all churches have suffered from a drift away of congregations over the two years of Covid. We need people now to return back to church and we need to encourage those we know who have not yet returned.

## **11 Closing Prayers**

Darren then closed the meeting, inviting all present to say the Grace.

Peter Bedford  
Parochial Church Council Secretary

## Independent Examiner's Report

To the Parochial Church Council of Esher

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I report on the accounts for the year ended 31 December 2022 as set out on the following pages.

### Respective responsibilities of the Trustees and Independent Examiner

As the members of the PCC you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts; you consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act) and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to:

- Examine the accounts under section 145 of the 2011 Act;
- Follow the procedures laid down in the General Directions given by the Charity Commissioners section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act; and
- State whether particular matters have come to my attention.

### Basis of Independent Examiner's Statement

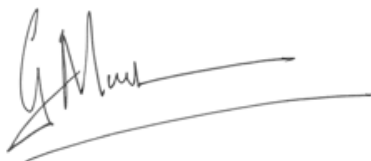
My examination was carried out in accordance with the General Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from the management committee concerning any such matters.

The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in a full audit, and consequently I do not express an audit opinion on the accounts.

### Independent Examiner's Statement

In connection with my examination, no matters have come to my attention:

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



Gordon Manickam CIA FCCIA

84 Greenways  
Hinchley Wood  
KT10 0QJ

May 2023

## Esher PCC Statement of Financial Activities for the year ended 31 December 2022

### Income and Expenditure for the year ended 31 December 2022

#### Incoming Resources

| £s                                             | Unrestricted   | Designated    | Restricted    | 2022           | 2021           |
|------------------------------------------------|----------------|---------------|---------------|----------------|----------------|
| <i>Incoming resources from generated funds</i> |                |               |               |                |                |
| Regular giving                                 | 95,942         | -             | -             | 95,942         | 93,551         |
| Gift Aid                                       | 26,177         | -             | 677           | 26,855         | 32,260         |
| Church collections                             | 17,075         | -             | -             | 17,075         | 16,418         |
| Donations & bequests                           | 6,488          | 10,861        | -             | 17,349         | 30,080         |
| Sales of donated investments                   | 1,500          | -             | -             | 1,500          | 5,385          |
| Sundry receipts                                | 3,636          | -             | -             | 3,636          | 6,930          |
| Church fundraising events                      | 3,470          | 3,246         | -             | 6,716          | -              |
| Card & notelet sales                           | 106            | 290           | -             | 396            | 1,586          |
| Newsletter advertising                         | 250            | -             | -             | 250            | -              |
| Church fees                                    | 3,527          | -             | -             | 3,527          | 4,418          |
| Music on the Green                             | -              | 6,494         | -             | 6,494          | 3,403          |
| Investment income (dividends)                  | 392            | -             | 19,740        | 20,132         | 20,298         |
| Traidcraft sales                               | 1,271          | -             | -             | 1,271          | -              |
| Rental income                                  | -              | 12,634        | -             | 12,634         | 16,483         |
| Totals                                         | 159,840        | 33,525        | 20,417        | 213,783        | 230,816        |
| <i>Other incoming resources</i>                |                |               |               |                |                |
| Appeal donations                               | -              | 1,685         | 6,433         | 8,118          | 13,030         |
| Legacies                                       | -              | -             | -             | -              | 25,000         |
| Totals                                         |                | 1,685         | 6,433         | 8,118          | 38,030         |
| <b>Grand Totals</b>                            | <b>159,840</b> | <b>35,210</b> | <b>26,851</b> | <b>221,902</b> | <b>268,847</b> |

## Resources Used

| £s                               | Unrestricted | Designated | Restricted | 2022   | 2021    |
|----------------------------------|--------------|------------|------------|--------|---------|
| <i>Cost of generating funds</i>  |              |            |            |        |         |
| Music on the Green               | -            | 5,386      | -          | 5,386  | 2,447   |
| Cards & notelets                 | 1,984        | -          | -          | 1,984  | 2,097   |
| Fundraising events               | 4,884        | 60         | -          | 4,944  | 1,448   |
| Traidcraft purchases             | 980          | -          | -          | 980    | 65      |
| Totals                           | 7,849        | 5,446      | -          | 13,296 | 6,059   |
| <i>Cost of Parish activities</i> |              |            |            |        |         |
| Grants & appeal payments         | 250          | -          | 7,099      | 7,349  | 9,878   |
| Parish share                     | 99,435       | -          | -          | 99,435 | 102,968 |
| Clergy telephone                 | 704          | -          | -          | 704    | 619     |
| Clergy car & travel              | 420          | -          | -          | 420    | -       |
| Clergy other expenses            | 1,672        | -          | 232        | 1,905  | 105     |
| Rectory gas/electricity          | 1,071        | -          | -          | 1,071  | 821     |
| Rectory running costs            | 631          | -          | -          | 631    | 951     |
| Repairs & maintenance            | 11,218       | 39,258     | 455        | 50,931 | 19,945  |
| Cleaning                         | 2,714        | -          | -          | 2,714  | 2,509   |
| Electricity - Christ Church      | 2,002        | -          | -          | 2,002  | 1,909   |
| Electricity - St George's        | 672          | -          | -          | 672    | 406     |
| Gas - Christ Church              | 3,217        | -          | -          | 3,217  | 3,966   |
| Water bills - Christ Church      | 126          | -          | -          | 126    | 77      |
| Water bills - St George's        | 40           | -          | -          | 40     | 45      |
| Insurance - Christ Church        | 3,732        | 838        | -          | 4,570  | 4,329   |
| Insurance - St George's          | 470          | -          | -          | 470    | 449     |
| Sundry expenses/petty cash       | 1,966        |            | 771        | 2,737  | 653     |
| Communion table                  | 299          | -          | -          | 299    | 338     |
| Flowers                          | 650          | -          | -          | 650    | 400     |
| Organists' fees                  | 9,080        | -          | -          | 9,080  | 8,645   |
| Organ/piano maintenance          | 3,656        | -          | -          | 3,656  | 2,133   |
| Choir expenses & music           | 276          | -          | 26         | 303    | 160     |

### Resources Used (continued)

| £s                                           | Unrestricted   | Designated    | Restricted    | 2022           | 2021           |
|----------------------------------------------|----------------|---------------|---------------|----------------|----------------|
| <i>Cost of Parish activities (continued)</i> |                |               |               |                |                |
| Organ scholarships                           | -              | -             | 48            | 48             | -              |
| Church meetings                              | 81             | -             | -             | 81             | -              |
| Training & courses                           | -              | -             | 191           | 191            | -              |
| Youth worker                                 | -              | -             | 2,918         | 2,918          | 17,668         |
| Parish post                                  | 436            | -             | -             | 436            | -              |
| Office salaries/taxes                        | 21,149         | -             | -             | 21,149         | 18,007         |
| Printing & stationery                        | 1,545          | -             | -             | 1,545          | 1,149          |
| Office telecoms/internet                     | 1,342          | -             | 1,058         | 2,401          | 5,810          |
| Photocopier costs                            | 1,011          | -             | -             | 1,011          | 803            |
| Postage                                      | 120            | -             | -             | 120            | -              |
| Depreciation                                 | 3,535          | 125           | 3,203         | 6,864          | 9,152          |
| Bank charges                                 | 660            | -             | -             | 660            | 569            |
| Office sundry costs                          | 1,565          | -             | -             | 1,565          | 669            |
| Totals                                       | 179,732        | 42,809        | 16,005        | 238,547        | 215,143        |
| <b>Grand Totals</b>                          | <b>187,581</b> | <b>48,256</b> | <b>16,005</b> | <b>251,843</b> | <b>221,203</b> |

### **Tangible Fixed Assets**

| £s                            | Property       | Equipment     | Total          |
|-------------------------------|----------------|---------------|----------------|
| Balance at 1 Jan 2022         | 800,000        | -             | -              |
| <u>Equipment at cost</u>      |                | 136,009       |                |
| Less accumulated depreciation | -              | (108,550)     | -              |
| Balance at 1 Jan 2022         |                | 27,459        |                |
| Less depreciation in 2022     | -              | (6,865)       | -              |
| <b>Balance at 31 Dec 2022</b> | <b>800,000</b> | <b>20,594</b> | <b>820,594</b> |

## Balance sheet as at 31 December 2022

| £s                                          | General Fund | Designated Funds | Restricted Funds | 2022      | 2021      |
|---------------------------------------------|--------------|------------------|------------------|-----------|-----------|
| <i>Fixed assets</i>                         |              |                  |                  |           |           |
| Tangible assets                             | 810,606      | 375              | 9,611            | 820,593   | 827,458   |
| Investments                                 | -            | -                | 1,150            | 1,150     | 1,195     |
| Fixed assets                                | 810,606      | 375              | 10,761           | 821,743   | 828,654   |
| <i>Current assets</i>                       |              |                  |                  |           |           |
| Debtors                                     | 13,260       | -                | -                | 13,260    | 12,515    |
| Cash at bank & in hand                      | (44,749)     | 182,660          | 37,663           | 175,574   | 195,944   |
| Current assets                              | (31,488)     | 182,660          | 37,663           | 188,834   | 208,459   |
| <i>Liabilities</i>                          |              |                  |                  |           |           |
| Creditors (amounts falling due in one year) | 3,455        | 37               | 3,170            | 6,663     | 3,209     |
| Net current assets less current liabilities | (34,944)     | 182,623          | 34,492           | 182,171   | 205,250   |
| Total assets less current liabilities       | 775,662      | 182,998          | 45,254           | 1,003,914 | 1,033,904 |
| Total net assets less liabilities           | 775,662      | 182,998          | 45,244           | 1,003,914 | 1,033,904 |

## Grants for Charitable Purposes

| £s                                                      | Total        |
|---------------------------------------------------------|--------------|
| Lent Appeal 2022 (British Red Cross appeal for Ukraine) | 3,529        |
| Kathryn's Mercy Home, India (Sponsorship of child)      | 180          |
| Mayor's Appeal (Civic Service)                          | 395          |
| Royal British Legion                                    | 70           |
| Children's Society (Christingle)                        | 62           |
| Advent Appeal 2022 (Molesey Churches Night Shelter)     | 3,175        |
| <b>Total</b>                                            | <b>7,411</b> |

## Additional Activity

The Parish hosted a special fundraising concert for Ukraine, which raised £4,120 for the charity 'Ukraine Cultural Association in the UK'.

## Balance Sheet Totals by Funds

| £s                         | General Fund   | Designated Funds | Restricted Funds | 2022             | 2021             |
|----------------------------|----------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|
| <i>Unrestricted</i>        |                |                  |                  |                  |                  |
| General Fund               | 775,086        | -                | -                | 775,086          | 795,847          |
| <i>Designated</i>          |                |                  |                  |                  |                  |
| Lighting Renovation        | -              | 7,712            | -                | 7,712            | -                |
| Music on the Green         | -              | 11,053           | -                | 11,053           | 9,946            |
| West End                   | -              | 18,881           | -                | 18,881           | 16,793           |
| Cranbrook Drive            | -              | 96,548           | -                | 96,548           | 85,203           |
| Bell Fund                  | -              | 161              | -                | 161              | 161              |
| Legacies                   | -              | 48,639           | -                | 48,639           | 73,639           |
| <i>Restricted</i>          |                |                  |                  |                  |                  |
| Advent Appeal              | -              | -                | (1,795)          | (1,795)          | (523)            |
| Property                   | -              | -                | 5,293            | 5,293            | 5,305            |
| Fews Cottage               | -              | -                | 21,874           | 21,874           | 13,074           |
| Spire Appeal               | -              | -                | 6                | 6                | 8                |
| Other Appeals              | -              | -                | 297              | 297              | 10,159           |
| Boiler Renovation          | -              | -                | 9,611            | 9,611            | 12,815           |
| Children & Young People    | -              | -                | 4,463            | 4,463            | 5,514            |
| Garden of Remembrance      | -              | -                | 5,503            | 5,503            | 5,958            |
| <b>Funds of the Parish</b> | <b>775,662</b> | <b>182,998</b>   | <b>45,254</b>    | <b>1,003,914</b> | <b>1,033,904</b> |

## Notes to the accounts for the year ended 31 December 2022

### Accounting policies

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Charities Act 2011, the Church Accounting Regulations 2006 and Accounting and Reporting Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with Financial Reporting Standard 102 (FRS 102). The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention except for the valuation of property and investment assets, which are shown at market value. The charity constitutes a public benefit entity as defined by FRS 102.

### Funds

General funds represent the funds of the PCC that are not subject to any restrictions regarding their use and are available for application to the general purposes of the PCC. Funds designated for a particular purpose by the PCC are also unrestricted. The accounts include all transactions, assets and liabilities for which the PCC is responsible in law. They do not include the accounts of separately designated charities. There are no endowment funds.

### Incoming resources

Collections are recognised when received by the PCC. Planned giving receivable under Gift Aid is recognised when received. Income tax recoverable on Gift Aid donations is recognised when the related income is recognised. Grants and legacies to the PCC are accounted for when the PCC is notified of its legal entitlement, the amount due is quantifiable and its ultimate receipt by the PCC is probable. Dividends on investments are accounted for as they accrue. Unrealised gains or losses on revaluation of investments and property are accounted for on revaluation at the year end.

### Resources expended

Grants and donations are accounted for when awarded, if that creates a binding obligation on the PCC.

### Activities directly relating to the work of the Parish

The Diocesan parish share is accounted for when payable.

### Tangible fixed assets

Consecrated land and buildings are excluded from the accounts by the Charities Act 2011. No value is placed on movable church furnishings. All expenditure on such items is written-off as incurred and separately disclosed in the accounts. The curate's house, 74 Cranbrook Drive, is included at a market value estimated in 2021. Equipment used within the Church premises is depreciated on a reducing balance basis of 25% of asset Net Book Value, or in the case of computers, 33.33% of Net Book Value. Individual items costing less than £1,000 are written-off when acquired.

### Current assets

Short-term deposits are held with the CBF Church of England Funds.

### Employees

The Church employed two people in 2022: the Parish Administrator and (from September 2022) a Youth & Families Worker. No benefits or expenses were paid to any member of the PCC.



Parish Office, Christ Church, Church Street, Esher Surrey KT10 8QS

Telephone: 01372 462282

Email: [office@esherparish.org.uk](mailto:office@esherparish.org.uk)

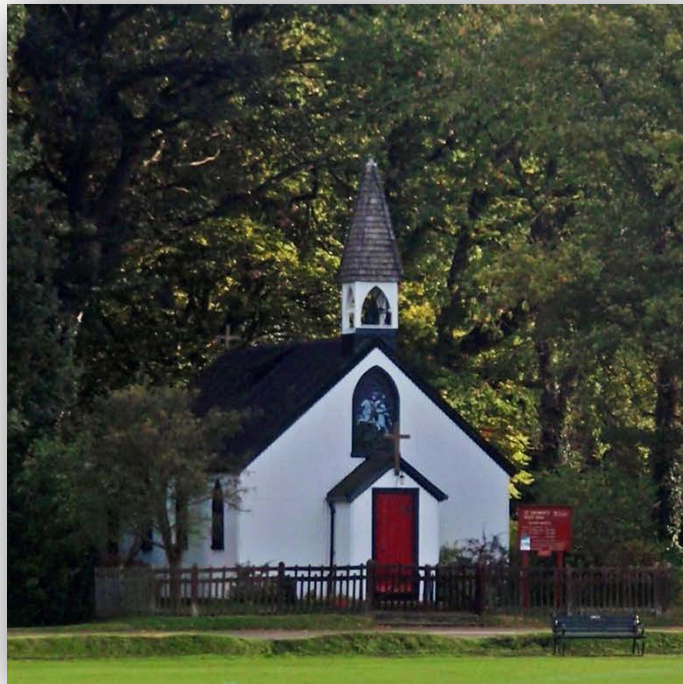
Website: [www.esherparish.org.uk](http://www.esherparish.org.uk)

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# Accounts

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**PARISH OF ESHER**  
Christ Church, Esher with St George's, West End



**ANNUAL REPORT &  
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
of the  
**PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL**  
for the year ended 31 December 2021

Growing together in faith, hope and love



PARISH OF ESHER  
Christ Church, Esher with St George's, West End

**ANNUAL REPORT &  
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
of the  
PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL  
of the PARISH of ESHER**

for the year ended 31 December 2021

Growing together in faith, hope and love

Rector: The Reverend Darren McCallig  
Honorary Assistant Priest: The Venerable David Gerrard  
Honorary Assistant Priest: The Reverend Jonathan Andrew



Churches: Christ Church, Esher and St George's, West End, Esher

Parish Office: Christ Church, Church Street, Esher KT10 8QS

Bankers: National Westminster Bank plc, 73 High Street, Walton-on Thames KT12 1DW

Charity Registration Number: 1134847

Independent Examiner: Gordon Manickam CIA FCCIA



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## **The role and membership of the Parochial Church Council, and the Church officers and officials during 2021**

The overall management of the parish is the responsibility of the Rector, The Reverend Darren McCallig, and the two churchwardens. The Esher Parochial Church Council (PCC) has the responsibility of working with these three, in promoting in the parish the whole mission of the church: pastoral, evangelical, social and ecumenical. It also has maintenance responsibilities for the two church buildings, Christ Church and St George's, West End.

Members of the PCC may be ex-officio, such as the Rector and the churchwardens, elected by the Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM), or co-opted, in accordance with the church representation rules.

|                                                    |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
|----------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Rector                                             | Revd Darren McCallig                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
| Churchwardens                                      | Helen Coulson,<br>Sandra Argent (until May 2021),<br>Jane Tyrrell (from May 2021)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
| Treasurer                                          | Martin Fuller                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
| PCC Secretary                                      | John Sandison (until May 2021),<br>Peter Bedford (from Sep 2021)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
| Deanery Synod<br>Representatives                   | Polly Jordan,<br>Will Stevens,<br>Rebecca Warner (until May 2021),<br>Mair Molteno (from May 2021)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
| Elected Representatives<br>of the Laity on the PCC | Peter Bedford,<br>Michael Banks (from May 2021),<br>Kath Chapman,<br>Martin Fuller,<br>Keith Howell-Jones (until May 2021),<br>Polly Jordan,<br>Andrea Lindow,<br>Jennifer Meade (from Nov 2021),<br>Hugh Miller,<br>Mair Molteno (until May 2021),<br>John Sandison (until May 2021),<br>Will Stevens,<br>Jane Tyrrell (until May 2021),<br>Rebecca Warner (until Jan 2021),<br>Bridget Williams |

## Other Parish Appointments

|                                             |                                                           |
|---------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------|
| Honorary Assistant Priests                  | Ven David Gerrard, Revd Jonathan Andrews                  |
| Parish Administrator                        | Melanie Williams                                          |
| Director of Music                           | Stuart Whatton                                            |
| Organist Emeritus & Lead Musician, West End | Keith Howell-Jones                                        |
| Assistant Organist                          | Oliver Macfarlane                                         |
| Youth Worker                                | David Whymark (until Nov 2021)                            |
| Deputy Churchwardens                        | William Stevens,<br>Andrea Lindow (St George's, West End) |
| Parish Bookkeeper                           | Vacancy (covered by Martin Fuller)                        |
| Gift Aid Officer                            | Brian Elliott                                             |
| Safeguarding Officers                       | Polly Jordan, Alison Mohamed                              |
| Noah's Ark Coordinator                      | Vacancy                                                   |
| Pastoral Visitor Coordinator                | Wendy Tanqueray                                           |
| Fabric Chairperson                          | Hugh Miller                                               |
| Tower Bell Captain                          | Jennifer Meade                                            |
| Fellowship Group Leader                     | Jan Sayer                                                 |
| Book Group Leader                           | Revd Jonathan Andrew                                      |
| Friends Coordinators                        | Helen Coulson & Jane Tyrrell                              |
| Flower Coordinator                          | Carol Calvert                                             |
| Community & Business Outreach               | Michael Banks                                             |

## Rector's Report

William Temple – Archbishop of Canterbury from 1942 to 1944 – is reputed to have once said, 'The church is the only society that exists for the benefit of those who are not its members.' It's a statement which has always attracted me, pointing as it does to an inclusive and spacious understanding of the Anglican spiritual tradition. It's also, I think, a sentiment which could apply to so much of what is good and beautiful and life-giving here in the Parish of Esher.

Because, make no mistake, if one was to do a detailed accounting of it (perish the thought!) one would discover that a great portion of this parish's human and financial capacity is spent in the service of what Archbishop Temple would term 'non-members.' And rightly so!

Think, for example, of the hours given in devoted service to our two parish schools. Whether it's serving as Foundation Governors, taking regular Assemblies, speaking to classes, leading Christmas, Easter and other special services, or providing ongoing pastoral care and support, a great deal of time and effort is spent – rightly – supporting the staff and students of these two wonderful communities of learning. And that ministry is given regardless of what place of worship, if any, those teachers and students attend.

Or consider, for a moment, our very considerable ministry around funerals and bereavement. It was only recently – while discussing the large number of funerals during the pandemic with a nearby clergyman – that I came to realise that our ministry in this area is many multiples (in the conversation in question it was over 10 times!) that of broadly comparable parishes. Again, this vital ministry is offered to those in need without any request for 'membership cards' or interrogation as to churchgoing habits (again, perish the thought!)

I say all this not to clap ourselves on the back, but rather to (a) direct our attention to something we perhaps often overlook and (b) make the point that all this service is only possible through your generosity, your time and your commitment.

So, thank you for all that you continue to do to support this all-inclusive mission and ministry of the Parish of Esher. As this report shows, 2021 has been another unprecedented year, both in terms of the challenges we have faced but also in terms of how we have – together – risen to those challenges. We can, I believe, look to the future with renewed confidence. We can also – thanks to the work of our PCC, facilitated by the Revd Jonathan Andrew – look to the future with a Church Development Plan to focus our ambition.

That plan, agreed by the PCC in March 2022, outlines several key priorities: growing our work with young people through the recruitment of a Children and Families Worker; ensuring our two church buildings are 'fit for purpose' for community events and worship services; enhancing our music ministry through the establishment of organ and choral scholarships; strengthening our community service and involvement; and developing our parish communications capacity. Watch this space for further details on all of these plans as we move through 2022 and beyond.

For now, it just remains for me to commend this Annual Report to you, and to commend all of our shared endeavours to the One who 'by the power at work within us is able to accomplish abundantly far more than all we can ask or imagine, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations, for ever and ever. Amen.' (Ephesians 3.20-21).

The Revd Darren McCallig  
Rector of Esher

## **Churchwardens' Report**

Having started the year with tier 4 Covid-19 restrictions, resulting in a full lockdown in January we entered yet another phase where our worship was restricted and social gatherings not possible. Thanks to our streaming expertise we were able to reach our congregation and many others further afield, with streamed services and outreach to our schools, and much appreciate the invaluable technical assistance provided by Paul Puccioni.

As the year progressed, we were able to tentatively resume services, with protocols and restrictions in place to reassure those who wanted to return to in person worship at our churches. We were guided by our safeguarding experts in all the decisions we made and we are grateful for all their work in navigating the updated guidance during this period.

Thankfully we have enjoyed a measured return to worship and it is so heartening to see our churches beginning to flourish as everyone feels more comfortable with attending. This year we have also successfully returned to our outreach and fellowship programmes with Music on the Green, Fellowship Group, Book Group and the Friends Coffee Mornings. These have enabled everyone to keep in touch and support each other. The highlight was being able to host our open weekend in September where we welcomed many regular members and many visitors to Christ Church over two days to enjoy the opportunity to see visit Christ Church, listen to glorious music and experience our open bell tower. It was also an opportunity to welcome 'formally' Darren to the Parish, having never had the opportunity to do so since his installation in March 2020!

None of these things would have been possible without the guidance and direction of our Clergy and a great team of staff and volunteers who have all gone the extra mile during these times. We are particularly blessed with Darren, Jonathan and David, our Clergy and Melanie, Stuart, Keith and Oliver for all that they have done and continue to do to ensure the Parish rebuilds and flourishes. There is still so much more to do but we have a fabulous congregation and many willing volunteers and together we can achieve so much, supporting ourselves and those in the wider parish.

Thank you all,

Jane Tyrrell & Helen Coulson

## Finance Report

Although the church's total income in 2021 was greater than in 2020, this was largely because of an increase in appeal donations, legacies, and donations for other specified purposes, which benefit reserved funds and are not available to the General Fund which supports the day to day work of the church. Leaving those income elements aside, then, the income of £230,000 was £13,000 lower than in 2020. The General Fund recorded a deficit of about £18,000 over the year.

The church's principal fixed asset – the curate's house in Cranbrook Drive – was revalued with advice from the letting agents, Hamptons. Previously shown in the accounts for a number of years at £485,000, its value is now shown as £800,000. The house was let throughout the year, generating a useful income of £16,000. This money is held in a designated account, in recognition of the need to carry out substantial refurbishment and modernisation once the current letting ends.

The popular Music on the Green concerts, having resumed once Covid restrictions allowed, continue to be profitable, generating an income, which, net of concert costs, amounted to £1,000 during the year – quite an achievement, considering the time spent in lockdown.

Overall expenditure in 2021, at £221,000 was £12,000 lower than in 2020, but this was because in 2020 there was an exceptional payment of £35,800 invested by the Few's Cottage trustees in Church of England funds. In 2021 the repairs and maintenance costs for the church buildings, at nearly £20,000, were significantly higher than in 2020, as were heating costs, at nearly £4,000. The provision of audio-visual equipment to allow church services to be live-streamed online during lockdown cost some £4,000, but this cost was largely met by generous donations from church members.

The church's youth worker resigned after 10 months of the year, so his costs of £18,000 were commensurately lower than in 2020. All these costs were met by the Few's Cottage Fund.

Donations to charitable causes in 2021, at just under £10,000, were well up on 2020's figure of £6,500, reflecting both the generosity of parishioners and the increase in church activities and services as the effects of the pandemic reduced.

Looking ahead, the continuing shortfall in regular income remains a concern. This is offset by resources held in the reserved and designated funds, but given the anticipated demands on those funds for the replacement lighting project, capital works at St George's and, potentially, other works arising from the quinquennial report, it is likely that expenditure will have to be prioritised.

Martin Fuller

## **Safeguarding Report**

### Summary

Alison Mohamed and Polly Jordan were appointed as Parish Safeguarding Officers (PSOs) in March 2019 and remain in post.

Parish Safeguarding Policy was reviewed again by PCC and re-confirmed on 9<sup>th</sup> September 2021.

Promoting a Safer Church posters on display in both Churches.

Contact details for PSOs, Diocese Safeguarding Adviser and relevant helplines displayed in both Churches.

Dedicated Safeguarding email plus direct contact details for both PSOs easily accessible.

Safeguarding is a standing agenda item at every PCC meeting.

Safeguarding reports are submitted prior to every PCC meeting (i.e. 2 monthly).

Safeguarding tab clearly visible on Parish website so when clicked details are available of the PSOs and the Diocese Safeguarding advisers.

The PSOs have been working hard with PCC members and the Diocese to enable PCC members and other volunteers if indicated to complete their Safeguarding training. Compliance is increasing but there remains some outstanding training still to be completed.

### Outstanding

Safeguarding Action Plan to be drawn up and approved by the PCC.

Volunteer list to be updated (last done and confirmed by PCC on 22 January 2020).

Some PCC members, employed workers and other volunteers have outstanding Safeguarding Training to complete.

### Covid

As a Parish we responded very quickly to the imminent threat posed by SARS-CoV-2 (Covid-19) in early 2020. On 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2020 there was agreement to suspend physical sharing of The Peace and our Communion Policy was revised. We also issued guidance on handwashing and provided hand gels around the churches. This was in advance of any guidance from the Church of England.

We subsequently devised a Covid cleaning protocol with provision and guidance on the use of PPE for our volunteers.

Multiple Covid specific risk assessments have been completed since the start of the Pandemic. A working party consisting of our Rector, PSOs, Church Wardens and Director of Music continue to meet on a regular basis in order to review how the services and other Church activities are conducted in light of current infection risk, guidance and local factors. Our goal continues to be to strive to keep our Churches as safe as possible and keep the best interests of our more vulnerable members as our top priority.

## Postponed

Plan to hold a 'Safeguarding Sunday' with focus on Safeguarding within our Churches to raise awareness of the importance of safeguarding and the structures and support available within our churches. Jane Huttly, Diocese Safeguarding Adviser and Head of Policy and Training has kindly agreed to come and speak.

First Aid Training – plans to hold first aid training course for our volunteers postponed until face-to-face sessions can resume.

Plans to fund the purchase and installation of a defibrillator outside Christ Church, which would be available for use by our Church and also the wider community postponed.

## Conclusion

Overall, the PCC is making progress with regard to prioritising Safeguarding in our Churches and compliance with the duty to have 'due regard' to the House of Bishops' Safeguarding Policy and Practice Guidelines. However, there is further work to be done as outlined above.

Polly Jordan & Alison Mohamed

## **Fabric Report**

### Christ Church

Only the most essential maintenance and repair work was undertaken in the year since available funds were extremely limited.

The long outstanding repair and redecoration of the low-level rainwater guttering and downpipes to the Eastern end of the Church was completed and enabled by a £10,000 (inclusive of the 25% Gift Aid Tax Benefit) generous donation from a member of the congregation and which was given specifically for this work.

The Quinquennial Report has now been completed by Mr. Adam Hieke of Nye Sanders architects and we have enjoyed a more than satisfactory report.

The Five-Year Terrier Report, which has required extensive research and updating, is in its final throes of being updated.

Most regrettably the internal lighting of the Church continues to deteriorate as various units at high level fail. Mainly due to ageing – they are now more than thirty years old. Also, these are by their nature expensive to run. The lighting was recently described by a visitor as similar to that found in a railway shunting shed! As such the Church has commissioned a recognized lighting consultant (a Mr Chris Reading who is recognized by the Diocese and who has worked on a wide variety of churches and other major projects) to provide a design which will dramatically improve the overall lighting but will also provide a variety of 'mood' lighting for various events within the Church, not least the MOTG concerts. The cost estimate for the design that will achieve the minimum of what is desired is circa £80,000 plus vat. This also includes a substantial

re-wiring of the main body of the Church and the Vestry. All of which is also long overdue. To date and arising from specific donations or grants from wills circa £40,000 has been allocated by the Church to this project, but very clearly circa double this amount is still needed to be raised from within Church to allow this work to progress. Ideally the work for this badly needed Lighting and Wiring revamp should be undertaken this July/August when there is plenty of natural light and the holiday season means less activity within the Church during the week. As such the Church needs to launch immediately a specific appeal for this work.

The Fabric Committee now consists of just Hugh Miller, Olly Dickinson and more recently Ian Royce. At least one other member, if not two, would be most welcome so that the workload might be distributed more evenly – even by the smallest amount! As it is Ian Royce undertakes constantly minor works and repairs around the Church and his contribution is invaluable.

#### St George's, West End.

The Fabric Committee at St Georges now consists of just Andrea Lindow and Mair Molteno and they are constantly aware of and instructing minor works which maintain the Church to a good standard. Such minor works are funded by monies raised purely by St George's.

In May 2021 storm damage caused some branches of one of the large oaks to break, fall and cause minor damage to a car belonging to a neighbouring property. Subsequently a comprehensive arboricultural report was called for by Ecclesiastical Insurance and this in turn called for the lopping of certain major branches and in the case of one oak treatment for Oak Processionary Moth (which is to be done in April 2022).

With regard to the sloping of the floor at the Eastern end of the Church, and which has been an item of concern and various investigations for some time, a local structural engineer (Mr John Wyatt of Wyatt Caruthers Jebb Ltd) was identified by Hugh Miller. He kindly visited the Church free of charge, conducted an initial investigation and has offered, also free of charge, to conduct surveys of the floor levels at circa nine month intervals. His initial view is that the perimeter foundations are totally sound and show no sign whatsoever of settlement, but it is in fact the central spine wall and bearer beam that is rising and thus creating the impression of a slope towards the perimeter. The surveys going forward will provide a better indication of what is occurring.

The Church has also been fortunate to receive a large legacy and this together with other smaller donations has put the Church in a position where it will be able to pay for the comprehensive cleaning down and repainting of the external walls and the roof timbers - for which a price has been agreed with a recognized and respected decorating contractor. This work is planned for July/August of 2022. Simultaneous with this work it is intended that, subject to sufficient funds being raised, the interior of the Church will also be redecorated.

Hugh Miller

## **Electoral Roll Report**

Membership has been relatively static during 2021 most likely due to the ongoing social restrictions and disruption caused by the pandemic. A few parish people have sadly died with three being members of the Roll. However just recently a small number of new people have been added to the Roll. There have been some movements in and out of the Parish also.

The Roll now has 130 members from 105 households. Of these, 76 from 64 households are resident within the parish and 54 from 41 households are not resident within the parish.

Melanie Williams

## **Parochial Church Council (PCC) Report**

Seven PCC meetings were held in 2021, taking place in January (two, including one Extraordinary), March, May, July, September and November, all held via Zoom due to Covid considerations.

The Annual Parochial Church Meeting was held on Sunday 23 May. At that meeting, Helen Coulson and Jane Tyrrell were elected as churchwardens, Michael Banks was elected to the PCC, and Mair Molteno was elected to the Deanery Synod. Other changes to PCC membership occurred throughout the year. John Sandison completed his long term as PCC Secretary in May, and Peter Bedford took up this role in September. Keith Howell-Jones resigned in May, due to ill health, Rebecca Warner resigned from the Deanery Synod in May, Mair Molteno stepped down in May (and was then elected to the Deanery Synod), as did Jane Tyrrell (before her election as churchwarden). Jennifer Mead was elected to the PCC in November.

The major issues and items of business that arose during the year were as follows:

- Safeguarding measures due to Covid lockdown/restrictions, including when to resume live services, and the actions to be taken as restrictions eased.
- The further development and improvement of online streaming of services.
- Pastoral care and support to those affected by the pandemic.
- Communication and community engagement, including via Zoom (multiple events), Easter cards and Christmas cards, The Friends initiative and the Christ Church Welcome Weekend.
- Continuing financial pressures, the impact of the Parish Share, and the way forward on stewardship and fundraising.
- Fabric issues, such as internal lighting at Christ Church and the exterior of St George's.
- The Christ Church Garden of Remembrance.
- Environmental engagement via Eco Church.
- Support to charities, such as the East Elmbridge foodbank, the Christmas shoebox campaign, and a technology appeal for local school children.

Peter Bedford

## Deanery Synod Report

The Parish of Esher is part of Emly Deanery (a group of 13 parishes within the Diocese of Guildford) and the Deanery Synod met three times in 2021 – twice on Zoom and once in person.

The March 2021 meeting focused on the Church of England's 'Living in Love and Faith' project. Bishop Jo Bailey Wells gave a very helpful presentation on this initiative which aims to address questions such as: 'How do questions about identity, sexuality, relationships and marriage fit within the bigger picture of the good news of Jesus Christ?' and 'What does it mean to live in love and faith together as a Church?' It was announced that there would be a Deanery-wide 'Living in Love and Faith' course, and this was subsequently held in 2022.

Also, at the March meeting, we elected a new Lay Chair for Emly Deanery Synod. Brian Howells was elected unopposed. Brian, who has served local churches in various voluntary roles over the years, is also a member of Guildford Diocesan Synod and governor of a local primary school. One of his key aims as Lay Chair is to build relationships across parishes and enhance the sharing of good practice.

The June Deanery Synod meeting had Eco-church as its main theme. We were addressed by Alison Moulden, the Diocese Environmental Officer, who shared with us what is going on across the Diocese and across the country. Amongst other things, she emphasised the biblical injunction to care for the earth and address the challenge of climate change through local as well as national actions.

Members of Deanery Synod finally got to meet in person at the October meeting which was held at Saint Nicholas' Church, Thames Ditton. The focus of this meeting was the Church of England report 'From Lament to Action'. This document, written by the Archbishops' Anti-Racism Taskforce, proposes a raft of changes designed to bring about a change of culture in the life of the Church.

In a powerful and important address, the Rev. Folli Olokose, who is the Vicar of Saint Mary Oatlands and a member of the Diocesan Racial Justice Focus Group, spoke about some of his own personal experiences as well as those of others. It was a sobering reminder that the call to treat all God's children with dignity, equality and respect is very often more honoured in the breach than in the observance. Folli's talk can be viewed online: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oxqprRodvMg>

We are very grateful to our Area Dean, the Revd Andrew Cowie, and to our Lay Chair, Mr Brian Howells, for their faithful stewardship of the Deanery.

The Revd Darren McCallig  
Rector of Esher

## Children & Young People Report

The year was one of comings and goings as we experienced significant change in personnel, both here in the parish and in our two church schools.

Dave Whymark, who had served as Youth Worker in the parish and Chaplain in Esher High School moved to Qatar (finishing up with us at the end of October). We thank Dave for all his contributions over the past four years and wish him and his family well in their new life in Doha.

Also moving to pastures new in 2021 was the acting headteacher of Esher Church School, Caroline McLennan, who left for Goldsworth Primary School in Woking. At our July All Age service in Christ Church we made a presentation to Caroline and then, at our September All Age, we welcomed our new ECS Headteacher, Ben Foley. Mr. Foley has already made a very positive impact in the school and we thank him for all that he brings to his new role, as well as his strong desire to strengthen the links between school and parish.

Finally, in terms of comings and goings, Esher High School got a new Head of School in Andy King when Mike Boddington moved to a role in Enlighten Learning Trust. Again, Mr. King has been a strong supporter of church-school co-operation and we were delighted to make a presentation to him at the September All Age service.

Indeed, 2021 saw many joint initiatives between the parish and its schools. We worked together, very successfully, on the Link to Hope Christmas Shoebox appeal (local scouts were also involved) and we also (again with the scouts) put together a beautiful display of peace doves (crafted from paper plates) in the Christ Church entrance porches.

The more 'regular' ongoing interactions also continued in 2021 with the Rector and the Revd Jonathan Andrew providing weekly assemblies for Esher Church School (online during periods of 'lockdown' and in person at other times) and the Rector leading some classes and assemblies in the High School after Dave's departure. 2021 also saw the development of 'Prayer Ambassadors' at Esher Church School. This is a group of students who lead the intercessions at the monthly All Age services in Christ Church. Many have commented on how well they read the prayers and contribute to the worship.

Easter and Christmas schools' services, as well as school carol services and concerts, also took place in person last year – a particular highlight being the 1000 or so High School students who attended Christ Church in December for their Christmas service. The Rector will long remember doing back-to-back services for the 200-strong year-groups!

As can be readily imagined, all of this ministry with our two church schools stretches our capacity in very demanding ways (most especially after our Youth Worker's departure). Nevertheless, it also gives us enormous opportunities for engagement and service.

Capacity was also stretched as we, finally, restarted our Sunday school provision in Christ Church in November. Numbers attending are small but it is wonderful to see some of our very youngest children attending and so evidently enjoying the various craft and other activities. As usual, there was great excitement around the Christingle service near the beginning of Advent and the Crib service on Christmas Eve. Many thanks to all who make these special occasions possible.

Finally, we continue to pray for the process of recruiting a new Children and Families Worker. This is a crucial step in making this important work sustainable for the future and in reducing the pressure on those who are 'keeping the show on the road' at the moment.

The Revd Darren McCallig  
Rector of Esher

## **Parish Youth Worker & Esher High School Chaplain Report**

Dave Whymark's final report, dated November 2021, is included as it gives an overview of his experiences and reflection on his work over the past four years.

### Parish Youth Work

Looking back over the last 4 years the youth work aspect of the role has certainly been the most challenging. I swiftly discovered how busy Sundays were for the youth of the Parish in terms of sports and other activities. Unlike other churches I'd worked with there would be hardly if any youth out on a Sunday morning for worship. In fact even the volunteers who were running the youth were rarely seen at Christ Church for worship. Another difficulty was the fact that most of our youth attended schools out of the Parish some quite far away. This made it harder for them to invite friends which is the way most youth groups grow in the first place. We then of course faced an interregnum where a number of young families left followed by the pandemic and the lockdowns that followed. Although youth continued online via Zoom we did experience, as did many churches in the pandemic, a sharp drop off in numbers. This was particularly frustrating as the second group that I had set up for children in school years 3-6 was growing steadily the plan then being that they would all then move up to the older group together. Unfortunately by the time we were able to start up in person youth work I no longer had any volunteers available to run this younger club.

However the role is taken forward, whether with another youth worker or a children's and family worker, the challenge will be building a core group of regulars who are also out on a Sunday morning. If you want to attract younger families to the church you may want to look something similar to a Messy Church service in addition to the Eucharist service on a Sunday. It may be worthwhile visiting other churches, not to copy, but to see if there are aspects that could be successfully imported into the Esher context.

### Chaplaincy at Esher High School

It has been a real joy having the opportunity to share with a school of over 1000 pupils something of the significance of faith and the good news of Jesus. Being able to lead assemblies as Chaplain made a real difference to the Christian distinctiveness of the school and teaching RE lessons gave opportunity for students to ask questions. One particular highlight was the running of a prayer space in 2019. Despite most pupils not claiming faith for themselves they engaged with it really well and it was such a shame that it had to be cancelled the following year because of COVID. Another important aspect of my role was recognising that a large number of pupils come from other

Parishes and therefore it was important to get other local youth workers involved in the school. These youth workers will continue to run the weekly lunch club and will also have involvement in assemblies going forward. However the fact that the majority of students do not come from Esher Parish does raise the question: if there is going to be a replacement Chaplain would it be better for that Chaplain to come from a Parish with a higher proportion of students who attend?

David Whymark

### **Pastoral Visiting Team Report**

Pastoral Support Team Report:- Although many of the Covid restrictions are slowly being lifted, many Care and Nursing Homes in the area have been in lock-down for weeks on end and sometimes the residents are not made aware that this is happening and that they cannot receive visitors. However, things have improved recently, although visitors still have to take a lateral flow test before all visits but, usually, we do not have to book an appointment. For those who are elderly, do not drive or have no relatives living near them, life can be very lonely and isolating and a simple phone call can, and does, make a huge difference. Mair Molteno's monthly teas are still on hold and we look forward to starting them again as soon as practicable. These are very successful and are held in volunteers' houses and lifts are arranged for all guests. Mair has organised these since her University days. There are many services available to aid those who are vulnerable, require help in independent living, or physical or mental support. Our small team are here to help, and I thank them very much for their input. I trust that now life is more or less back to normal we will be able to give even more support. Please contact me by telephone initially (01372 464483) or e-mail (wendytanqueray@gmail.com ) and then I will see what the needs are, and start the ball rolling.

Wendy Tanqueray

### **Fellowship Group Report**

In January 2010 our first Fellowship Meeting took place, so over the years we have seen many friends come and go, yet still there are a core of faithful followers who religiously, pardon the pun, join us in the Lady Chapel for what has become a monthly gathering. It is always a joy to welcome new members, and indeed we have been joined by two recently, so encourage anyone wishing to find a friendly group who aim to put the world to rights, we are just what you are looking for!

In essence we are a miscellany of worship, bible study, prayer, discussion, debate, community news - and more. With the help of Zoom, we were able to continue our meetings throughout the pandemic, so although some of us are not fans of modern technology, we were able to take full advantage of it. It was a real pleasure to have Darren join us for those sessions.

We now meet on the first Wednesday of each month at 11am. Why not give us a try?

Jan Sayer

## **Friends of Christ Church & St George's Report**

This initiative was launched in September, 2021 at our Church Welcome Weekend. A leaflet was produced giving a little background information and history about our two beautiful churches, and summarising the aims and benefits of becoming a Friend. It also included information that is surprising to many, that no central funding is available to help parishes maintain churches across the land. Church buildings are maintained by parishioners making voluntary donations, and the Parish of Esher is no exception.

The aim of the Friends is to promote our churches so they grow and become focal points of the local community. Ultimately, we aim to make our church buildings and facilities available for a range of activities and events to encourage closer community cohesion and cooperation.

To become a Friend, people commit to a regular payment, which is put towards the maintenance and preservation of our Church buildings. In return, Friends have access to benefits such as our now regular coffee mornings, access to tickets for concerts and any other forthcoming events. These benefits are also open to those who already give regularly to the Parish through Stewardship.

The above-mentioned coffee mornings have been running every two weeks for several months now, alternating between Christ Church and St George's, West End. It is a pleasure to welcome regular attendees together with new faces at these social events. They give us an opportunity to bring together people from both congregations, and to reach those who may not yet know us. They give space and time to talk, which is so important for all of us. This was particularly in evidence when we were able to open up more following periods of lockdown. We would like to encourage more from our wider community to come along and join us, and of course those we know who have not yet sampled our delicious home baking and the company of others.

In the future, we plan to introduce further Friends events, and we would also like to work with local businesses to enhance our capabilities and help us reach out to our broader neighbourhood in the achievement of our aims. This process has already started with links being made with the Esher Chamber of Commerce and Sandown. The process of building this into the Friends initiative is yet to be explored.

Jane Tyrrell & Helen Coulson

## **Community & Business Outreach Report**

### Community

It is understood that a number of potential clients for the East Elmbridge Foodbank living in the Lower Green area are unable to access the foodbank, which is situated in West Molesey. As these people are in our Parish we are approaching the Trussell Trust to see if it possible to set up Christ Church as a distribution point for the Esher parish. This will entail volunteers collecting food from West Molesey as we do not have the facilities to set up a full foodbank operation. At the time of writing it is not possible to predict demand and we shall have to proceed accordingly. It is expected that there will be a slow start, which will build as awareness increases and increases again as the economic situation deteriorates. A watching brief will be kept.

## Business

Good relations have been established with the newly formed Esher Chamber of Commerce. We are able to involve the church with their activities as appropriate, especially at Christmas. Their regular monthly meetings provide the opportunity to keep Esher business updated on our events. Once the new church lighting is complete and the back of the church re-vamped it will be possible to expand on this. As a result of this new connection Sandown offered to build a new shed close to their Lower Green entrance to help foodbank clients. This has been put on hold until the new foodbank arrangement at Christ church has been assessed.

Michael Banks

## **InSpire Report**

It is some years since the InSpire team were invited to submit a report to the APCM but having just completed the 25th issue of the Parish Newsletter it seems an appropriate time to do so again.

Looking back over 2021, during the Covid lockdowns and isolations, InSpire provided the Parish with a vehicle to get the message out that, despite all restrictions, our clergy continued to be active and that the community was still being served by our amazing volunteers. We were able to learn about Darren and his journey to becoming our Rector when it was impossible for the majority of his parishioners to meet him.

The editorial team is Bridget Williams, Jane Tyrrell and Juliet Philip, who has the task of putting InSpire together and distributing it. A free layout and distribution programme called MailChimp is used to do this, set up by Stefan. After a few teething troubles the system is now working well, we believe. There are 139 on the mailing list and we get an average 65% open rate on our distributions – which is considered a good number. We would, however, like to have more on the list and a greater participation from certain sections of our community.

The big question is how to move forward. Many people miss the printed version and would like to have something to hold and read. A hard copy also provides something to hand out to visitors. However, it is an expensive and potentially time-consuming process in comparison to the current one – which costs nothing but the blood, sweat and tears of the editor! It would also cut down on the number of articles and images that can be used in each issue. Ways to achieve this are currently being looked at including sponsorship of the printing costs, selling advertising, etc. All suggestions gratefully received.

Juliet Philip

## **Book Group Report**

Our parish Book Group is now well into its second year and is flourishing. When we first formed back in the autumn of 2020 we were seriously constrained by coronavirus regulations, but our meetings managed to get going on Zoom, and we started to get to know one another and share the sort of books we enjoyed. For the last few months, however, we have been able to meet in church and our membership and attendance has increased dramatically.

We are a wonderfully mixed group with some who make a great effort to come along every time, some whose busy lives often get in the way but come along when they can, some who voraciously devour whatever book is chosen, and some who often fail to complete their reading on time, but know they will be welcome in any event. We have got at least two published authors, but they do not make the rest of us feel inadequate! No one hogs the limelight, and everyone has an opportunity to speak, or just to listen if they feel more comfortable that way.

We have read an enormously wide range of material, mostly novels, but also biographies (political and sporting), history (modern and late medieval) and even a bit of theology. At first we chose our books by vote, but more recently we have benefitted from members who expressed great enthusiasm for something they had read and wanted to share with the rest of us.

People have often said to me how much they appreciate the group for the way it encourages us to read outside our normal 'comfort zone' and to learn about and appreciate new things.

We always publicise our gatherings in the weekly pewsheets so, if you might be interested, do give it a try!

Jonathan Andrew

## **Music Report**

### Liturgical Music

2021 proved another a challenging year, with further coronavirus lockdowns and shifting parameters in what Government and church guidelines allowed or forbade us to do musically, in terms of singing and collective gathering. Plans for choir tours, whether to Cambridge or Paris, were further postponed.

The All-Age services on the first Sunday of each month have continued to offer us a chance to experiment a little bit more than in our standard Parish Eucharists. The post-sermon slot each Sunday, which during lockdown we began to use for some reflective piano music, has proved immensely popular and we have decided to keep it as a feature of our main services for the foreseeable future.

From the start of the year through to Holy Week, the choir was not allowed to function collectively, so we relied on a series of individual choir volunteers to act as solo Cantors for our services.

From Easter to the end of July, we were permitted to expand to a bijou choir of up to half a dozen singers, and from September onwards we were finally able to function as a full choir again, though not all our original members were willing or able to resume active duty immediately, and as with most other aspects of life, it will doubtless take a while to return to full pre-pandemic normality, if indeed we ever do. It was, however, a joy finally to be able to get congregational singing up and running again.

In the summer we said goodbye to Martin Kerrison as his new married life took him up to Yorkshire, while late on in the year we were pleased to welcome Charlotte Serajian-Esfahan and Lynn Coward to our soprano ranks. The Lord also miraculously provided us with two putative parish organ scholars, George Ashley and Rowan Marshall – more about them in next year's report!

Once again I take this opportunity to thank Keith Howell-Jones for shouldering the main burden of accompanying the services at West End; to Oliver Macfarlane for his organ playing week-in week-out at Christ Church, including treating us to a magnificent range of repertoire in his organ voluntaries; to Diana Johns for her pianistic contributions; and to all our choir members for their faithfulness and perseverance through the lingering tail of the pandemic.

#### Music on the Green

Music in the Tower sadly had to be shelved yet again this year for coronavirus reasons, though we hope to get it back on the road in 2022.

Nonetheless we did belatedly manage to get our Beethoven 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebrations underway with a memorable piano extravaganza in October, during which we heard three Beethoven Symphonies (nos. 1, 5 & 9) in swift succession, in the historic piano duet transcriptions by Scharwenka.

The Wednesday lunchtime series kept going in virtual form between January and April, with (respectively) a guitar recital, a piano recital, and violin/cello and cello/guitar duos. In May we were finally able to welcome back a live audience, and the spring/summer season saw us host the Fibonacci String Quartet, the Laefer Saxophone Quartet and a harp soloist. Further steps towards normality were taken in the autumn, when we were allowed to resume a modified catering operation with pre-plated lunches, and the musical fare included two duo acts (viola & accordion and violin & piano) as well as a particularly delightful visit from the Mera Horn Trio.

As ever, I owe a huge debt of gratitude to my fellow MOTG Committee members: Melanie Williams in the parish office, Michael Banks for his work on auxiliary lighting and general PR, Debbie Banks for getting the catering show back on the road from the autumn, and Jan Sayer for her general assistance. Thanks are also due to our rector Darren for his continued enthusiastic support of our parish's musical outreach efforts.

Stuart Whatton

## **Bellringers' Report**

It was lovely to start ringing again on Palm Sunday, 28 March 2021 - with only four bells as we had to be two metres apart, masks on etc and windows open, but despite the cold and draughtiness we were ringing again!! All the remaining ringers took turns to toll a bell for an hour before Prince Philip, the Duke of Edinburgh's funeral at the Chapel Royal, Windsor Castle on Saturday 17 April 2021 at 3.00pm.

Our numbers had dropped dramatically with the increasing age of the band and the difficulties of recruiting and training during the pandemic, and a recruiting drive was planned to take place during the rescheduled May Fair in September. However, this was cancelled by the organisers, and Christ Church held a Parish Open Weekend on 10 and 11 September (much to our benefit!). We did demonstrations, gave talks, and managed to interest six new recruits to join us. It has been a great challenge to give them the skills of bell handling whilst conforming to all the Covid restrictions such as distancing and mask wearing, but they have persevered despite the trials of learning the most difficult bit (tying the 'u' knot at the end of the rope!). We had hoped they would be able to join the team for Christmas ringing but this was not to be.

Despite our low numbers and the Covid restrictions, we were delighted to ring for a few weddings, toll the bell for some funerals, and to ring for Remembrance Sunday on 14 November, and for most of the Christmas Services. We are looking forward to the newcomers joining us in time for Easter next year.

Jennifer Meade

## **St George's West End Report**

I do not think that any of us envisaged beginning yet another year with Church lockdowns due to COVID - but sadly this was the case. However, thanks to the dedication of Darren and many others our worship was able to continue via live streaming from Christ Church. One unexpected bonus of the church closures was the ability of members of the St George's congregation to contribute to these Services - something we cannot usually do being fully committed on West End rotas.

Sadly our Easter Services were cancelled again this year, but we created an Easter Garden outside St George's for the benefit of those passing by the Church. We also produced a larger Easter Garden for Christ Church in the hollow created by the removal of the cedar tree - and as it was well received, we will think this will become an annual event! Even during the months when the Church was closed, and continually throughout the year, our small dedicated gardening team continued to work in all weathers. New beds have been created and a variety of shrubs, flowers and sweet smelling herbs have been planted.

When we finally reopened in July, we still had to limit numbers at our Services to a maximum of twenty people, adequately spaced. This yet again involved a great deal of juggling numbers, numerous emails and phone calls and booking people into designated, named seats. But it was wonderful to be back worshipping in person again in St George's.

Sadly the West End Village Show was cancelled again - an event we all look forward to. We greatly miss opening our Church and welcoming friends old and new, who come to buy our bread and cakes, support the raffle and admire our tiny church. This event is our major annual fundraiser and the loss of this revenue for two years running is a burden on our finances.

The annual Pet Service was unable to be held in West End due to COVID rules restricting the number of people and pets who could safely be accommodated in St George's. However, Darren kindly transferred the Service to Christ Church and it was very well attended and greatly enjoyed by both the pets and owners.

October saw the launch of the Friends Coffee Mornings, with the first one taking place in St George's on the 13th. This is a wonderful opportunity to welcome newcomers and catch up with members of both congregations. These 'get togethers' will take place on the second Wednesday of the month when we look forward to seeing new faces.

Thanks to the talent and kindness of Alice Coulson, a delightful Christmas Card was designed to be sold in aid of the maintenance of St George's. Helen provided huge assistance in arranging the printing and four of us frantically packed 6000 cards in packs of ten, in order to sell them before the Christmas rush. Unsurprisingly, the cards were very much admired and extremely popular.

Although we were unable to have our usual Christmas Eve Crib Service we were able to hold our Christmas Day Eucharist. Darren, as always, gave an uplifting Sermon and the Service was well attended and greatly enjoyed. The Church was beautifully decorated as usual - the simplicity of the building enhanced by floral arrangements, greenery, a Christmas tree and lights, an advent wreath and candles - a truly optimistic end to an anxious year.

Andrea Lindow  
Deputy Churchwarden

On behalf of the PCC



Jane Tyrrell  
Churchwarden



Helen Coulson  
Churchwarden



Peter Bedford  
Hon Secretary

## **Minutes of the Annual Parochial Church Meeting held in Christ Church, Esher and on Zoom on Sunday 23 May 2021.**

### **1 Opening Prayers**

The meeting was opened by the Rector with opening prayers and a welcome.

### **2 Apologies for absence**

Jane Tyrell, and David & Jenny Gerrard

## **Annual Meeting of Parishioners**

### **3 Election of Churchwardens**

Two nominations were received – Helen Coulson proposed by Janie McCulloch and seconded by Martin Kenyon and Jane Tyrrell proposed by Helen Coulson and seconded by Carol Henderson. These were both duly elected.

## **Annual Parochial Meeting**

### **4 Minutes from last year's meeting**

The minutes of the meeting held in October 2020 were approved by the meeting proposed by Helen Coulson and seconded by Carol Henderson.

### **5 Matters arising from the minutes**

There were no matters arising.

### **6 Parish Annual Report**

The Rector, Darren McCallig started by giving his own report and he paid tribute to all those hard working people in the parish who had done so much for the church. He mentioned in particular:

- The two churchwardens Helen Coulson and Sandra Argent.
- Other members of the PCC.
- John Sandison as parish secretary
- Martin Fuller as parish treasurer.
- The honorary assistant priests: Jonathan Andrew and David Gerrard
- Melanie Williams as parish administrator; he described how hard she had worked which had been made more difficult by her having to work from home. Also the lockdown and frequent change of rules meant that she had to change and re-change services and arrangements over and over again.
- Director of music, Stuart Whatton. He said that we are so fortunate to have such a talented person who created such amazing music.
- Keith Howell-Jones: he mentioned particularly that Keith had recorded all the music of the services until July on his phone which Darren then subsequently merged into the sound only services that was all we could run at that time.

- The musicians and organists: Stuart Whatton, Keith Howell-Jones, Diana Johns, and Oliver McFarlane.
- Our youth worker, Dave Whymark: he did so much behind the scenes both in organising youth groups and at the church schools. Dave's wife is going to Doha where she is taking up the position of head of a primary school college and Dave will leave shortly afterwards.
- The deputy churchwardens: Andrea Lindow and Will Stevens.
- The amazing crew at St George's West End: their task was particularly difficult as they had to organise the seating for their services. He mentioned Peter Bedford, Claire Craigmile, Mair Molteno and all the others there.
- He stated that last Sunday we welcomed back the Norwegian community at St George's West End for the first time since this lockdown began.
- Brian Elliott as gift aid officer. He has subsequently stepped down and a new person will be taking his place.
- Covid 19 risk assessments. Polly Jordan and Alison Mohamed. He spoke movingly about the amazing work that these two had done in carrying out risk assessments which were constantly changing because of changing regulations. They had to deal with such items as the choir, Music on the Green, services and the Eucharist to take some examples. This was made more difficult as there were often three or four different sets of advice from the government, the Church of England, and church music organisations. Not only did they do that but they also worked on safeguarding. The audience clapped in appreciation.
- Alison Mohamed who looked after Noah's Ark until it was stopped by the lockdown when she stepped down and he thanked her very much. He commented that both Dave Whymark and Darren McCallig would like to get Noah's Ark going again for the last term of the year.
- The pastoral team: Wendy Tanqueray. Although for much of the time they could not visit people they sent letters which were very much appreciated.
- The occasional preachers: Dave Whymark, Becky Warner, Fiona Owen and John Sandison.
- The fabric chairperson: Hugh Miller who worked primarily on his own on many different maintenance issues.
- The bell captain, Jennifer Meade and the tower team who had a very restricted year because of the lockdowns.
- The flower team: Carol Calvert and her team.
- He also thanked Paul Puccioni, who like an angel dropped down from heaven to set up online streaming of services and other events for us.

A presentation was then made to John Sandison who is stepping down as parish secretary after many years of service as churchwarden and secretary. John replied and thanked everybody.

A presentation was made to Sandra Argent of flowers as she is stepping down, having served the maximum of six years as churchwarden. Darren praised her and Polly Jordan gave a moving address about Sandra which included quotations from people who had worked closely with her. All felt Sandra had done a wonderful job in helpfulness, friendship, love and humility and managed to do this whilst juggling her job and parenthood. She'd had a particularly difficult time as churchwarden with the departure of one rector, the arrival of another and the death of her beloved co-churchwarden Beverley. She then had to deal with the implications of Covid. Dave Whymark had quoted that Sandra had been one of the first people to welcome him. She emanated faithfulness serving God, was kind and thoughtful, and he'd miss Sandra as a friend. She showed amazing care and support of Beverley.

Finally, Helen Coulson said that once the restrictions are off there will be a proper celebration of the leaving of Sandra Argent and others from their roles.

Darren asked if there were any questions arising from the annual report other than about the financial statements. There were no questions

## **7 Presentation of the Financial Statements**

Martin Fuller gave a brief summary of the financial position in 2020. He said that last year income exceeded expenditure because we reined back our expenditure and there were a number of generous bequests. We also obtained a reduction in parish share. However, he said that apart from the bequests, our income is not enough to meet our expenditure, and that for 2021 to date there is a £15,000 shortfall on general expenditure. The accounts had been audited by Gordon Manickam and the PCC had already voted for them to be accepted. However, the meeting was also asked to accept them and this was agreed, proposed by Martin Fuller and seconded by Will Stevens. Grateful thanks were sent to Gordon Manickam, particularly as he worked pro bono.

## **8 Election of PCC and Synod members**

There are five vacancies on the PCC. There was one nomination for a PCC member, being Michael Banks. He was elected, proposed by Helen Coulson and seconded by Stuart Whatton.

Deanery Synod. Becky Warner had stepped down and there was therefore a vacancy. Mair Molteno had been nominated, proposed by Andrea Lindow and seconded by Bridget Williams.

## **9 Any other business**

Sandra Argent and Helen Coulson our churchwardens wanted to thank Darren McCallig for all the work he'd done since joining us in March 2020. However, because of the lockdown, which started the day he joined, we have not been able to have a proper celebration for his joining us, and it is intended to do this as soon as government regulations allow. Helen said that we'd been really blessed that he has worked so tirelessly and Bridget Williams said that she is really proud to have such a person as Rector.

## **10 Opening Prayers**

The meeting was closed with closing prayers by the Rector.

John Sandison

## Independent Examiner's Report

To the Parochial Church Council of Esher

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I report on the accounts for the year ended 31 December 2021 as set out on the following pages.

### Respective responsibilities of the Trustees and Independent Examiner

As the members of the PCC you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts; you consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act) and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to:

- Examine the accounts under section 145 of the 2011 Act;
- Follow the procedures laid down in the General Directions given by the Charity Commissioners section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act; and
- State whether particular matters have come to my attention.

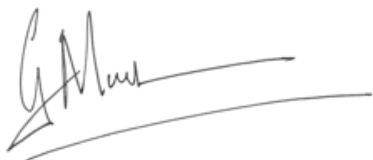
### Basis of Independent Examiner's Statement

My examination was carried out in accordance with the General Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from the management committee concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in a full audit, and consequently I do not express an audit opinion on the accounts.

### Independent Examiner's Statement

In connection with my examination, no matters have come to my attention:

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



Gordon Manickam CIA FCCIA  
84 Greenways  
Hinchley Wood  
KT10 0QJ

20 May 2022

## Esher PCC Statement of Financial Activities for the year ended 2021

### Income and Expenditure for the year ended 2021

#### Incoming Resources

| £s                                             | Unrestricted   | Designated    | Restricted    | 2021           | 2020           |
|------------------------------------------------|----------------|---------------|---------------|----------------|----------------|
| <i>Incoming resources from generated funds</i> |                |               |               |                |                |
| Regular giving                                 | 93,551         | -             | -             | 93,551         | 101,988        |
| Gift Aid                                       | 31,560         | -             | 700           | 32,260         | 29,105         |
| Church collections                             | 15,380         | 1,037         | -             | 16,418         | 11,486         |
| Donations & bequests                           | 25,080         | 5,000         | -             | 30,080         | 48,345         |
| Sales of donated investments                   | 5,385          | -             | -             | 5,385          | 5,180          |
| Sundry receipts                                | 1,270          | 5,660         | -             | 6,930          | 7,671          |
| Church fundraising events                      | -              | -             | -             | -              | 15             |
| Card & notelet sales                           | 541            | 1,045         | -             | 1,586          | 93             |
| Church fees                                    | 4,418          | -             | -             | 4,418          | 3,382          |
| Music on the Green                             | -              | 3,403         | -             | 3,403          | 992            |
| Investment income (dividends)                  | 337            | -             | 19,961        | 20,298         | 20,021         |
| Rental income                                  | -              | 16,483        | -             | 16,483         | 15,660         |
| Totals                                         | 177,525        | 32,630        | 20,661        | 230,816        | 243,942        |
| <i>Other incoming resources</i>                |                |               |               |                |                |
| Appeal donations                               | -              | -             | 13,030        | 13,030         | 3,405          |
| Legacies                                       | -              | 25,000        | -             | 25,000         | -              |
| Totals                                         | -              | 25,000        | 13,030        | 38,030         | 3,405          |
| <b>Grand Totals</b>                            | <b>177,525</b> | <b>57,630</b> | <b>33,691</b> | <b>268,847</b> | <b>247,347</b> |

## Resources Used

| £s                               | Unrestricted | Designated | Restricted | 2021    | 2020   |
|----------------------------------|--------------|------------|------------|---------|--------|
| <i>Cost of generating funds</i>  |              |            |            |         |        |
| Music on the Green               | -            | 2,447      | -          | 2,447   | 1,021  |
| Cards & notelets                 | 455          | 1,642      | -          | 2,097   | -      |
| Fundraising events               | 1,448        | -          | -          | 1,448   | -      |
| Traidcraft purchases             | 65           | -          | -          | 65      | -      |
| Totals                           | 1,969        | 4,090      | -          | 6,059   | 1,021  |
| <i>Cost of church activities</i> |              |            |            |         |        |
| Grants & appeal payments         | 320          | -          | 9,558      | 9,878   | 6,585  |
| Parish share                     | 102,968      | -          | -          | 102,968 | 91,439 |
| Clergy telephone                 | 619          | -          | -          | 619     | 1,002  |
| Clergy other expenses            | 105          | -          | -          | 105     | 432    |
| Rectory gas/electricity          | 821          | -          | -          | 821     | 1,827  |
| Rectory running costs            | 951          | -          | -          | 951     | 1,033  |
| Repairs & maintenance            | 18,161       | 1,495      | 287        | 19,945  | 13,701 |
| Cleaning                         | 2,509        | -          | -          | 2,509   | 2,120  |
| Electricity - Christ Church      | 1,909        | -          | -          | 1,909   | 2,957  |
| Electricity - St George's        | 406          | -          | -          | 406     | 456    |
| Gas - Christ Church              | 3,966        | -          | -          | 3,966   | 2,545  |
| Water rates - Christ Church      | 77           | -          | -          | 77      | 281    |
| Water rates - St George's        | 45           | -          | -          | 45      | 51     |
| Insurance - Christ Church        | 3,646        | 682        | -          | 4,329   | 4,320  |
| Insurance - St George's          | 449          | -          | -          | 449     | 442    |
| Sundry expenses/petty cash       | 590          | -          | 63         | 653     | 1,037  |
| Communion table                  | 338          | -          | -          | 338     | -      |
| Flowers                          | 400          | -          | -          | 400     | 400    |
| Organists' fees                  | 8,645        | -          | -          | 8,645   | 8,400  |
| Organ/piano maintenance          | 2,133        | -          | -          | 2,133   | 1,374  |
| Choir expenses & music           | 160          | -          | -          | 160     | 117    |
| Youth worker                     | -            | 17,668     | -          | 17,668  | 20,600 |

### Resources Used (continued)

| £s                                           | Unrestricted   | Designated    | Restricted    | 2021           | 2020           |
|----------------------------------------------|----------------|---------------|---------------|----------------|----------------|
| <i>Cost of church activities (continued)</i> |                |               |               |                |                |
| Office salaries/taxes                        | 18,007         | -             | -             | 18,007         | 18,901         |
| Printing & stationery                        | 1,149          | -             | -             | 1,149          | 1,780          |
| Office telecoms/internet                     | 2,168          | -             | 3,641         | 5,810          | 572            |
| Photocopier costs                            | 803            | -             | -             | 803            | 336            |
| Depreciation                                 | 4,714          | 166           | 4,271         | 9,152          | 12,203         |
| Bank charges                                 | 569            | -             | -             | 569            | 545            |
| Office sundry costs                          | 669            | -             | -             | 669            | 662            |
| Fews Cottage Trust Investment                | -              | -             | -             | -              | 35,800         |
| Totals                                       | 177,307        | 20,014        | 17,822        | 215,143        | 231,927        |
| <b>Grand Totals</b>                          | <b>179,276</b> | <b>24,104</b> | <b>17,822</b> | <b>221,203</b> | <b>232,948</b> |

### **Balance sheet as at 31 December 2021**

| £s                                          | Unrestricted | Designated | Restricted | 2021      | 2020    |
|---------------------------------------------|--------------|------------|------------|-----------|---------|
| <i>Fixed assets</i>                         |              |            |            |           |         |
| Tangible assets                             |              |            |            | 827,458   | 521,610 |
| Investments                                 |              |            |            | 1,195     | 1,140   |
| Fixed assets                                |              |            |            | 828,654   | 522,751 |
| <i>Current assets</i>                       |              |            |            |           |         |
| Debtors                                     |              |            |            | 12,515    | 8,643   |
| Cash at bank & in hand                      |              |            |            | 195,944   | 142,171 |
| Current assets                              |              |            |            | 208,459   | 150,815 |
| <i>Liabilities</i>                          |              |            |            |           |         |
| Creditors (amounts falling due in one year) |              |            |            | 3,209     | 2,363   |
| Net current assets less current liabilities |              |            |            | 205,250   | 148,452 |
| Total assets less current liabilities       |              |            |            | 1,033,904 | 671,203 |
| Total net assets less liabilities           |              |            |            | 1,033,904 | 671,203 |

## Tangible Fixed Assets

| £s                            | Property       | Equipment     | Total          |
|-------------------------------|----------------|---------------|----------------|
| Balance at 1 Jan 2021         | 485,000        | 136,009       | 621,008        |
| Add increase in value         | 315,000        |               |                |
| Less accumulated depreciation |                | (99,398)      | -              |
| Less depreciation in 2021     | -              | (9,153)       | -              |
| <b>Balance at 31 Dec 2021</b> | <b>800,000</b> | <b>27,459</b> | <b>827,459</b> |

## Balance Sheet Totals by Funds

| £s                         | Unrestricted   | Designated     | Restricted    | 2021             | 2020           |
|----------------------------|----------------|----------------|---------------|------------------|----------------|
| <i>Unrestricted</i>        |                |                |               |                  |                |
| General Fund               | 795,847        | -              | -             | 795,847          | 487,235        |
| <i>Designated</i>          |                |                |               |                  |                |
| Music on the Green         | -              | 9,946          | -             | 9,946            | 8,826          |
| West End                   | -              | 16,793         | -             | 16,793           | 17,717         |
| Cranbrook Drive            | -              | 85,203         | -             | 85,203           | 69,715         |
| Bell Fund                  | -              | 161            | -             | 161              | 161            |
| Legacies Fund              | -              | 73,639         | -             | 73,639           | 43,639         |
| Youth Worker               | -              | -              | -             | -                | -              |
| <i>Restricted</i>          |                |                |               |                  |                |
| Advent Appeal              | -              | -              | (523)         | (523)            | (1,195)        |
| Agency Collection          | -              | -              | -             | -                | -              |
| Property Fund              | -              | -              | 5,305         | 5,305            | 5,216          |
| Fews Cottage               | -              | -              | 13,074        | 13,074           | 10,967         |
| Spire Fund                 | -              | -              | 8             | 8                | 7              |
| Other Appeals              | -              | -              | 10,159        | 10,159           | 1              |
| Boiler Renovation Fund     | -              | -              | 12,815        | 12,815           | 17,086         |
| Children/Youth Fund        | -              | -              | 5,514         | 5,514            | 5,577          |
| GofR Maintenance           | -              | -              | 5,958         | 5,958            | 6,245          |
| <b>Funds of the Parish</b> | <b>795,847</b> | <b>185,744</b> | <b>52,312</b> | <b>1,033,904</b> | <b>671,203</b> |

## Grants for charitable purposes

| £s                                                 | Total        |
|----------------------------------------------------|--------------|
| Lent Appeal 2021 (Laptops for schools)             | 5,740        |
| Christian Aid                                      | 337          |
| Macmillan Coffee Morning                           | 403          |
| Kathryn's Mercy Home, India (Sponsorship of child) | 180          |
| Harvest collection (East Elmbridge Foodbank)       | 175          |
| Royal British Legion                               | 559          |
| Children's Society (Christingle)                   | 402          |
| Advent Appeal 2021 (Lower Green Community Centre)  | 1,987        |
| <b>Total</b>                                       | <b>9,783</b> |

## Notes to the accounts for the year ended 31 December 2021

### Accounting policies

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Charities Act 2011, the Church Accounting Regulations 2006 and Accounting and Reporting Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with Financial Reporting Standard 102 (FRS 102). The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention except for the valuation of property and investment assets, which are shown at market value. The charity constitutes a public benefit entity as defined by FRS 102.

### Funds

General funds represent the funds of the PCC that are not subject to any restrictions regarding their use and are available for application to the general purposes of the PCC. Funds designated for a particular purpose by the PCC are also unrestricted. The accounts include all transactions, assets and liabilities for which the PCC is responsible in law. They do not include the accounts of separately designated charities. There are no endowment funds.

### Incoming resources

Collections are recognised when received by the PCC. Planned giving receivable under Gift Aid is recognised when received. Income tax recoverable on Gift Aid donations is recognised when the related income is recognised. Grants and legacies to the PCC are accounted for when the PCC is notified of its legal entitlement, the amount due is quantifiable and its ultimate receipt by the PCC is probable. Dividends on investments are accounted for as they accrue. Unrealised gains or losses on revaluation of investments and property are accounted for on revaluation at the year end.

### Resources expended

Grants and donations are accounted for when awarded, if that creates a binding obligation on the PCC.

### Activities directly relating to the work of the Parish

The Diocesan parish share is accounted for when payable.

### Tangible fixed assets

Consecrated land and buildings are excluded from the accounts by the Charities Act 2011. No value is placed on movable church furnishings. All expenditure on such items is written-off as incurred and separately disclosed in the accounts. The curate's house, 74 Cranbrook Drive, is included at a valuation provided by the current letting agents. Equipment used within the Church premises is depreciated on a reducing balance basis of 25% of asset Net Book Value, or in the case of computers, 33.33% of Net Book Value. Individual items costing less than £1,000 are written-off when acquired.

### Current assets

Short-term deposits are held with the CBF Church of England Funds.

### Employees

The Church employed two people in 2021: the parish administrator and the youth worker. No benefits or expenses were paid to any member of the PCC.





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# Accounts

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**PARISH OF ESHER**  
Christ Church, Esher with St George's, West End



**ANNUAL REPORT &  
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
of the  
**PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL**  
for the year ended 31 December 2020

Proclaiming God's Love  
Reconciling, Sustaining, Guiding & Healing



PARISH OF ESHER  
Christ Church, Esher with St George's, West End

**ANNUAL REPORT &  
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
of the  
PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL  
of the PARISH of ESHER**

for the year ended 31 December 2020

Proclaiming God's Love  
Reconciling, Sustaining, Guiding & Healing

Rector: The Reverend Darren McCallig  
Honorary Assistant Priest: The Venerable David Gerrard  
Honorary Assistant Priest: The Reverend Jonathan Andrew



Churches: Christ Church, Esher and St George's, West End, Esher

Parish Office: Christ Church, Church Street, Esher KT10 8QS

Bankers: National Westminster Bank plc, 73 High Street, Walton-on Thames KT12 1DW

Charity Registration Number: 1134847

Independent Examiner: Gordon Manickam CIA FCCIA



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## The role and membership of the Parochial Church Council, and the Church officers and officials during 2020

The churches overall management is the responsibility of the Rector, Reverend Darren McCallig and the two churchwardens. The Esher Parochial Church Council (PCC) has the responsibility of working with these three in promoting in the parish the whole mission of the Church: pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical. It also has maintenance responsibilities for the two church buildings, Christ Church and St George's, West End.

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

|                                                 |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
|-------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Rector                                          | Revd Darren McCallig                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
| Curate                                          | Vacancy                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
| Churchwardens                                   | Sandra Argent & Helen Coulson                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
| Treasurer                                       | Martin Fuller                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
| PCC Secretary                                   | John Sandison                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
| Deanery Synod Representatives                   | Helen Coulson, Peter Bedford (both until Oct 2020).<br>Polly Jordan, Rebecca Warner, Will Stevens (from Nov 2020)                                                                                                                                                                                            |
| Elected Representatives of the Laity on the PCC | John Sandison, Mair Molteno, Jane Tyrrell, Will Stevens, Peter Bedford, Rebecca Warner, Andrea Lindow, Bridget Williams, Kathryn Chapman, Polly Jordan and Keith Howell-Jones; Wendy Tanqueray & Helen Vernon (both until Oct 2020); Hugh Miller & Martin Fuller (both co-opted until Oct 2020 then elected) |

### Other Parish Appointments

|                              |                                                         |
|------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------|
| Honorary Assistant Priests   | Ven David Gerrard, Revd Jonathan Andrews                |
| Parish Administrator         | Melanie Williams                                        |
| Director of Music            | Stuart Whatton                                          |
| Assistant Organist           | Keith Howell-Jones                                      |
| Associate Organist           | Oliver Macfarlane                                       |
| Youth Worker                 | David Whymark                                           |
| Deputy Churchwardens         | William Stevens, Andrea Lindow                          |
| Parish Bookkeeper            | Vacancy                                                 |
| Gift Aid Officer             | Brian Elliott                                           |
| Safeguarding Officers        | Polly Jordan, Alison Mohamed                            |
| Noah's Ark Coordinator       | Alison Mohamed (until Sept 2020)                        |
| Pastoral Visitor Coordinator | Wendy Tanqueray                                         |
| Occasional Preachers         | Rebecca Warner, Fiona Owen, John Sandison, Dave Whymark |
| Fabric Chairperson           | Hugh Miller                                             |
| Tower Bell Captain           | Jennifer Meade                                          |
| Flower Coordinator           | Carol Calvert                                           |

## Rector's Report

My dear friends,

What a year! It's become something of a cliché at this stage to say that none of us could have foreseen the events of 2020, but it's true. And I am acutely conscious – as I write this piece from our Annual Report – that while all of us were affected in one way or another by the pandemic, many of us have had our lives and livelihoods turned upside down. It has been, quite frankly, a dreadful time for so many people around the world and here in our community. My heart goes out to all those who suffered on account of Covid-19 – those whose mental or physical health has been seriously undermined; those who've had to face personal tragedy in these isolating 'lockdown' days; those who have lost their jobs; and, most particularly, those who have lost loved ones.

As so often in times of great adversity we have also seen remarkable sacrifice, resilience and hope. We owe a huge debt of gratitude to all those who gave (and still give) so much in various 'front line' tasks – tending the sick, stocking the shelves, and keeping the essential services going. I do hope that it has given us all a renewed sense of who the truly 'key' workers in our society are, as well as the importance of showing them respect, not only with our words but with adequate recompense for their crucial contribution.

Here in the parish it has been wonderfully heartening to see a community of faith pulling together and showing resolve and resourcefulness in these difficult times. We are truly blessed to have so many remarkable people determined to utilise every opportunity to keep our worship life and our community life going.

Indeed, it's worth taking a moment to recall some of the innovative responses to the challenges of 2020 – the use of SoundCloud and then FaceBook and now YouTube to broadcast worship services and concerts; the distribution of beautifully produced Easter and Christmas cards to almost every household in the parish; the preparation of online assemblies for our Church School (now produced every week); the Church Takeaway initiative of bringing fun and faith to young people over the summer holidays; the new 'Blessing of the Book Bags' service in September; reworked Harvest, All Saints, All Souls, Remembrance, Christingle, Christmas Carols, and many, many other services; utilising Zoom for PCC meetings, Morning Prayer Services, Bible Studies, the Parish Fellowship, a new Book Group, and more.

Indeed, it has felt – at times – as if the constantly evolving pandemic situation has required continuous reworking of almost all that we do. This repeated inventing and reinventing, planning and preparing, has been utterly exhausting for those involved. Many of our wonderful staff and volunteers are worn-out. We must thank them and we must also give them time and space to catch their breath.

So, where to from here? It's a good question and one which I hope we can all prayerfully consider in the coming months. My sense of it is that it would be wise to take our time. Recovery and healing takes time. Discerning the lessons from what we have been through will take time. The emergence of a fresh vision can't be rushed.

What I would say for now, though, is that we might bear in mind some wise words from our Archbishop of Canterbury, Justin Welby. He once said that the vocation of a Christian community is to give people an opportunity to recognise two things: (i) the complexity of each other; and (ii) the simplicity of seeking to put Christ at the centre of everything.

There's a lot to unpack in those words. To take the first part first – recognising the complexity of each other – our challenge is to see each other, truly see each other, in all our wounded wonderfulness, and with all our foibles and idiosyncrasies. A Christian community is nothing if not a school in learning to live well together – a place where we are open to the God who is to be found within us and beyond us, as well as in the person alongside us.

And the second part of Justin Welby's mission statement – the simplicity of seeking to put Christ at the centre of everything – is, of course, absolutely key to our lives as people of faith. What I particularly like is his use of the word 'simplicity' because for me, and in this context, simplicity doesn't mean 'easypeasy' or 'facile' or 'making no demands on us.' Rather, it returns our attention to the one thing needed, the one thing to focus on, the heart of it all. In fact, I'm told that in past centuries a 'simple' was a medicine made up of just one ingredient – a healing balm made using just one herb or plant. In other words, a 'simple' consisted of the one thing that was truly and vitally necessary. For us, that one thing must always be Christ.

The Revd Darren McCallig  
Rector of Esher

## **Churchwardens' Report**

Who would have imagined that we would still be in the midst of a pandemic, subject to lockdowns, now thankfully easing, and still not have been able to celebrate the arrival of Darren (in March 2020) as our Rector?

What a year it has been – but despite all the restrictions on our daily lives and collective worship, not without its achievements. We are extremely grateful to everyone who has enabled our services to continue, either virtually or in person, when allowed and to you all for your support.

The PCC, and all involved in the planning of so many aspects of our worship and community have responded magnificently, often at the drop of a hat to changes in what we have been allowed to do in weekly worship, reflection and prayer. We have all become extremely creative in the ways in which we have been able to participate in services, prayer and bible study, Lent study, Music on the Green concerts and choir rehearsals. We look forward to being able to return to more in person collective gatherings.

Our virtual worship and Music on the Green concerts were revolutionised when a local resident stepped forward to offer his services to live stream our events during the period when his own work was on hold and he was a little bored! What a blessing that was. We have now invested in our own upgraded live streaming equipment thanks to some very generous parishioners. This will enable us to continue to live stream our worship regularly.

As well as thanking you all for your support during this past year, we also send our thanks, on your behalf, to Darren for his outstanding ministry, teaching and pastoral support since his arrival on the night of the first lockdown in 2020. As we have still not been able to come together as a community to welcome Darren we marked the anniversary of his arrival with a 'Thank you' book and we know from the many messages you sent just how much Darren has achieved in this unusual challenging time.

We also thank David Gerrard and Jonathan Andrew, our assistant priests and our deputy wardens Will Stevens and Andrea Lindow, for all their support and work in keeping everything running at Christ Church and St. George's. Members of the PCC for their oversight and support. Dave Whymark for his remote work with our young people and Stuart Whatton and Keith Howell-Jones for their musical direction. Finally, we must thank Melanie Williams our Parish Administrator for her resilience in home working and continued work ensuring the day to day running of the Parish.

Last year we said God was looking down on us and rewarding our patience in appointing our new Rector and how right we were. We feel truly blessed with Darren's leadership and teaching.

Sandra Argent & Helen Coulson

## **Finance Report**

The effects of the pandemic, especially the closure of the Church for much of the year, had a significant impact on Parish finances. An early decision was taken to constrain expenditure as much as possible to essential items. Both our employees were judged to be essential, with a continuing need for their services, so we did not apply to the Government's furlough scheme. The Diocese offered help to parishes from their limited resources, providing nearly £8,000 to Esher.

The Parish continues to rely on the generosity of its regular donors but, with the numbers on the Electoral Roll lower than in the past, the burden is born by a relatively small number of people. For some years now the Parish's General Fund, which meets our normal operating costs, has operated at a deficit, which has to be covered by our Restricted and Designated Funds. The implication of this is that those funds are then not available for the purposes for which they were intended. It has also not been possible to build any reserve to meet exceptional costs.

### Income

Our total income was £244,000, with the fall in income from church fees, Music on the Green, fundraising events and other sources being offset by a bequest from our late churchwarden Beverley and generous donations from other donors concerned about the effect of Church closure. The curate's house continued to be let throughout the year, providing an important income stream. The Fews Cottage Trust continued its support for our youth programme and also transferred £18,000 to our General Fund as a contribution to church maintenance related to youth work.

## Expenditure

Of total expenditure of £233,000, some £92,000 was on the Parish Share, the levy set by the Diocese to cover its overall costs, including clergy stipends and pensions. Repairs and maintenance cost some £14,000, in spite of the limitation to essential work only. And in spite of the financial pressures, we were able to increase our donations to charitable causes from £4,500 in 2019 to £6,500 in 2020. The Fews Cottage Trust drew on its resources lodged with the Parish to increase its investment in the Church of England Funds.

Martin Fuller

## **Safeguarding Report**

- Alison Mohamed and Polly Jordan were appointed as Safeguarding Officers in March 2019 and remain in post
- Parish Safeguarding Policy adopted and implemented on 3<sup>rd</sup> July 2019. Reviewed by PCC and re-confirmed on 13<sup>th</sup> May 2020
- Safeguarding posters and contact details for Parish Safeguarding Officers, Diocese Safeguarding Adviser and relevant helplines displayed in both Churches
- Dedicated safeguarding email plus direct contact details for both Safeguarding Officers easily accessible
- Parish Self Audit completed and presented to PCC on 22<sup>nd</sup> January 2020
- Volunteer list updated and confirmed by PCC on 22<sup>nd</sup> January 2020

## Covid

- As a Parish we responded very quickly to the imminent threat posed by SARS-CoV-2 (Covid-19) in early 2020. On 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2020 there was agreement to suspend physical sharing of The Peace and our Communion Policy was revised. We also issued guidance on handwashing and provided hand gels around the churches. This was in advance of any guidance from the Church of England
- We subsequently devised a Covid cleaning protocol with provision and guidance on the use of PPE for our volunteers
- Multiple risk assessments have been completed from the time that livestreaming of services was first allowed followed by the re-opening of Christ Church in the first instance in July 2020 after lockdown 1. Further risk assessments were done following the second re-opening of the churches after lockdown 2. A limited number of Christmas Services took place on a scaled back basis with restrictions in place - each one required a modified Covid risk assessment. In addition, risk assessments were updated whenever Government guidance was updated and/or there were changes in our assessment of local risk
- Multiple consultations have occurred over the past year between Revd Darren McCallig, Safeguarding Officers Alison Mohamed and Polly Jordan, and Churchwardens Sandra Argent and Helen Coulson to ensure that our churches have remained as safe as possible

## Training

- Parish Training Needs Analysis Report prepared and presented to PCC on 22<sup>nd</sup> January 2020 – due for re-review although training largely been on hold the past year due to Covid

## Postponed

- Plan to host Domestic Abuse Safeguarding Training session at Christ Church when Diocese deems that face-to-face training sessions can re-commence
- Plan to hold a 'Safeguarding Sunday' with focus on Safeguarding within our Churches to raise awareness of the importance of safeguarding and the structures and support available within our churches. Jane Huttly, Diocese Safeguarding Adviser and Head of Policy and Training has kindly agreed to come and speak
- First Aid Training – plans to hold first aid training course for our volunteers postponed until face-to-face sessions can resume
- Plans to fund the purchase and installation of a defibrillator outside Christ Church, which would be available for use by our Church and also the wider community postponed

Polly Jordan & Alison Mohamed

## **Fabric Report**

### Christ Church

The Covid Restrictions and a curtailment of anything but the most essential works because of very limited funds being available meant that only the most essential Fabric Works were undertaken in 2020. Such works being the annual maintenance of the Boilers and the overall Heating System; the maintenance and replacement, where necessary, of the Fire Fighting Equipment; the legally required Five Year Testing of the Fixed Wire Installation and all of the small electrical appliances; the servicing of the organ and the piano etc. All of which still exerted a toll on the very limited finances of the Church.

Similarly the Covid Restrictions prevented the planned visit by the Quinquennial Architect and hopefully this can occur in the late Summer of 2021 – failing which it will have to go into 2022. Making it two years late. That costs that would have been incurred by the Quinquennial Inspection and associated various minor works and certified documents were not incurred eased the financial burden of the last year, but will have to be met in the year 2021.

As was reported last year and remains the case, two major projects are looming ever larger. Namely the repair, if not the total replacement, of the high level lights within the Chancel; and the full internal redecoration of the Church itself and which was last done in 1999! The need for scaffolding and high level access for both of these projects makes it pragmatic and economically sensible for the two to be conducted virtually simultaneously. Clearly the cost of this work will be, by its very nature, very substantial. A sinking fund for these works needs to be set up but because of the ongoing very limited finances of the Church this is not being implemented. This is of grave concern.

Finally the Fabric Committee, such as it is, is very, very badly in need of at least two other members so that the work load, which often does not require any real fabric expertise, might be shared out more fairly and not imposed totally on one individual!

#### St George's, West End.

As with Christ Church the Covid Restrictions limited greatly any works of repair and improvement that had been planned.

A minor work that was implemented was the application of a silicone sealant to the entire perimeter of the church walls where the bottom of the corrugated steel sheets abuts the concrete plinth. This was an elementary attempt to restrict the ingress of water at that point and which might have been undermining the historic foundations. The cost of this was £420.00 and was paid from the St George's designated fund.

The Five Year Fixed Wiring Test and the tests on the Small Appliances were successfully conducted. The Fire Extinguishers were also successfully reviewed and certified.

A wasp nest also had to be removed by an approved pest controller.

Andrea Lindow, Mair Molteno and Peter Bedford continue to do good work in caring diligently for the fabric of St George's.

Hugh Miller

### **Electoral Roll Report**

During 2019, leading up to the APCM on Sunday 28 April, the parish was obliged by statute to draw up a new Electoral Roll (as is necessary every sixth year). This resulted in the count of members reducing from 193 on the old roll to 111 on the new roll.

Membership has been relatively static over the past year most likely due to the disruption caused by the pandemic. A few parish people have sadly died though only one had been a member of the Roll. However just recently a number of new people have been added to the Roll.

The Roll now has 128 members from 101 households. Of these, 74 from 62 households are resident within the parish and 54 from 39 households are not resident within the parish.

Melanie Williams

### **Parochial Church Council (PCC) Report**

Seven Parish Church Council (PCC) meetings were held in 2020 taking place in the months of January, March, May, July, September, October and November.

Because of the Covid-19 pandemic the Annual Parish Church Meeting was delayed until Sunday 18 October. At that meeting, Bridget Williams was elected to the PCC and at a subsequent PCC meeting Rebecca Warner, Polly Jordan and Will Stevens were elected to the Deanery Synod. Sandra Argent and Helen Coulson were elected as Churchwardens. The representatives on the Parish Church Council were:

- The Rector (Darren McCallig)
- Churchwardens (Sandra Argent, Helen Coulson)
- Treasurer (Martin Fuller)
- Parish Secretary (John Sandison)
- Deanery Synod members (Rebecca Warner, Polly Jordan, Will Stevens)
- Safeguarding Officer (Polly Jordan)
- Fabric Chairperson (Hugh Miller)
- Deputy Warden, St Georges' West End (Andrea Lindow)
- Elected members (Peter Bedford, Bridget Williams, Mair Molteno, Jane Tyrrell, Kathryn Chapman and Keith Howell-Jones)

Meetings were held online via Zoom from March 2020 onwards.

The major items of business covered during the year were:

- The arrangements for the induction of the new Rector on Monday 23 March. Sadly this coincided with the first Covid lockdown and in the event had to be restricted to just a few people attending.
- Ongoing from that date were reassessments and decisions on when and if the churches could be opened, reviews of government and Church of England policies on this, and arrangements for cleaning, sanitising and sometimes booking of services.
- Church outreach to those in need during lockdown
- Online giving as our services were online.
- Safeguarding and risk assessment. Risk assessments were undertaken particularly because of Covid. Polly Jordan gave advice on church procedures as she is an anaesthetist at Kingston who had medical knowledge of best practice to deal with Covid. A statement of safeguarding policy was also reconfirmed.
- Financial and Fabric matters were covered at each meeting.

John Sandison

## **Children & Young People Report**

### Noah's Ark

Noah's Ark ran between January to March this year, the attendance however dwindled significantly towards the middle of March. The last Noah's Ark session took place on the Sunday 15 March. Since then, due to the pandemic, no Noah's Ark physical sessions have taken place.

Our huge thanks go to all of the Noah's Ark volunteers who prepared and taught sessions on a Sunday morning. Their support allowed for our children to have time to learn about God and Jesus in a fun environment through stories and crafts.

Alison Mohamed stepped down as Noah's Ark coordinator in September due to personal commitments. It is hoped that new volunteers will come forward to restart Noah's Ark after the pandemic.

Alison Mohamed

## **Parish Youth Worker & Esher High School Chaplain Report**

What a year! Many in our Parish have found the past year very difficult and this is certainly true of the young people who make up our youth work and the students and teachers in our Parish schools, Despite the many challenges however there are things we can thank God for as we continue to look ahead to the easing of restrictions and hopefully a return to some semblance of normality!

### Parish Youth Work

As the country entered into lockdown in the spring of 2020 all in person youth work ceased, and this has been true also of the subsequent lockdowns in November 2020 and of course the first quarter of this year. To remain connected with our young people we started running live Zoom meetings on Sunday evenings where we would play some games, pray together, have a Bible talk and just generally catch up with the well being of our young people. Although these meetings started off well attended we did start to see a drop off as fatigue set in for online meetings. We were able to reopen for a few weeks last Autumn and also were able to run two sessions in the run up to Christmas. At the beginning of this year, in addition to a live Zoom call we also prerecorded a Youth Worship Service with modern worship songs, prayers led by the youth and a Bible talk. By the time you read this, in person youth work will have started back on a Sunday evening and this will hopefully continue through to the end of term.

Over the past year I have also increased my involvement with Esher Church School. In addition to being on the Christian Distinctiveness Committee I also was appointed as chair of the Pupil Care Committee where we focus on student well being and supporting those with special needs. This year I am part of a team which also comprises Darren and Jonathan where we present regular pre-recorded assemblies to be shown in classes at Esher Church School. So far I have been able to speak on the big picture message of the Bible and, more recently, the resurrection.

In terms of our younger families we have had a number of events scattered throughout the year, some online and some in person. We ran an online Christingle making workshop and also a no rehearsal nativity in the run up to Christmas. At the start of lent there was an online pancake flipping competition with some other games and a brief Lent thought from me. As with the older youth I think online meeting fatigue had well and truly set in by this point as we only had a couple of families but those who attended certainly had fun! Much more successful was our Easter Egg Hunt that was held over the Saturday, Sunday and Monday of the Easter weekend. The really encouraging thing was that many of the families who took part were new faces and really appreciated that it was a free activity. A number also wanted to take part in the 'Heart Stones' too. We will certainly be repeating next Easter with some lessons learned from this year's event.

Please do continue to pray for our youth work particular as we seek to build up our in person meetings after such a long time away.

## Chaplaincy at Esher High School

It has been a fallacy perpetuated by the media that schools were closed during the various lockdowns over the past year. Schools were always open to the children of key workers and vulnerable students. This put a massive strain on teachers who had to combine in person learning with online provision. The changes to the way school operates has also been very challenging with teachers moving from class to class instead of students, making things a lot more difficult. During this difficult time it has been more important than ever to be available to staff to support them and listen to their own individual struggles. Much of my time in school in fact has been spent listening to staff in particular and I was also appointed as a "buddy" to give support to one particular member of staff who had to self isolate at home and was therefore cut off from the normal support she would receive.

During the lockdowns of course, much of my work in the school has been online. Staff prayer meetings have continued via Microsoft Teams and I have had to pre-record my regular assemblies for showing in tutor times in the morning. I was briefly able to do in person lessons again in the autumn term and am very much looking forward to doing some more before the end of the summer term this year. We have also missed the Gideons coming into Year 7 to present Bibles during assemblies, however we have made an arrangement whereby the Bibles will be delivered and left for a Covid safe period of time before I then deliver them myself to the various tutor groups, so it is good the students are not missing out entirely.

We also put together some whole school assemblies at key times through the year. Bishop Jo spoke at the end of the Summer term last year and then I put together the whole school assembly for just before Christmas. Normally Esher High School students would come down to Christ Church for Easter services but obviously that was not possible this year. Instead I put together a drama in the form of different characters who were involved in that first Easter morning being interviewed about their experiences. Local youth workers from Holy Trinity Claygate, St. Peter's West Molesey and St. Mary's East Molesey were all involved in playing different characters (whilst I got to be a Roman soldier in full costume!). The students were challenged to consider the events of that first Easter and hopefully came to the conclusion that the most logical explanation for the empty tomb was that Jesus rose from the dead.

Please do pray for our students and teachers especially as they come to an end of a very busy term with the uncertainty of what school will look like in the Autumn. If you have any questions or comments on this report then do feel free to get in touch!

Blessings,

David Whymark

## **Esher Church of England High School Report**

In this most challenging year our teachers, support staff, governors and trustees at Esher High School have worked tirelessly throughout periods of lockdown to continue the education of our pupils. What an absolutely amazing achievement. The approach and commitment of our students has been incredible as they have faced the challenge of home learning, away from their friends and support networks.

The school opened to all those children of key workers and those in need to attend school during lockdown, whilst staff taught in person and online to those schooling at home. All this whilst many staff were also juggling the home schooling of their own children.

When pupils were able to return to school it was such a joy to see how much they relished being able to return, although studying in their year group bubbles and subject to many restrictions.

Governors have continued their responsibilities with regular meetings via video calls. There has been a huge amount of work done by the staff, governors and the trustees to ensure the safe working of our schools and for that, we are extremely grateful.

We wish our students well in their summer exams and assessments and we look forward to welcoming new students to Year 7 in September.

During this past year the Academy Trust, now known as Enlighten Learning Trust (ELT), of which Esher High School is a part, has continued to work with the Diocese in supporting other church schools beyond those in the Trust during these challenging times. To enable us to continue the work with other schools this term has seen some significant changes at the High School. Mike Boddington has been appointed Executive Headteacher and CEO of the Trust and Andy King has been appointed to the new role of Head of School. In governance, Debra Mason has taken on the role of Chair at Esher High School and we have appointed Kath Chapman as a foundation governor to the governing body. I shall leave the governing body of Esher High School at the end of summer term to focus on supporting the Trust. I am extremely proud of the support the Parish is able to give to our local church schools, and the High School in particular – so thank you all.

Helen Coulson

Vice Chair of Governors, Esher Church of England High School

## **Pastoral Visiting Team Report**

The past year has been like none other! Contact, with the majority of people we deal with, has been quite difficult, especially with those who have no knowledge of ipads, etc. let alone the joys of Zoom or FaceTime! However, with a little bit of manipulation we do keep in touch, even if it means putting pen to paper when the person we are dealing with is hard of hearing. Loneliness for many people, irrespective of age or circumstances, often leads to depression and a feeling of helplessness, so contact is now more important than it has ever been. Please let me know if you hear of anyone who would appreciate a visit (when circumstances allow!), or just a chat by telephone to show that someone does care

after all. Just imagine living alone with nothing in your diary and only the occasional 'phone call or knock on the door - when both are often caused by someone trying to sell you something or, worse still, inveigling you into some financial transaction that turns out to be a scam.....unfortunately, this does happen and the recipient feels totally embarrassed and let down. There is so much help available, if you know where to find it, and, hopefully our Pastoral Support Group is there to help such people, but we need to know who they are. Mair Molteno's very successful monthly teas have had to be postponed until Covid rules have been lifted, but she always welcomes volunteers to help cater once a year. We are all looking forward to being hands-on again - roll on that day!

Wendy Tanqueray

## **Fellowship Report**

Like so many activities, the pandemic has curtailed our activities but with the kind assistance of Darren in acting as host, for the past six months or so we have held monthly meetings on zoom. Between six or eight of us have made regular appearances and it has been gratifying to catch up, however briefly, on each other's news and follow our usual services, participating in the Readings and prayers for family, friends, the community and world beyond. In Darren's absence, Jonathan Andrew stepped into the breach, hosting a lively discussion, not what he expected but thoroughly enjoyable he said! We are sad that Betty and Geoff Walker are no longer able to attend owing to ill health, such long standing members so we hold them in our prayers. We are however pleased to have Catherine Powell join us, always good to have new members.

Once back in church we hope to see the return of those who have been unable to join us on zoom, and to meet in person will be an absolute joy. We hope to include our trips to Menta for coffee which was always part of our routine. Normality seems so long ago but springtime has reminded us of the light of hope that shines and the message of Easter that forgives and restores. We cannot forget those whose lives have been lost and the struggles throughout the globe but we are thankful for friendship and fellowship that our meeting together brings for Christ Church and we hope that we may continue to be a valued part of it.

Jan Sayer

## **Music Report**

### Liturgical Music

The early part of 2020 was spent in eager anticipation of our new Rector's arrival, and preparing for his planned installation service on 23 March, which infamously proved to be the first day of the national coronavirus lockdown. Had this service happened as the grand choral event it was meant to be, we would have honoured Darren and his wife Annilese with music referencing their connections with Ireland, Denmark and Norway as well as the world of opera; hopefully opportunities will still be found to air some of this repertoire on future occasions.

Before the virus crisis blew up, we managed to fit in a beautiful Candlemas service at Old St George's and an Ash Wednesday service at Christ Church, in addition to our usual Sunday morning worship contributions.

The majority of 2020, from late March onwards, proved to be an exercise in creativity and nimblefootedness, trying to reinvent our music and worship within the practical parameters of what we were allowed to do by the Government's constantly changing pandemic rules. We went through a number of different phases, the first of which was preparing online services on SoundCloud, using pre-recorded music courtesy of Keith Howell-Jones and his house organ, and 'virtual anthems' curated by me from the admittedly magnificent resources of the internet.

Once churches were permitted to reopen, we returned to live music with a greater emphasis on instrumental-only items, involving regular use of the piano in addition to the organ, and the odd guest instrumentalist; while choirs of any sort remained banned, we also experimented with a single cantor for hymns and solo songs (using choir volunteers in rotation), moving to a one-voice-per-part choir and then to a slightly more numerous choir. Our hopes for a triumphant end to the year were somewhat curtailed by the third coronavirus lockdown in December, though we nevertheless managed to lay on an intensely moving behind-closed-doors Carol Service and reasonably festive Christmas Eve and Christmas Day services with live congregations, all of which were livestreamed for those who could only join us online.

We also managed to fit in one external carol-singing engagement, at Glendale Care Home in Walton (in a winter marquee in the garden!), where our performance was enjoyed by the residents including our own former choir member Mary Teague, just before she passed away.

Meanwhile, the younger members of the Jordan and Doolan families have continued to delight us with their youthful talent, particularly during our All-Age services on the first Sunday of each month.

The end of 2020 has seen the de facto retirement from the Christ Church organ bench of Keith Howell-Jones, though he will continue to act as lead organist at West End. A formal presentation to Keith for his three and a half decades of faithful service to the parish (and counting...) is, at the time of writing, in pandemic-induced suspended animation but will hopefully be made sometime during 2021 and, meanwhile, I use this report to offer my heartfelt thanks to Keith for his incredible contribution to our music and worship since the 1980s.

I also pay tribute to Oliver Macfarlane, who has expertly and uncomplainingly taken on a much more substantial role in the Christ Church organ loft since Keith's retirement; to Diana Johns for her pianistic contributions; and to all our choir members for their varied input during this uniquely challenging year.

### Music on the Green

We managed to fit in two Wednesday lunchtime concerts in January and February (respectively, a violin recital and the Damma Per Musica early music group) before the mists of the pandemic descended and shut down all normal cultural activity.

As the country oscillated between lockdown, an easing of restrictions and further lockdown, we attempted to keep the flag flying with some sort of monthly MOTG offering, even if only online. There were virtual concerts in July and November – harmonica & piano (in which I myself made my YouTube debut!) and solo piano respectively – and two live concerts during September and October; firstly, a magnificent piano recital by Rokas Valuntinis and secondly, a lovely Baroque programme from the Flauguissimo Duo. The year was rounded off, in the brief gap between the second and third lockdowns, by the Oatlands Singers leading us in a 'Celebration of Christmas' event - rebranded from our usual 'Come and Sing Carols', since that was one thing that the audience were definitely not allowed to do at that stage of the pandemic!

Music in the Tower would have celebrated its 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary in March, but sadly fell victim to the national coronavirus lockdown. The plan had been to recreate the inaugural event held in 2010 with a presentation of the Bach solo cello suites; I hope we will still be able to do this, probably now in 2022 instead.

There were also plans to mark the 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Beethoven's birth with two major MOTG events featuring the great composer's one and only oratorio, and a selection of his symphonies in piano duet form; unfortunately both of these concerts had to be postponed, though again it is hoped to resurrect them once the pandemic is behind us.

As ever, I owe a huge debt of gratitude to my fellow MOTG Committee members: Melanie Williams in the parish office, Michael Banks for his work on auxiliary lighting and general PR, and Jan Sayer as catering supremo (despite that role being furloughed since March!). Thanks are also due to our rector Darren for his enthusiastic embrace of our parish's musical outreach programme, as well as for his relative tech-savviness which has enabled us to establish an MOTG presence on the internet and has helped us attract an increasing online following alongside our live audiences.

Stuart Whatton

## **Bellringers' Report**

Ringling for the last year has been very restricted by Covid - the bells were rung whenever it was permitted. All ringing was limited to four bells only with two metres between each ringer, masks on, windows open, hands washed - no teaching or Wednesday practices. It is hoped to start ringing with six bells in June but recruiting for new ringers will be required.

Esher qualified for an inspection of the bells by Taylors of Loughborough under a special scheme run by the Surrey Association of Bell ringers and a report has been received stating the bells are in good health but need two new ropes. It is good to know that we have been competent in our own efforts at maintenance.

Jennifer Meade

## St George's West End Report

2020 began on a note of enormous optimism at St George's. Our new Rector, Darren McCallig, was coming to the Parish in March, and we were looking forward with delight to his arrival. We had no idea what an extraordinary and challenging year lay ahead.

St George's last 'normal' 9am Eucharist was on Sunday 15 March, as we eagerly awaited Darren's Induction on the Monday 23 March. We joined in enthusiastically with the plans, and were due to help on Saturday 21 March in spring cleaning Christ Church before Darren's arrival. We were really looking forward to providing food for, and being a part of, the forthcoming celebrations. Sadly, it wasn't to be.

Darren's drastically scaled down Induction was followed by the first national lockdown the following day. In West End we immediately set in motion plans ensuring that the St George's community was supported during this unprecedented time. Everyone was rung or emailed on an ongoing basis - with offers of practical support, arranging shopping or simply listening and reassuring.

At our last 'in person' St George's committee meeting in early March we had produced a long list of plans for 2020, in addition to the regular Services. Create an Easter garden. A working party to wash down the outside of the Church and treat the timber fencing outside of the Church and treat the timber fencing. Produce a new Cook Book. Open the Church to visitors and run a cake stall/bread stall/raffle on the day of the West End Show (our major fund raiser) Produce and sell the delightful Christmas card designed for us by Alice Coulson. Hold a Pet Service. Organise a St George's Church party. Sadly, of all these plans, the Easter garden was the only one to take place.

In the absence of our regular 'Tipplers' get togethers in the Prince of Wales (a popular social evening, during which fund raising events are planned) we arranged to raise our glasses to one another at 6pm on Fridays, from the safety of our own homes. This gave a sense of community, a coming together, an excuse for a vino, and eased feelings of isolation - especially important to those living alone.

St George's was open from the 24 June on Wednesday and Sunday afternoons for private prayer, which was appreciated by, and provided comfort, to those who came. We had continued 'socially distanced gardening' during lockdown, ensuring our tranquil garden was cared for so others could enjoy it - and many did. One unexpected visitor was a badger, who burrowed a little way under the church in an attempt to reach the honey in a nearby bees nest! When he had consumed his fill, we had the hole blocked up, the bees departed and the garden returned to its slumbers.

From June onwards, the St George's Committee kept in touch via Zoom meetings chaired by Darren. In September St George's reopened for worship on the second and fourth Sundays, and the Norwegians came on the third Sunday of the month. St George's, being so small, presented a huge logistical nightmare of planning and rearranging seating to enable the maximum number of the congregation to attend. Only sixteen individuals can be seated safely, allowing for social distancing. We therefore divide our regular communicants into two groups, thus enabling everyone to worship in West End once a month.

The online services have been hugely appreciated by us all, especially when the churches have been closed, providing a feeling of continuity. We have greatly enjoyed joining the Christ Church congregation in worship and being invited to deliver the prayers and intercessions when St George's is closed. Something we cannot do in 'normal' times as we are fully occupied carrying out duties on our numerous rotas.

We had just got used to this new routine of worship, when we were confronted with the sudden closure of all churches in November, due to another lockdown. Thankfully, although our Crib and Village Carol Concert were cancelled, Darren was able to hold a Eucharist in St George's on Christmas Day and again on the 27th. (The church having been thoroughly sterilised on Boxing Day to adhere to COVID guidelines!) Having two Services at St George's enabled everyone from the congregation to worship in West End over the Christmas period.

Looking back over this strangest and saddest of years, we give heartfelt thanks for the amazing ministry of Darren, whose care, warmth, leadership and enthusiasm has held us all together during these difficult months. We have been truly blessed. Thanks must also go to everyone who has worked tirelessly behind the scenes to care for St George's Church and offer support to its congregation during this extraordinary year. Thank you all.

Andrea Lindow

On behalf of the PCC



Sandra Argent  
Churchwarden



Helen Coulson  
Churchwarden



John Sandison  
Hon Secretary

## **Minutes of the Annual Parochial Church Meeting**

**Held on Sunday 18 October 2020, Zoom**

**Apologies:** Brian Elliott

- 1 **Opening Prayers** were offered by Revd Darren McCallig

### **Annual Meeting of Parishioners**

- 2 **Election of Churchwardens**

Two nominations received – Helen Coulson and Sandra Argent. Both were proposed and seconded prior to the meeting as per protocol, and were duly elected.

### **Annual Parochial Meeting**

- 3 **Parish Business Reports**

Questions were invited from the participants, with most of the authors of the various reports present to answer as required.

The first questions raised concerned the size of our Parish Share, and the possibility of an agreed reduction, which was discussed at last year's meeting. Martin Fuller confirmed that we had received a 10% reduction for all of 2019 and the beginning of 2020 from the Diocese following our vacancy.

The next question concerned the reduction in the numbers of families and children attending church, and whether this is linked to the change in admission to Esher Church School. Darren commented that he has been pleased with the willingness of families and children to engage with activities, such as Harvest, and he hopes we can build on that. Helen Coulson agreed that the changes to the admission criteria had had an effect, as the governors have moved from requiring two year's attendance at church, to removing faith admission criteria completely. We did submit a representation, but Helen believed the move has now been made to no faith admission criteria.

- 4 **Minutes from last year's meeting**

There were no questions or suggested amendments. The minutes were formally approved, proposed by David Stark and seconded by Stuart Whatton.

- 5 **Proposal to receive the Annual Report**

Proposed by David Stark and Keith Howell-Jones seconded. Motion to receive the report was voted for and passed.

- 6 **Presentation of the Financial Statements**

Financial reports, as with the others, were distributed via email prior to the meeting.

Martin Fuller reported that the Parish managed just a small deficit last year, due to severe measures to reduce the deficit which offset the decline in income. The General Fund has run for many years at a deficit, offset by Designated Funds (Legacies Fund and Cranbrook Drive), meaning there is less money in the

designated funds to spend as originally designated. This is not ideal, but we are continuing to reduce the deficit on the General Fund, with restrictions on maintenance expenditure. (2017 deficit £40000, 2018 deficit £50,000, to £5000 in 2019). But the reduction in our Electoral Roll, and consequently the number of regular givers, is why our income has declined over the years.

A question was raised regarding changes in the payment for the Youth Worker. Martin confirmed that we paid for the Youth Worker in 2019. Costs for the Youth Worker are not charged to our General Fund, Esher High School pay one third of the wage costs, and we use the dividends from the Fews Cottage Fund, a restricted fund restricted to expenditure on children, to meet the remaining costs.

Another question was raised concerning the Youth Worker Contract of Employment and his work in the school and the parish, to which Martin replied he was not sure. Darren reported that he can see huge potential with Dave and his work with the schools. He thanked Dave in his absence. There were positive comments from Polly Jordan regarding his amazing work during the Pandemic, and how much her children had enjoyed the activities. Janie McCulloch added that if children are enjoying the evening activities, we are helping to open doors for their future lives, and it needn't be all about having them in church.

The PCC have already approved the accounts. Peter Bedford proposed the accounts be received, seconded by Will Stevens. All voted in favour of receiving the accounts.

Martin Fuller confirmed that Gordon Manickam audited the accounts. It was proposed that he be appointed as auditor for next year seconded by Andrea Lindow. This was passed.

## **7 Safeguarding Report**

This was omitted from the original email, but Polly Jordan has since supplied a report. She and Alison Mohamed were appointed as Safeguarding Officers in May 2019, and on the 3 July 2019 our Safeguarding Policy was adopted and implemented. Signed copies were made available in both churches. Safeguarding Posters with Safeguarding contact details were also prepared and displayed. The Parish of Esher website was also updated with a Safeguarding tab. A dedicated Safeguarding email address has also been set up. Parish training needs were identified and some members of the PCC have undertaken elements of this in January 2020. Polly supplied an analysis of the figures for the numbers who have completed the various sections. Plans for further training were put on hold when lockdown commenced. DBS checks and compliance are work in progress. A large number of risk assessments have been completed for various activities in both our churches. Working risk assessments have also been completed for Melanie Williams and Stuart Whatton. Anyone who hires our churches are required to abide by our Safeguarding policies. This was approved by the PCC on the 6 November 2020.

Safeguarding Sunday and proposed First Aid training have been put on hold during the pandemic. Safeguarding is a standing item at every PCC meeting.

Polly talked about the Diocesan training available for PCC members and those in specific roles within the Parish and would make links available to those who needed to complete the training.

Darren thanked Polly and Alison for all the work they have done, particularly on the extra workload on Risk Assessments during COVID-19.

Darren extended his thanks to everyone who has contributed a report to the meeting, to all who volunteer and contribute to keep our large organisation going.

## **8 Election of PCC and Synod members**

Thank you to Rebecca Warner who is stepping down from the PCC, and to Wendy Tanqueray and Helen Vernon who have completed their three year term. They were thanked for their service.

There are three vacancies to fill for which there have been two nominations: Bridget Williams and Peter Bedford. They were duly elected.

There are three vacancies on the Deanery Synod for which we have received no nominations. The PCC will consider appointments to these posts at their next meeting.

## **9 Any other business**

David Gerrard thanked Darren for coming to the Parish and the work he has done in these months.

Helen Coulson, and also on behalf of Sandra Argent, thanked everyone for their support and hard work in coming together to keep our Parish going during the very challenging time of our Interregnum. She expressed how grateful we feel for the arrival of Darren and Annilese, and she thanked Darren on everyone's behalf for pulling us all together and working with us during what has been a very difficult year.

## **10 Closing Prayers** were led by Revd Darren McCallig

Helen Coulson & Jane Tyrrell

## Independent Examiner's Report

To the Parochial Church Council of Esher

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I report on the accounts for the year ended 31 December 2020 as set out on the following pages.

### Respective responsibilities of the Trustees and Independent Examiner

As the members of the PCC you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts; you consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act) and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to:

- Examine the accounts under section 145 of the 2011 Act;
- Follow the procedures laid down in the General Directions given by the Charity Commissioners section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act; and
- State whether particular matters have come to my attention.

### Basis of Independent Examiner's Statement

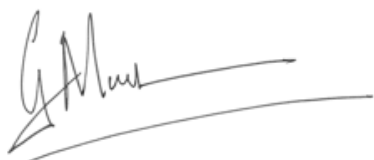
My examination was carried out in accordance with the General Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from the management committee concerning any such matters.

The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in a full audit, and consequently I do not express an audit opinion on the accounts.

### Independent Examiner's Statement

In connection with my examination, no matters have come to my attention:

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



Gordon Manickam CIA FCCIA  
84 Greenways  
Hinchley Wood  
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18 May 2021

## Esher PCC Statement of Financial Activities for the year ended 2020

### Income and Expenditure for the year ended 2020

#### Incoming Resources

| £s                                             | Unrestricted   | Designated    | Restricted    | 2020           | 2019           |
|------------------------------------------------|----------------|---------------|---------------|----------------|----------------|
| <i>Incoming resources from generated funds</i> |                |               |               |                |                |
| Regular giving                                 | 101,988        | -             | -             | 101,988        | 87,870         |
| Gift Aid                                       | 28,458         | -             | 647           | 29,105         | 25,832         |
| Church collections                             | 11,335         | 150           | -             | 11,486         | 13,963         |
| Donations & bequests                           | 28,065         | 20,280        | -             | 48,345         | 5,960          |
| Sales of donated investments                   | 5,180          | -             | -             | 5,180          | 3,046          |
| Sundry receipts                                | 806            | 6,865         | -             | 7,671          | 8,246          |
| Church fundraising events                      | 15             | -             | -             | 15             | 2,076          |
| Card & notelet sales                           | 93             | -             | -             | 93             | 773            |
| Church fees                                    | 3,382          | -             | -             | 3,382          | 7,259          |
| Music on the Green                             | -              | 992           | -             | 992            | 6,042          |
| Traidcraft sales                               | -              | -             | -             | -              | 299            |
| Investment income (dividends)                  | 358            | -             | 19,663        | 20,021         | 21,157         |
| Rental income                                  | -              | 15,660        | -             | 15,660         | 22,176         |
| Totals                                         | 179,683        | 43,948        | 20,310        | 243,942        | 204,705        |
| <i>Other incoming resources</i>                |                |               |               |                |                |
| Appeal donations                               | -              | -             | 3,405         | 3,405          | 5,662          |
| <b>Grand Totals</b>                            | <b>179,683</b> | <b>43,948</b> | <b>23,716</b> | <b>247,347</b> | <b>210,367</b> |

## Resources Used

| £s                              | Unrestricted | Designated | Restricted | 2020   | 2019   |
|---------------------------------|--------------|------------|------------|--------|--------|
| <i>Cost of generating funds</i> |              |            |            |        |        |
| Music on the Green              | -            | 1,021      | -          | 1,021  | 3,898  |
| Cards & notelets                | -            | -          | -          | -      | 579    |
| Fundraising events              | -            | -          | -          | -      | 87     |
| Traidcraft purchases            | -            | -          | -          | -      | 237    |
| Totals                          | -            | 1,021      | -          | 1,021  | 4,803  |
| <i>Charitable activities</i>    |              |            |            |        |        |
| Grants & appeal payments        | 1,272        | -          | 5,313      | 6,585  | 4,527  |
| Parish share                    | 91,439       | -          | -          | 91,439 | 99,300 |
| Clergy travel costs             | -            | -          | -          | -      | 46     |
| Clergy telephone costs          | 1,002        | -          | -          | 1,002  | -      |
| Clergy other expenses           | 432          | -          | -          | 432    | -      |
| Rectory gas/electricity         | 1,827        | -          | -          | 1,827  | 1,783  |
| Rectory running costs           | 1,033        | -          | -          | 1,033  | 1,579  |
| Repairs & maintenance           | 5,646        | 474        | 7,580      | 13,701 | 9,266  |
| Cleaning - Christ Church        | 2,120        | -          | -          | 2,120  | 3,599  |
| Cleaning - St George's          | -            | -          | -          | -      | -      |
| Electricity - Christ Church     | 2,957        | -          | -          | 2,957  | 3,377  |
| Electricity - St George's       | 456          | -          | -          | 456    | 548    |
| Gas - Christ Church             | 2,545        | -          | -          | 2,545  | 2,809  |
| Water rates - Christ Church     | 281          | -          | -          | 281    | 105    |
| Water rates - St George's       | 51           | -          | -          | 51     | 43     |
| Insurance - Christ Church       | 3,667        | 652        | -          | 4,320  | 4,211  |
| Insurance - St George's         | 442          | -          | -          | 442    | 434    |
| Sundry expenses/petty cash      | 987          | 50         | -          | 1,037  | 4,524  |
| Communion table                 | -            | -          | -          | -      | 732    |
| Flowers                         | 400          | -          | -          | 400    | 400    |

Resources Used (continued)

| £s                                       | Unrestricted   | Designated    | Restricted    | 2020           | 2019           |
|------------------------------------------|----------------|---------------|---------------|----------------|----------------|
| <i>Charitable activities (continued)</i> |                |               |               |                |                |
| Organists' fees                          | 8,400          | -             | -             | 8,400          | 7,640          |
| Organ/piano maintenance                  | 1,374          | -             | -             | 1,374          | 2,864          |
| Choir expenses & music                   | 117            | -             | -             | 117            | 177            |
| Organ scholarships                       | -              | -             | -             | -              | 930            |
| Church meetings/awaydays                 | -              | -             | -             | -              | 316            |
| Training & courses                       | -              | -             | -             | -              | 217            |
| Youth worker                             | -              | 20,600        | -             | 20,600         | 20,525         |
| Office salaries/taxes                    | 18,901         | -             | -             | 18,901         | 20,075         |
| Printing & stationery                    | 1,780          | -             | -             | 1,780          | 1,333          |
| Office telephone costs                   | 572            | -             | -             | 572            | 470            |
| Photocopier costs                        | 336            | -             | -             | 336            | 1,295          |
| Postage                                  | -              | -             | -             | -              | 192            |
| Depreciation                             | 6,285          | 222           | 5,695         | 12,203         | 16,271         |
| Bank charges                             | 545            | -             | -             | 545            | 644            |
| Office sundry costs                      | 662            | -             | -             | 662            | -              |
| Fews Cottage Trust Investment            | -              | -             | 35,800        | 35,800         | -              |
| Totals                                   | 155,537        | 21,999        | 54,390        | 231,927        | 210,245        |
| <b>Grand Totals</b>                      | <b>155,537</b> | <b>23,020</b> | <b>54,390</b> | <b>232,948</b> | <b>215,049</b> |

## Balance sheet as at 31 December 2020

| £s                                          | Unrestricted | Designated | Restricted | 2020    | 2019    |
|---------------------------------------------|--------------|------------|------------|---------|---------|
| <i>Fixed assets</i>                         |              |            |            |         |         |
| Tangible assets                             | 503,856      | 667        | 17,086     | 521,610 | 533,814 |
| Investments                                 | -            | -          | 1,140      | 1,140   | 1,066   |
| Fixed assets                                | 503,856      | 667        | 18,227     | 522,751 | 534,881 |
| <i>Current assets</i>                       |              |            |            |         |         |
| Debtors                                     | 8,643        | -          | -          | 8,643   | 5,943   |
| Cash at bank & in hand                      | (24,095)     | 139,392    | 26,875     | 142,171 | 119,011 |
| Current assets                              | (15,451)     | 139,392    | 26,875     | 150,815 | 124,954 |
| <i>Liabilities</i>                          |              |            |            |         |         |
| Creditors (amounts falling due in one year) | 1,169        | -          | 1,194      | 2,363   | 3,070   |
| Net current assets less current liabilities | (16,621)     | 139,392    | 25,681     | 148,452 | 121,884 |
| Total assets less current liabilities       | 487,235      | 140,059    | 43,908     | 671,203 | 656,766 |

## Tangible Fixed Assets

| £s                            | Property       | Equipment     | Total          |
|-------------------------------|----------------|---------------|----------------|
| Balance at 1 Jan 2020         | 485,000        | 136,009       | 621,008        |
| Less accumulated depreciation | -              | (87,194)      | -              |
| Less depreciation in 2020     | -              | (12,203)      | -              |
| <b>Balance at 31 Dec 2020</b> | <b>485,000</b> | <b>36,610</b> | <b>521,610</b> |

## Balance Sheet Totals by Funds

| £s                         | Unrestricted   | Designated     | Restricted    | 2020           | 2019           |
|----------------------------|----------------|----------------|---------------|----------------|----------------|
| Unrestricted               | 487,235        |                |               | 487,235        | 445,167        |
| <i>Designated</i>          |                |                |               |                |                |
| Music on the Green         | -              | 8,826          | -             | 8,826          | 8,702          |
| West End                   | -              | 17,717         | -             | 17,717         | 17,964         |
| Cranbrook Drive            | -              | 69,715         | -             | 69,715         | 54,707         |
| Bell Fund                  | -              | 161            | -             | 161            | 123            |
| Legacies Fund              | -              | 43,639         | -             | 43,639         | 23,639         |
| Youth Worker               | -              | -              | -             | -              | -              |
| <i>Restricted</i>          |                |                |               |                |                |
| Advent Appeal              | -              | -              | (1,195)       | (1,195)        | -              |
| Agency Collection          | -              | -              | -             | -              | 35             |
| Property Fund              | -              | -              | 5,216         | 5,216          | 12,248         |
| Fews Cottage               | -              | -              | 10,967        | 10,967         | 59,105         |
| Spire Fund                 | -              | -              | 7             | 7              | 6              |
| Other Appeals              | -              | -              | 1             | 1              | -              |
| Boiler Renovation Fund     | -              | -              | 17,086        | 17,086         | 22,782         |
| Children/Youth Fund        | -              | -              | 5,577         | 5,577          | 5,577          |
| GofR Maintenance           | -              | -              | 6,245         | 6,245          | 6,705          |
| <b>Funds of the Parish</b> | <b>487,235</b> | <b>140,059</b> | <b>43,908</b> | <b>671,203</b> | <b>656,766</b> |

## Grants for charitable purposes

| £s                                                 | Total        |
|----------------------------------------------------|--------------|
| Lent Appeal 2020 – East Elmbridge Foodbank         | 3,237        |
| Queen's Close piano appeal                         | 499          |
| Macmillan Coffee Morning                           | 382          |
| Kathryn's Mercy Home, India – sponsorship of child | 180          |
| Kingston Churches Action on Homelessness           | 1,092        |
| Advent Appeal 2020 – Samaritans                    | 1,195        |
| <b>Total</b>                                       | <b>6,585</b> |

## Notes to the accounts for the year ended 31 December 2020

### Accounting policies

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Charities Act 2011, the Church Accounting Regulations 2006 and Accounting and Reporting Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with Financial Reporting Standard 102 (FRS 102). The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention except for the valuation of property and investment assets, which are shown at market value. The charity constitutes a public benefit entity as defined by FRS 102.

### Funds

General funds represent the funds of the PCC that are not subject to any restrictions regarding their use and are available for application to the general purposes of the PCC. Funds designated for a particular purpose by the PCC are also unrestricted. The accounts include all transactions, assets and liabilities for which the PCC is responsible in law. They do not include the accounts of separately designated charities. There are no endowment funds.

### Incoming resources

Collections are recognised when received by the PCC. Planned giving receivable under Gift Aid is recognised when received. Income tax recoverable on Gift Aid donations is recognised when the related income is recognised. Grants and legacies to the PCC are accounted for when the PCC is notified of its legal entitlement, the amount due is quantifiable and its ultimate receipt by the PCC is probable. Dividends on investments are accounted for as they accrue. Unrealised gains or losses on revaluation of investments and property are accounted for on revaluation at the year end.

### Resources expended

Grants and donations are accounted for when awarded, if that creates a binding obligation on the PCC.

### Activities directly relating to the work of the Parish

The Diocesan parish share is accounted for when payable.

### Tangible fixed assets

Consecrated land and buildings are excluded from the accounts by the Charities Act 2011. No value is placed on movable church furnishings. All expenditure on such items is written-off as incurred and separately disclosed in the accounts. The curate's house, 74 Cranbrook Drive, is included at a previously estimated market value. Equipment used within the Church premises is depreciated on a reducing balance basis of 25% of asset Net Book Value, or in the case of computers, 33.33% of Net Book Value. Individual items costing less than £1,000 are written-off when acquired.

### Current assets

Short-term deposits are held with the CBF Church of England Funds.

### Employees

The Church employed two people in 2020: the parish administrator and the youth worker. No benefits or expenses were paid to any member of the PCC.



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