THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF ST MARY MAGDALENE, WANDSWORTH COMMON, LONDON, SW17 7HP

England & Wales · Charity number 1140530

Details

Other names	ST MARY MAGDALENE TRINITY ROAD SW17
Status	Registered
Legal form	Previously excepted
Registered	2011-02-22
Register	View on the Charity Commission register

Contact

Address	10a Wiseton Road London SW17 7EE
Phone	020867222026
Email	info@smmwandsworth.org.uk
Website	www.smmwandsworth.org.uk

Activities

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

Activities: Regular public worship open to all. The provision of sacred space for personal prayer and contemplation. Pastoral care, including visiting those in hospital, prison, care homes and the bereaved. Teaching of Christianity through sermons, courses and small groups. Supporting local schools and charites in the UK and overseas.

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Classification

- **How:** Provides Other Finance, Provides Human Resources, Provides Buildings/facilities/open Space, Provides Services
- **What:** General Charitable Purposes, Education/training, Overseas Aid/famine Relief, Religious Activities, Arts/culture/heritage/science, Environment/conservation/heritage, Economic/community Development/employment, Human Rights/religious Or Racial Harmony/equality Or Diversity
- **Who:** Children/young People, Elderly/old People, Other Charities Or Voluntary Bodies, The General Public/mankind

Geography

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

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2024-12-31	£196,953	£171,129	-	-
2023-12-31	£226,232	£170,028	-	-
2022-12-31	£178,137	£159,117	-	-
2021-12-31	£164,060	£177,352	-	-
2020-12-31	£222,923	£216,713	-	-

Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
Rev Michael Johns- Pelling	Chair	2025-09-15
Ann Carrington Brook		2024-04-28
Barry Holden		2025-05-11
Charles CONGDON		2024-04-28
Charlotte FLOWERS		2023-05-14
JEREMY MELLOR TONGE		2024-04-28
Nicholas William Mortemore Higton		2023-05-14
Paul Henry		2025-05-11
Sarah PARSONS		2024-04-28

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THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF ST MARY MAGDALENE, W

England & Wales - Charity number 1140530

Accounts

St Mary Magdalene
WANDSWORTH COMMON



Parochial Church Council
St Mary Magdalene Church, Wandsworth Common

Annual Report and Accounts 2024

ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2024
ON PCC PROCEEDINGS AND PARISH ACTIVITIES

The Parochial Church Council of St Mary Magdalene, Wandsworth Common (PCC) presents this report on its proceedings for the calendar year to 31st December 2024 and on the activities of the parish generally in that year. The PCC's duties and details of how the PCC works, its meetings and membership, its officers, the electoral roll and other matters are set out at the end of this report.

Introduction

We have much to give thanks for in 2024 especially the remarkable voluntary efforts of so many of our congregation. Whether it be Sunday worship, weddings, 'Come and Sing' events, humble Jumble Sales, the Christmas Tree Festival, cleaning, flowers, and maintenance, we are blessed with over a hundred volunteers from the congregation, the parish, and the wider community. Volunteers serve regularly in the community too – in Springfield Hospital, the Meadowcroft, with a valiant volunteer in HMP Wandsworth. For some it is a lifelong duty; some of our volunteers are in their 90s! For others it is a willing duty and service to our neighbours in Christ whenever they are able.

As we give thanks for our local parish life, we also remain deeply aware of the suffering and violence everywhere on earth, and we pray for a just peace for all.

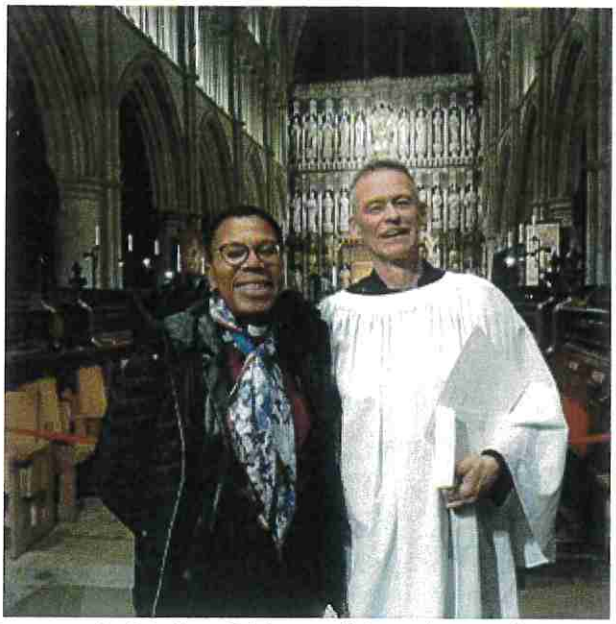
2024 saw the continued commitment to our Mission Action Plan (MAP), details of which are in the following pages. The weekly Circle Time sessions for young children and their parents and carers continues to go from strength to strength. Music continued to resonate, with Come-and-Sing's performance of the most beautiful melodies in Fauré's Requiem, conducted by our Director of Music, with 270 singers raising their voices in songs of faith in eternal rest.

We give thanks for the service of Rev'd Philippa Boardman, our much-loved Vicar, who retired at the end of September. We remember her in our prayers, and in happy reminiscences of her time with us – seven fruitful years in which we grew together as a congregation and parish. The direction Philippa set for us continues; to make our place at the heart of the community, accessible to all to worship, and to become a touchstone for the values and activities of those we seek to serve. God bless you, Philippa.

We remember the dear departed in 2024 and their families whose lives go on. We give thanks for them, and for the service of Tom Roberts who gave so much of his time to the work of our church in his six years tenure as a churchwarden including during the considerable challenges of the Covid pandemic. We wish him a long and well-deserved rest.

We rejoiced with Dr Paul Mitchell when he was licensed at Southwark Cathedral as a Lay Pastoral Minister in our parish. We give thanks to him for his teaching, and to our curate Rev'd Sam Parker, to Rev'd Dr Nadim Nassar and to Wendy Stephens, licensed to our parish

for her service to HMP Wandsworth. We are blessed by the gift of their gracious service to our congregation and to the wider community.



Rt Rev'd Dr Rosemarie Mallet, Bishop of Croydon and Dr Paul Mitchell

Our nominated church charity in 2024 was The Awareness Foundation, which works in Syria and Iraq, under the dedicated leadership of the Rev'd Dr Nadim Nassar and Miss Huda Nassar, working with children and young people on their journey of peacebuilding. More on their work can be found on their website. www.awareness-foundation.com

As we work to supply our Vacancy, we pray that our work with the Diocese will bear fruit in 2025. To expand on the theme of fruitfulness, our curate Rev'd Sam Parker suggests that 'pruning' is a particularly relevant image – it captures something of the loss and stripping back we have experienced. As Jesus reminds us: "Every branch that bears fruit he prunes to make it bear more fruit." (John 15:2). Pruning can be uncomfortable, but with God, it is purposeful. Seasons of change, whether expected or unexpected, may feel like times of being stripped back, yet they also prepare us for new growth.

As we step into the future, we do so with confidence, trusting that God is shaping and forming our church and community to bear even greater fruit in due season.

Vacancy Prayer

Lord Jesus Christ, as we look to You through this period of vacancy,
may we be inspired by Your servant, Mary Magdalene:

As she and other disciples walked alongside You, give us joy in each other,
as we play our part in Your church here in Wandsworth Common.

As she stood at the foot of the Cross,
give us courage to face our future together and embrace the unknown.

As she stood and watched by the tomb,
give us patience to wait and wisdom to live and trust in the waiting.

As she witnessed You in the stillness of the early morning, grant that we may witness
Your presence with us at all times. Amen.

Mission Action Plan 2021 - 2026

We continue to address the priorities set out in our Mission Action Plan for 2021 to 2026 (MAP). This work is encouraged by the Church of England and remains an essential guide to our work over the next three years, both for the church and within the local community.

The MAP is based on our vision for the future:

To become a focal point for the community in Wandsworth Common.
A beautiful space which inspires, uplifts and energises our outreach through the Glory of God.

A caring place of worship, support, safety and opportunity for everyone – including the most vulnerable.

The MAP sets out our five mission priorities:

1.To proclaim the Good News of the Kingdom and grow in faith as we engage with Wandsworth Common and its institutions, especially the three thousand new people coming to live on the new Springfield Village housing development.

2.To teach, baptise and nurture new believers with a fresh focus on welcoming those currently under-represented in our congregation, especially children, families and young people encouraging them to make SMM their home and to grow in faith and love in Jesus Christ.

3. To create a welcoming and inspiring place of worship and support especially for those who

are vulnerable, lonely and in need.

4. To develop a range of inclusive activities in our buildings to support those on the margins of society. Strengthen links to existing SMM ministries in prison, hospital, care home and schools.

5.To energise and be active in our care of creation by participating in the Eco-Church awards scheme and engaging with global issues via a safe space for learning and discussion.

Each priority is supported by specific actions we plan to undertake in the years to 2026. For further information, hard copies of the MAP booklet can be found in the church pews and details are also available on our website.

How we achieved our objectives in 2024

Proclaiming the Good News of the Kingdom (MAP priority 1)

Regular and Special Services: Throughout 2024, we have maintained our regular pattern of services, including the Parish Eucharist (Sundays at 10.00am) and the Midweek Eucharist (Wednesdays at 11.00am). Furthermore, we say Morning Prayer at the church on Monday and Tuesdays, now at 9.00am. Come and Sing Choral Evensong, typically held once a month, continues to draw lots of different voices, including participants from beyond our regular worshipping community (see more details below).

Continuing our tradition from previous years, we held a series of special services throughout the year:

Lent: including Ash Wednesday and Mothering Sunday.

Easter: Marked with services on Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday and Easter Sunday. As in previous years, we partnered with our neighbouring church, Holy Trinity, for their Easter Morning Sunrise Service.

Pet Service: We ran our annual Pet Service on Sunday 6th October – one week following Rev'd Philippa's departure.

Harvest: Alongside our Harvest Sunday Service, we hosted a special Harvest Sing-along for the children of Marmalade Bear Nursery School. Both events helped raise donations in support of Earlsfield Foodbank.

All Souls: We held a special Choral Evensong for All Souls, honouring the memory of loved ones who had passed. The service included the reading of names, the lighting of candles in remembrance, and a moving choral offering, featuring four movements from Fauré's Requiem.

Remembrance: We were honoured to welcome Rev'd HHJ Sarah Whitehouse as our guest preacher for our Remembrance Day service, together with representatives from Eighth Upper Tooting Guides and Brownies for their church parade.

Advent Carols: We began our advent season with a beautiful Choral Evensong service, featuring Advent Carols, readings, poems and prayers.

Christmas: Following the Christmas Tree Festival, which brought our festive celebrations to new heights, we continued our cherished Christmas Services, including the Carol Service, Crib Service, Midnight Mass, and Christmas Day offerings. Additionally, we were delighted to host the Marmalade Bear Nursery Nativity and the Finton House School Carol Concerts in the church. Furthermore, members of our congregation came together for carol singing in Springfield Village, lending their voices to the Christmas Tree Light Switch-On, and spreading joy with Carols on the Wards at Springfield University Hospital.

The Meadowcroft: We continued to host monthly services at the Meadowcroft Care Home, with hymns, a thought for the day, Eucharist, and time for fellowship with residents, their families, and staff.

Prayer: We have continued in our pattern of Morning Prayer, now held at the earlier time of 9.00am on Mondays and Tuesdays in the church. A small group gathers to pray using the Church of England's 'Daily Prayer' app. Alongside set prayers, we regularly pray for one another, offer intercessions for those on our church's prayer list, and remember in prayer those who have died, as well as their bereaved families and loved ones.

As a church, our times of prayer are often enriched by special observances, such as the 'Week of Prayer for Christian Unity,' which frequently inspires themes in Choral Evensong and shapes our worship and services. We also remain deeply attentive to the world around us, holding in prayer both local and global concerns.

Pastoral Care: It is important to acknowledge that, vacancy notwithstanding, we have faced bereavements that have deepened our sense of loss this past year. As a community, we share in both joys and sorrows. We have said goodbye to several members of our congregation who have died, and our ministry team and volunteers have sought to support bereaved families by providing pastoral care and assisting with funeral arrangements at the church. On one such occasion, we were privileged to welcome back Rev'd Philippa, who, following her retirement, returned to co-lead a funeral service.

Our regular Sunday services, midweek worship and daily offices would not be possible without the amazing volunteering of over 60 church members including cleaning, choir, sidesmen, servers, social media, pew sheet, linens, flower team, maintenance and coffee teams together with our ministry team augmented by support from Rev'd Dr Nadim Husar and Dr Paul Mitchell.

Church Music:

Adding 800 sets of sheet music to our library. One challenge of our musical life has been a relatively small library of sheet music at SMM for a choir ambitious to perform more. Non-copyright works can be photocopied but that's not always practical for e.g. a work of 8 pages or beyond. Thankfully this year our sister church of St Michael's Wandsworth Common has granted a long-term loan of its extensive and well-catalogued choral music library. This has already reduced photocopying and allowed us to broaden further our repertoire.

Monthly 'Come-and-Sing' Choral Evensong. This monthly event attracts additional singers into our orbit and allows our Sunday morning choir a chance to sing longer, more challenging works. Our list of 60 singers results in a monthly turnout of 25 – 35 singers every Evensong. We hold faith in our 'no-audition' approach to singing in the choir, but that has not stopped us making rapid musical progress. Indeed, Evensong always involves one unfamiliar work to give a sense of challenge and stretch.

In January 2024 we even fielded a choir of 35 for Evensong at our mother church, Southwark Anglican Cathedral, singing Canticles by Murrill and Wesley's 'Blessed be the God and Father'.

Come-and-Sing Events. Following the success of the Vivaldi Gloria in 2023, we held another ticketed event in February 2024, attracting a capacity 270 singers to learn and perform Faure's Requiem in the span of a Sunday afternoon. SMM was filled to the brim with glee, smiles and an impressively large-scale rendition of Faure's masterpiece. This event was made possible by the tremendous generosity of parishioners who gave their time and talent to steward participants safely to our many tea stations where they could eat home-made cakes at half time and still be back in position for part 2. A surplus of over £2400 contributed to the "pews on wheels" works, giving flexibility of spaces at front and back of church for performances and indeed future come and sing events.

Ultimately, our mission is still to lead our **Sunday worship on a typical 10am service**. Our thanks are due to singers who arrive every Sunday at 0915am, often learning a new anthem before 0945am. We benefit tremendously from having our new organ and from Keith Mitchell who often takes on the organ playing, allowing the Director of Music to stay out front and guide our musicians.

Teaching, baptising and nurturing new believers (MAP priority 2)

Lent Café Church: We hosted a three-part Lent Café Church, where members of our congregation gathered in a relaxed, café-style setting to explore the Christian faith together. Using video-based teaching from the Sycamore Course, this series provided a meaningful opportunity to deepen our faith, strengthen our community, and engage in open and thoughtful discussions. Each session focussed on key Christian themes, such as 'The Light of Christ' and 'The Power of Prayer,' blending group discussions, prayer, and informal Christian worship music.

Circle Time: Since its launch in 2022, Circle Time has become a fun and welcoming group, where adults with babies and toddlers gather in the church for nursery rhymes, live instruments, stories, and fun activities for little ones to enjoy. Each week, sessions revolve around a fun and interactive theme to create a joyful and enriching experience for both children and their caregivers. Sessions take place on Wednesdays from 9.30am – 10.15am, often followed by tea, coffee, and conversation in the local area, reflecting the genuine sense of community that has flourished.

Advent Course: Susanne Mitchell led a three-part online Advent Course in December, exploring the stars from both Biblical and ecological perspectives. The course provided a meaningful opportunity to pause, reflect, and ponder.

Junior Church: Welcoming children aged 1 to 12, Junior Church provides a nurturing space to explore faith through storytelling, creativity, and play. Each week, at least two leaders guide the session, with parents often accompanying younger children. Topics range from Jesus' parables and Old Testament figures to key moments in the church calendar. Engaging Bible stories are brought to life through hands-on crafts and free play before the children rejoin the congregation for the Eucharist. A heartfelt thank you to our dedicated team for their commitment and inspiring creativity.

Young Adults Group: The Young Adults group is a community of people in their 20s to 40s who gather several times a year over a meal for fun and fellowship. A highlight of the year was watching a film produced by one of our members as part of her university training, showcased on the big screen in the Vestry Hall. Another memorable moment was watching the extended edition of 'The Lord of the Rings: The Fellowship of the Ring' (a full 3 hours and 48 minutes!). But what makes these gatherings truly special is the way we take turns hosting in different homes, creating a warm and welcoming space to connect and share life together.

Home Group: In 2024 our group continued to meet one afternoon per month to study the Bible together and to share fellowship. For the first part of the year, we carried on with the study book, Prayers of the Old Testament by Lynne M. Baab and following the completion of this, we took up our current book, 1 Peter; Confidence in a Complex World by Joe Warton. Group members enjoy the opportunity to explore unfamiliar areas of the Bible. The framework of the study books with the questions for group discussion, allows us to share our faith and lived experience with one another. An initiative to add more Home Groups is planned early in January 2025.

Men's Bible Briefing: Hosted by Tom Roberts, this welcoming group meets every other Tuesday at 7.30am in Caffe Nero, just around the corner from the church. Over coffee, they share a 40-minute session of fellowship and faith-building, reflecting on the upcoming Sunday's Gospel reading and its meaning for daily life.

Baptisms, confirmations, weddings and funerals: In 2024, seventeen children and one adult were baptised at the church. The church also celebrated five weddings, along with a special renewal of vows for one couple. Additionally, our ministry team had the privilege of

participating in a wedding in Warwickshire. Throughout the year, we led five funerals and one memorial service at the church, along with a service at a crematorium.

HMPW Prison Team: The team meets weekly on zoom to study the bible and pray for the prisoners. We continue to look for opportunities to return to the prison and recommence bible study with the prisoners.

Creating a welcoming and inspiring place of worship (MAP priority 3)

One of Rev'd Philippa's lasting legacies was the innovative 'pews on wheels' initiative. This carefully planned project, undertaken in collaboration with professional contractors, has been ongoing and continued in 2024 to ensure the church's beautiful wooden floor is both preserved and revitalised. With more pews now moveable, we have unlocked exciting new possibilities for utilising our church space in dynamic and meaningful ways. From transforming the front of the church for interactive Lent Café Church events to reimagining the layout for our Circle Time sessions and school partnerships, this flexibility enables us to create a more engaging and inclusive environment for a wide range of gatherings.

Despite our main church heating system generally serving us well, 2024 brought moments when we relied on it more than ever – particularly in December, during Finton House School's carol concerts. With hundreds of children gathered for the rehearsals, the heating system, though recently serviced, unexpectedly failed just hours before the event. In what felt like a small miracle, we were able to enlist the help of an engineer who managed to restore it just in time. Since then, additional work has been carried out to ensure the system functions reliably. This experience even inspired Rev'd Sam Parker to reflect on the power of prayer – yes, even for heating systems – when he opened both concerts for Finton House!

Developing a range of inclusive activities in our buildings (MAP priority 4(i))

Christmas Tree Festival: The 12th Christmas Tree Festival was held on 7th December. Once again, we had twenty-five beautifully decorated trees to cause oohs and aahhs as people came into the church. As well as the trees there were the attractions of Santa's Grotto, mulled wine and tea accompanied by delicious cakes, home produce and Christmas floral arrangements for sale, a fairtrade stall, children's activities, including watching the steam driven model railway, the prize draw and the Beatrix Potter choir.

The Festival raised £6,800 for the Awareness Foundation and in addition it brought many people into the church. The trees remained in place over the Christmas period and so were also seen by those attending the Finton House carol concerts and our own Christmas Services.

A huge thank you to everyone who made the Festival possible. The trees, activities and Santa bags were sponsored by local businesses and church groups and Savills made a generous donation to the Festival. There was an army of volunteers who helped put up and later dismantle the trees and provided mulled wine, teas, cakes, flowers, manned stalls, assisted

Santa in the Grotto, sold prize draw tickets, entertained children and welcomed people on the door.

A particular thank you goes to Phil and his team of lumberjacks for their work in putting up the trees and then later taking them down!

Grateful thanks go to Ann Carrington Brook and Charlotte Flowers who are stepping back from organising the Festival.

Exhibitions:
Our church was honoured to host the HMP Wandsworth Art Exhibition, curated by Alison Stratton and Mary Brodrick showcasing artworks. We also held a private viewing on behalf of the HMP Wandsworth which was attended by over fifty guests, including staff, chaplaincy members, volunteers, and the Bishop of Kingston, Right Reverend Martin Gainsborough. Throughout the exhibition, visitors were invited to share their thoughts and encouragement on feedback sheets, which were passed on to the Prison Art teacher to inspire and support the artists.

Strengthening links to existing SMM ministries in prison, hospital, care home and schools (MAP priority 4(ii))

HMP Wandsworth:
In partnership with several local churches, our church provided twenty-five Christmas gift bags filled with requested items, including socks, chocolate bars, and a Christmas devotional book. These were distributed to the 82 men who attended the prison's Christmas Day service. Thanks to generous contributions, there were enough bags to also support men and staff in healthcare and segregation, as well as the officers who joined the service, offering a small but powerful sign of encouragement and care throughout the prison community.

Springfield University Hospital:
The team of Springfield volunteers continued to visit Jupiter Ward on Wednesday evening and play games, including cards, dominoes, banagram and scrabble whilst talking with service users.
In addition to the evening visit, volunteers have also led a gardening activity during the day which has been a great success and both the activity, and its results have been enjoyed by service users.
The team together with some other members of the congregation, also went Carol Singing again around some of the hospital wards, including Jupiter.
We are very well supported by the Chaplaincy Team and feel welcomed by the staff. Feedback from both staff and service users is very positive and the group itself gets a great deal from the time spent at Springfield.
The year has seen some service users and former service users attending our services. The Mental Health Training Day held in October and attended by members of the congregation, including PCC members and sidespeople, was a very valuable event providing plenty of food

for thought about how we can provide appropriate support for those who are vulnerable because of mental health issues.

The Meadowcroft:
Our dedicated outreach team visit this modern, purpose-built care home on the newly developed Springfield site every month to bring a welcome communion service.
The Meadowcroft replaced the original Ronald Gibson House, which we had been visiting since the 1980's. Over the past seven years we have re-worked our services to match the needs and desires of the residents. Services are simplified to make things comfortable and easy to follow for both physically frail residents and those, wherever they may be, on their dementia journey.
We include hymns accompanied by the piano and serve tea (plus the inevitable cake) following the service to make our visit into a social occasion and foster meaningful connections, offering spiritual and emotional nourishment to residents, their families and carers alike.
We also aim to mix things up a little with fun elements such as pop-up singing exercises, guitar music and visual interpretations of the service that involve everyone there. We are predictably unpredictable! So popular has this service become that we often have resident's family members and care staff joining in with us and are thought of as an activity for patients, as well as a welcome and regular church service. Our aim is to keep up this joyous momentum.

Relationships with local schools and organisations:

Finton House School: Throughout the year, we have welcomed Finton House students into our church for several recitals. We also hosted a Year Two visit focused on baptism and Easter, as well as a school-wide Easter assembly. Later in the year, the church was the venue for the Finton House Carol Concerts, bringing together 290 children and 370 adults for a wonderful and inspirational celebration.

Marmalade Bear Nursery: We welcomed the Marmalade Bear Nursery School for a special Harvest sing-along service in the church, with generous donations collected for Earlsfield Foodbank. Additionally, for the second consecutive year, the nursery held its Christmas Nativity in the church, bringing together 41 children and 120 adults for a joyful and memorable celebration.

8th Upper Tooting Girlguiding units: In 2024 the Brownies and Guides continued with their regular meetings, following the Girlguiding programme covering 6 theme areas. We were delighted to present one Brownie and four Guide Gold Awards, the highest award girls can gain in each section which require completing at least 6 interest badges, 6 skills builder badges and 18 hours (for Brownies) and 24 hours (for Guides) of unit activities plus some extra challenges. For the Guides this included paddleboarding and the Brownie running a unit meeting.
We reopened the Ranger unit for those aged 14 – 18 years with the four older Guides being joined by girls from other units.

Three Jack Petchey Awards were also celebrated. These are accompanied by grants and which were used to fund indoor skydiving, paddleboarding and a trip to Chessington. The leaders didn't miss out either with Sarah Bell being presented with a Guide County Outstanding Leader award and Rebecca Cuthbert a Jack Petchey Leaders Award. Barbara Littlechild was presented with her Laurel Award at a County Thank you event in April when she also took on the reigns as joint County Commissioner for London Southwest County.

A Tree Planting Day for the county was hosted with over 100 young members & leaders helping to fund & plant 4 trees on Tooting & Wandsworth Common who then enjoyed a day of nature themed activities from litter-picking, making seed bombs and bird fat balls, a scavenger hunt, nature spotting and trails.
Also, this year the Brownies enjoyed a sleepover at the Science Museum and a visit to the zoo. The Guides made body scrubs and sold them to raise £246 for Royal Trinity Hospice. We made nature themed decorations for the Christmas Tree festival, tested new badges, took 1st and 2nd place in the outdoor cooking competition and much, much more....

Support for charities and other causes

The Awareness Foundation (www.awareness-foundation.com) A Christian charity which specializes in building lasting peace through education in Syria and the wider Near East. It runs well-crafted courses for 6 – 12-year-olds, Little Heroes, 18 – 35-year-olds, Ambassadors for Peace and an Enterprising Women course to teach women, of all ages, how to build businesses. Operating for over 21 years it has produced outstanding results which includes a significant number of young "Ambassadors" actively involved in reconciliation and peace during a difficult transition to a new Government in Syria. The courses are open to and attended by Christian and Muslim children and so they bring benefits to the whole community. It is the charity selected by the PCC as SMM's chosen charity to support 2024 – 2026. Its Executive Director and Founder, Rev'd Dr Nadim Nassar is part of the ministry team, and some members of the congregation are trustees and volunteers.

Other causes: The church continued to support a number of other charities including:
Royal Trinity Hospice, through the proceeds of Sunday after church coffee.
Earlsfield Foodbank, through our collections at harvest, weekly donations and volunteering by church members.
Christian Aid Week, through street collections by church volunteers and online giving.
MacMillan Coffee morning, with great support from the local community.
Children's Society, through collecting boxes.

Energising and being active in our care of creation (MAP priority 5)

Eco Church Group 2024 – we got silver!
What that means is we scored sufficient points in the A Rocha survey to qualify. The survey seeks responses under *five headings*. You may score more highly in one than another, the total is aggregated.

Worship & Teaching



The hymns and songs in our services enabled us to celebrate God's creation. Our intercessors included prayers about the environment and the climate crisis. Junior Church planted sunflower seeds and watched their progress. Some plants transferred to the garden and bloomed in a cheerful way that was timely. The leadership team continued its commitment to Eco Church. In Advent this year we considered the Cosmos.

Buildings

Still the most challenging area, there is an ongoing commitment to make improvements as and when we can. The coffee cup collection points are used, and we were able to take all those used for mulled wine at Christmas to Balham Costa for proper recycling. The cycle rack was installed and occasionally used! We continued to work on using environmentally friendly consumables (paper, loo rolls, & cleaning products).

Land



We added a pond to the front garden with stones decorated by Junior Church. We planted tomatoes and lettuces. We also built an herb tower. A large wooden crate was upcycled and decorated by the nursery for their use. We carried out a 'Count on Nature' study in June and discovered 14 different species of wildflower. The children also enjoyed looking at bugs. Bees have visited and we added a bird feeder, a nesting pod and a mini bug house. The Best Exotic Magdalene Bug Hotel attracted foxes/squirrels that play with the fir cones!

Community and Global Engagement



We continued our commitment to Fairtrade with occasional stalls and sale of The Real Easter Eggs and Real Advent calendars. Decorating the downstairs loos reminded us that they need twinning. We were represented at the national March for Nature which brought together over 100 organisations in central London. We also keep in touch with Wandsworth's Environmental network attending a training and resourcing event at Battersea Arts Centre.

Lifestyle

Recycling was the focus for the first half of the year, we then switched to plastics and promoted 'Plastic Free Advent' Once again we promoted a Green Christmas, making tree decorations from repurposed materials – cork reindeer and felt trees decorated with buttons. Alternative trees also featured. Jumble sales continued as a major recycling event.

To Go for Gold is a big step up. With continued support we will consolidate and embed our progress so far. Thanks & well-done.

PCC's Financial Report for 2024

The accounts show another year of generosity, with an overall increase of £14,356 in funds held at the end of the financial year. This includes the legacy from the late Kay Griffin of £10,000 which has been set aside into a designated fund to be spent specifically on improving access to the buildings so they can be better enjoyed by the whole community of Wandsworth Common.

As with most charities, we report by a variety of funds: unrestricted, designated and restricted with each having different aims and uses.

Restricted funds: These are those which are given or raised for a specific purpose only. In 2024 we were able to obtain a matched funding grant from the Archbishops' Council of £3,665 under an initiative they called "Give to Go Green". This was to replace light fittings in the church so that we could complete the process of replacement of all lamps to LED. But we raised more than the £7,330 originally required for the church light fittings and so expanded this project into replacing fittings in the Parish Hall as well. In the year, £10,388 was raised and £8,505 spent and we have completed the works funded by this initiative in 2025. We also generated a surplus on the "Come and Sing Faure's Requiem" held in March 2024 which has been spent on works to put more of the pews in church on wheels so they can be moved to accommodate performances and events – this also required repairs to the floor under those pews!

Designated funds: These are set aside and used by decision of the PCC and in 2024 the PCC decided to designate the legacy into MAP projects and £15,000 of the surplus for the year into future maintenance spending – hence both those funds increased during the year. We also spent on the MAP project of pews on wheels – thereby improving the flexibility of the building for greater use by the local community. The other fund is cryptically named "Re: Capitalised Assets" which simply reflects the purchase of the digital organ in 2023 and that it is being depreciated over a 10-year period. The net book value of the organ (see note 4 of the accounts) at £34,037 is matched by this designated fund.

Unrestricted funds: These are the day-to-day income and running costs of the charity. Income here increased to £196,953 from £184,913 with notable increases in use of the church building; interest earnt on deposit accounts; and Parish Hall lettings. However, income from collections and planned giving plus tax recovery under the Gift Aid scheme fell back by £6,339 compared to 2023. A number of the donors have left the scheme (either deaths or moving away from the Parish during the year). Expenditure in the year increased by £7,055 with increases on Parish Support Fund (the mechanism by which all parishes in the Diocese of Southwark contribute to the central costs of the employment of all paid priests within the Diocese wherever they are based) of £3,200 and on costs of maintaining and running the hall of £6,548 being mitigated by savings in other areas. More details on this can be found in note 2 of the accounts.

The PCC has designated most of the overall surplus of £25,824 to designated funds as indicated above so retained surplus for general purposes rose by only £824 for the year. This results in the unrestricted fund rising to £83,885 at the end of the year; giving a good level of reserves for the future activities of the PCC.

Buildings

During 2024, the PCC resolved to re-direct its efforts away from re-development and towards renewal of the church estate, consistent with the MAP objective to create a welcoming and inspiring place of worship. This has brought into focus a burden of repair that has accrued over the last decade.

The maintenance of the St Mary Magdalene church estate proceeds largely unseen by the congregation. This work is essential as we strive to make sure that St Mary Magdalene remains at the heart of the Wandsworth Common community for more people, attending more events, for more time in a warm, dry and safe environment.

The yearly maintenance schedule is vital in ensuring that there are comprehensive checks including PAT testing, boiler servicing and the regular clearance of gutters and downpipes. Unfortunately, there has been extensive water ingress during the year, including the Parish Hall (in four places), the perennial inundation of the Flower Room, and a blocked downpipe saturating the wall around some of our loveliest stained windows at the west end.

General cleaning of gutters and removal of plastic bags and vegetation from the roofs, downpipes and gutters is a regular task for the volunteer church maintenance team. However, the height and inaccessibility of some of these rainwater goods, and the lack of redecoration for decades, calls for more comprehensive solutions by a third-party contractor. Accordingly, the Standing Committee has authorised the commissioning of separate surveys of the underground drainage installation, and of the Parish Hall roof and all above-ground rainwater goods in the church estate. The survey reports will include a specification and scope of works so that competitive tenders can be obtained. It is expected that complete renewal of the Parish Hall roof and fenestration will be needed, for which a discrete fundraising exercise will be undertaken in 2025/26.

Penetrating damp to the north wall of the stairs down to the basement of the Parish Hall was remedied by tanking and replastering the walls, although this work had to be re-done (at no additional cost to the church), as the correct plaster was not used. On completion, the stairs themselves were re-carpeted, and new nosings were fitted to the steps down from the Middle Hall to the Parish Hall, to improve safety.

Various electrical works were undertaken during the year. These included feature-lighting concealed in the arches above the stained-glass windows, in the west wall and other lighting in the entrance to the nave, and replacement of all halogen bulbs with LED bulbs in the nave and chancel. The downlighters in the nave and chancel were replaced with new LED fittings, and LED floodlights to increase the light level and illuminate the queen post roof trusses, to dramatic effect. New LED track lighting was installed in the Parish Hall, to replace obsolete fittings and provide greater flexibility.

There were also general repairs and annual servicing arising during the year. These include installing thermostatic radiator valves to the Parish Hall radiators, repairs to WCs and re-decoration of the double doors to the front and back of the Parish Hall.

The 'Chain-gang' of church volunteers visited the church individually and met on numerous occasions to carry out a myriad of other repairs and improvements, including the installation of new cupboards in the Vestry, and the relocation of older metal cabinets to the choir passage, in order to accommodate a printed music library on loan from St Michael's.

The reconvened Fabric and Maintenance Committee met in 2024 under its Chair, Robin Gisby and is planning a busy programme of works in 2025. We are grateful to him and to all the unsung heroes in his team who turn out at all hours of the day and night to attend to the needs of the church estate.

Safeguarding

Ann Carrington Brook and Charlotte Flowers have continued as joint Safeguarding Officers (PSOs).
The aim of their safeguarding plan remains to *'enthuse the congregation about safeguarding issues and ensure safeguarding is an integral part of the DNA of Saint Mary Magdalene Church'*. In order to realise this aim the congregation have been provided with opportunities to consider and engage with safeguarding – recently a member of the Diocesan Safeguarding team came to preach about safeguarding, and we have also held a Mental Health Training Day run by Dr Kate Kelly, a senior clinical psychologist from Rock and Refuge which included considering safeguarding within the context of our work with Springfield University Hospital.

The day-to-day work of safeguarding continues with the PSOs updating DBS checks, and encouraging PCC members, Junior Church Leaders and Sidespeople to complete safeguarding courses run by the Diocese.

People having any concerns about the safety of children or vulnerable adults are always requested to speak to our Safeguarding Officers, Ann or Charlotte, directly. Their contact details are on the church safeguarding noticeboard in the church entrance and on our website. They can also be emailed at safeguarding@smmwandsworth.org.uk.

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

The Duties of the PCC

How the PCC works and our congregational volunteers

Much of the day-to-day work of the PCC is usually delegated to various groups, but the PCC retains the responsibility for receiving reports from these groups and for taking all major decisions at its regular meetings. The principal groups to which the PCC has delegated authority are:

Standing Committee (which prepares the agenda for PCC meetings, and which is authorised to transact the business of the PCC between meetings)

Finance and Risk Committee

Fabric and Maintenance Committee

Further information

Constitution: The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of St Mary Magdalene, Wandsworth Common is a corporate body established by the Church of England. It operates under the Parochial Church Council Powers Measure and is a registered charity, registered with Charity Number 1140530.

Address: St Mary Magdalene, Wandsworth Common is situated on Trinity Road, London, SW17 7HP. It is part of the Diocese of Southwark (Kingston Episcopal Area) within the Church of England. The address for correspondence is the Parish Office at 10a Wiseton Road, London, SW17 7EE.

Electoral Roll: This year marks the creation of a whole new Electoral Roll, as required every six years under Church regulations. The total number of individuals included on the new roll for this year is 122.

Church attendance: The annual churchwarden's count undertaken in 2024 showed an average attendance of 75 adults and 6 children.

PCC Meetings: During 2024 there were seven ordinary meetings of the PCC (2023: 7). All meetings of the PCC were held face to face. 80% of PCC members on average attended these seven meetings (2023: 80%).

Members of the PCC: The method of appointment of PCC members is set out in the Church Representation Rules. At St Mary Magdalene the membership of the PCC consists of a) the incumbent Vicar and other licensed clergy, b) the Churchwardens, c) the licensed lay minister, d) the lay representatives of the parish elected to the Tooting Deanery Synod and e) lay members. In the case of d) and e), these are elected by those members of the congregation who are on the electoral roll of the church or co - opted to the PCC. All those who worship regularly at St Mary Magdalene are encouraged to register on the electoral roll and stand for

election to the PCC.

During 2024, the PCC consisted of:

Chair: Rev'd Philippa Boardman (until 30th September 2024) Jeremy Tonge (from Ist October)

Curate: Rev'd Sam Parker

Churchwardens: Tom Roberts (until May 2024) Jane Cooper and Jeremy Tonge (from May 2024)

Licensed Lay Minister: Paul Mitchell (from November 2024)

Deanery Synod Representatives: Nicola Pattinson and Nicholas Higton throughout the year. Susanne Mitchell was nominated and elected pursuant to the procedure set out in the Church Representation Rules in September 2024.

Elected members of the PCC: Alicia Drewitt (nee Birchall), Charlotte Flowers, Matthew Heard, Nicholas Higton, and Richenda Tonge throughout the year. Charles Congdon, Keith Mitchell and Sarah Parsons were elected at the APCM 2024 (having previously been coopted members). Ann Carrington Brook was elected at the APCM 2024. Veronica Mills stood down in May 2024. Graham Dick resigned in November 2024.

Officers elected by the PCC during 2024:

Vice Chair: Jeremy Tonge

Treasurer: Keith Mitchell

Secretary: Sarah Parsons

Electoral Roll Officer: Carolyn Chambers

Deputy Churchwarden: Nicholas Higton

Safeguarding Officers: Ann Carrington Brook and Charlotte Flowers

Members of the Standing Committee: Rev'd Philippa Boardman (until 30th September 2024), Jane Cooper, Keith Mitchell, Jeremy Tonge, and Sarah Parsons

Sides people: Barbara Littlechild (head sides person), John Ager, Alison Blair, Ruth Bowdage, Lucinda Byron-Evans, Carolyn Chambers, Alex Cox, Graham Dick, Charlotte Flowers, Jill Gould, Nick Higton, Veronica Mills, Maha Nassar, Jane Ogram, Nicola Pattinson, Serena Perkins, Gabrielle Richards, Jake Stratton, Joan Taylor, Michael Taylor, Lynn Tilling and Nick Wood

Members of the Fabric and Maintenance Committee: Robin Gisby, Nicholas Higton, Hugh Birchall, Simon Child and Phillip Mills

Members of the Finance and Risk Committee: Keith Mitchell, Charles Congdon, Nick Higton, Jane Player, Alicia Drewitt and Andrew Beney

Members of HMP Wandsworth Bible Study Group: Olivia Pethybridge, Peter Carpenter, Serena Perkins, Huda Nassar, Alicia Drewitt, Veronica Mills and Tom Roberts

Members of Springfield Hospital CHATS (Chaplaincy Activities Team) Group: Rosemary Birchall, Mary Broderick, Ann Carrington Brook, Graham and Katie Dick, Jill Gisby, Matthew Prescod, Louisa Russell, Richard Sweet and Richenda Tonge

The Meadowcroft Wednesday communion volunteers: Rev'ds Philippa Boardman and Sam Parker, Pat Crosswell, Marion Cahill, Jane Cooper, Lynn Tilling, Rosie Tilling, Joyce Mason, Nell Wells, Doreen Bush and Susanne Mitchell

Report of the Deanery Synod 2024

Meetings were held, on 31st January at St Mary's Balham, 30th April, at St Mary Magdalene's, 26th September at Ascension Church Balham (social and synod meeting) and 27th November, at St Mary Magdalene's.

At the January meeting, the focus was Eco Church and Eco Deanery. We heard that Southwark Diocese, via Diocesan Synod, has committed to becoming an Eco Diocese and working towards the A Rocha Bronze, Silver and Gold Awards. We looked at how we can become an Eco Deanery, supporting one another and taking some collective actions. We shared our eco successes and our eco challenges and came up with some suggestions for collective actions.

At the April meeting, following on from January, churches shared information on what they have achieved and what areas can be worked on by church Eco teams/champions to gain the A Rocha Bronze, Silver and Gold. The subject for the rest of the meeting was Racial Justice. The topic was introduced by members of the Kingston Racial Justice Group: Lorraine Thomas, Mark Eminson and Michael Phillips. The informative talks and discussion covered the Anti-Racism charter. Visible Signs and Diversity, Unconscious bias and training, Missing Dimensions and Representation. A list of resources was circulated.

Anne McGregor (St Augustine's) and Rosemary Wilson (St Nicholas) were elected as Lay Representatives on Diocesan Synod.

The September meeting was our annual social event and commenced with a meal at The Ascension Church. Then Marcus Gibson interviewed Carol Coslett, Assistant Director for Lay Ministry in Southwark Diocese, Carol explained the wide range of possibilities for lay ministry.

Ethan Glackin – McColgan has been appointed as Tooting Deanery Lay Ministry Champion.

In November we heard from Sophie Sutherland from the Anna Chaplaincy, who talked to us about how our churches support and minister to elderly and housebound parishioners. In the following discussion we shared experiences and insights from our own parishes

St Mary Magdalene – Wandsworth Common

Statement of Financial Activities for the year ended 31st December 2024

	Unrestricted Funds	Designated Funds	Restricted Funds	Total	Total 2023
	£	£	£	£	£
Incoming Resources *(Notes 2&3)*					
Income from donors	100,447	-	13,091	113,538	146,853
Other voluntary income	14,918	-	-	14,918	6,122
Government grants	-	-	-	-	3,000
Income from operations	73,069	-	2,443	75,512	65,461
Income from investment	8,519	-	-	8,519	4,796
Total income	**196,953**	**-**	**15,534**	**212,487**	**226,232**
Resources Expended *(Notes 2&3)*					
Costs of generating funds	230	-	-	230	200
Work of the Church	128,603	-	-	128,603	129,913
Church Management & Administration	5,529	-	-	5,529	3,742
Other expenditure	36,767	12,116	14,886	63,769	36,173
Total expenditure	**171,129**	**12,116**	**14,886**	**198,131**	**170,028**
Net incoming/(outgoing) resources	25,824	(12,116)	648	14,356	56,204
Balances at 1st January 2024	83,061	95,791	39,640	218,492	162,288
Transfer between funds	(25,000)	25,000	-	-	-
Balances at 31st December 2024	**83,885**	**108,675**	**40,288**	**232,848**	**218,492**

St Mary Magdalene – Wandsworth Common

Balance Sheet at 31st December 2024

		2024		2023
		£	£	£
Fixed Assets	Note			
Tangible fixed assets, at cost less depreciation	4		34,037	38,291
Current Assets				
Debtors	5	15,963		17,328
Short term deposits		152,926		145,290
Cash at bank and in hand		40,773		30,941
Petty cash		267		267
		209,929		193,826
Less:				
Liabilities				
Creditors falling due within one year	6	11,118		13,625
Net current assets			198,811	180,201
Total Net Assets			232,848	218,492
Funds				
Unrestricted Funds			83,885	83,061
Designated Funds	3A			
Maintenance Fund		45,000		30,000
West Window Fund		10,000		10,000
MAP Projects Fund		19,638		17,500
Re: Capitalised Assets		34,037		38,291
			108,675	95,791
Restricted Funds	3B		40,288	39,640
			232,848	218,492

Approved by the Parochial Church Council on 8 April 2025 and signed on its behalf by:

J.A. Cooper

Jeremy Tonge
Churchwarden

Jane Cooper
Churchwarden

St Mary Magdalene – Wandsworth Common
Notes to the Accounts for year ended 31st December 2024

1 Accounting Policies

The Accounts have been prepared in accordance with the Church Accounting Regulations 2006 together with applicable accounting standards and the SORP 2015.

The Accounts have been prepared under the historical cost convention. The Accounts include all transactions, assets and liabilities for which the PCC's responsible in law. They do not include the accounts of other church groups that owe affiliation to another body, nor those that are informal gatherings of Church members.

Funds

Restricted funds represent (a) income from trusts or endowments which may be expended only on those restricted objects provided in the terms of the trust or bequest and (b) donations or grants received for a specific object or invited by the PCC for a specific object. The funds may only be expended on the specific object for which they were given and any balance remaining unspent at the end of each year much be carried forward. The PCC does not invest separately for each fund.

Unrestricted funds are general funds which can be used for the PCC ordinary purposes.

Designated funds are general funds that have been set aside by the PCC for particular purposes. The aim and use of the designated funds is set out in the notes to the financial statements.

Incoming Resources

Planned giving, collections and donations are recognised when received. Tax refunds are recognised when the incoming resources to which they relate is received. Grants and legacies are accounted for when the PCC is legally entitled to the amounts due. Interest and all other income are recognised when they are receivable. All income resources including funds raised by sales and events are accounted for gross.

Resources Expended

Grants and donations are accounted for when they are paid over, or when awarded, if that award creates a binding obligation on the PCC. The parish Support Fund is accounted for when due. All other expenditure is generally recognised when it is incurred and is accounted for gross.

Fixed Assets

Consecrated and benefice property is not included in the accounts in accordance with s96(2)(a) of the Charities Act 1993.

Moveable church furnishings held by the vicar and churchwarden in special trust for the PCC and which require a faculty for disposal are inalienable property, listed in the church's inventory, which can be inspected. For anything acquired before 2000 there is insufficient cost information available and therefore such assets are not valued in the Accounts.

Equipment used within the church premises is depreciated on a straight-line basis; individual items of equipment costing over £1,000 over a period of four years and individual items costing over £10,000 over a period of ten years. Individual items of equipment with a purchase price of £1,000 or less are written off when the asset is acquired.

Parish Hall

The parish hall is approximately 100 years old. it is an integral part of the church building and is not considered to have a separate identity which could have been consecrated, or which can be individually valued.

Current Assets

Amounts owing to the PCC at 31st December in respect of fees, rents taxes due or other income are shown as debtors less provision for any amounts that may prove uncollectible.

Short term deposits include cash held on deposit either with the CBF Church of England Funds or at the bank.

St Mary Magdalene – Wandsworth Common
Notes to the Accounts for year ended 31st December 2024 (continued)

2A Unrestricted Funds

	2024 £	2024 £	2023 £
Income from Donors			
Church open collections	11,361		13,111
Tax efficient giving (including stewardship)	71,605		73,947
Tax Rebates received and due	17,481		19,728
		100,447	106,786
Other Voluntary Income			
Fees	2,958		2,477
Donations and bequests	11,960		3,645
		14,918	6,122
Government grants		-	3,000
Income from Operations			
Trading	4,863		-
Use of photocopier	64		40
Bookstall	75		-
	5,002		40
Fund Raising			
Jumble Sale (Note 2B)	4,827		4,186
Other fundraising	310		77
Quiz Nights	942		-
Parish Hall Lettings	61,988		59,906
		73,069	64,209
Income from Investments			
Interest:			
On deposit		8,519	4,796
Total Income		196,953	184,913

St Mary Magdalene – Wandsworth Common
Notes to the Accounts for year ended 31st December 2024 (continued)

Resources Expended

	2024 £	2024 £	2023 £
Cost of Generating Funds			
Fund Raising (Note 2B)			
Jumble Sales		230	200
Activities Directly related to the Work of the Church			
Parish Support Fund	100,100		96,900
Clergy expenses	10,598		11,601
	110,698		108,501
Church and Services			
Choir and organ	2,944		2,723
Mission and Worship	1,159		1,238
Communication	151		685
	4,254		4,646
General running expenses			
Heat and Light	3,839		4,877
Insurance	3,600		3,600
Repairs and maintenance	6,212		8,289
	13,651		16,766
		128,603	129,913
Church Management & Admin			
Administration	1,232		1,611
Examiners Fee	360		360
Parish Office	3,535		1,192
Photocopier maintenance	241		381
Bank Charges	161		198
Depreciation (note 4)	-		-
		5,529	3,742
Resources expended carried f/d		134,362	133,855

	2024 £	2023 £
Resources expended brought forward	134,362	133,855
Other Expenditure		
Parish Hall expenses	36,767	30,219
Total Payments	171,129	164,074
Surplus/(deficit) of receipts over payments	25,824	20,839
Unrestricted funds at 1st January 2024	83,061	69,722
Transfer to Designated Funds (Note 3A)	**(25,000)**	**(7,500)**
Unrestricted funds at 31st December 2024	83,885	83,061

2B Trading/Fund Raising

Net income from Jumble Sales £4,597

St Mary Magdalene – Wandsworth Common
Notes to the Accounts for year ended 31st December 2024 (continued)

3A **Designated Funds**

Movement of designated funds

Fund	Balance at 01.01.24 £	Income / Transfers £	Expenditure £	Balance at 31.12.24 £
Maintenance Fund	30,000	15,000	--	45,000
West Window Fund	10,000	--	--	10,000
MAP Projects Fund	17,500	10,000	7,862	19,638
Re: Capitalised Assets	38,291	--	4,254	34,037
Total Designated Funds	95,791	25,000	12,116	108,675

3B **Restricted Funds**

Movement of restricted funds

Fund	Balance at 01.01.24 £	Income £	Expenditure / Transfer £	Balance at 31.12.24 £
Roof and Fabric	30,638	4,440	4,228	30,850
Organ	-----	-----	------	------
Children and young people	1,481	-----	-----	1,481
Sewing	163		163	-----
Chair	90	-----	90	-----
Rood Screen	1,160			1,160
Servers	937	-----	937	-----
War Memorial Maintenance	35	----	----	35
Music Fund	2,805	706	630	2,881
Accessibility Fund	2,331		333	1,998
Give to Go Green Fund	--	10,388	8,505	1,883
Restricted Funds	39,640	15,534	14,886	40,288

4 Fixed Assets

	2024	2023
	£	£
Makin Thirlmere Digital Organ – book value b/f	38,291	42,545
Depreciation of Digital organ in year	(4,254)	(4,254)
	34,037	38,291

5 Debtors

	2024	2023
	£	£
Tax rebates due	15,000	17,290
Debtor re VAT	-	-
Debtor re PAYE	963	-
Sundry debtors	-	-
	15,963	17,328

6 Creditors

	2024	2024
	£	£
Marmalade Bear Nursery School	3,000	3,000
Rental deposits	1,962	1,762
Examiner's fee	360	360
Diocesan fees payable	-	-
Sundry creditors	5,796	8,503
	11,118	13,625

7 Money held in Trust – Charity Projects Fund

The Charity Projects Fund does not form part of the accounts and is only included here to show monies received for and paid to other charities.

Charity Projects Fund income and expenditure

		2024		2023
	£	£	£	£
Balance b/f from prior year		134		360
Specific Collections		2,490		2,736
Other income		8		25
Christmas Tree Festival	9,700		9,360	
Less expenditure	2,899		2,312	
		6,801		7,048
Total available to distribute		9,433		10,169
Donations paid and payable				
Christian Aid (Note 1)	-		-	
Children's Society	177		216	
British Red Cross Gaza emergency	1,205		-	
DEC Turkey Syria Earthquake	-		250	
Trinity Hospice	1,108		746	
Awareness Foundation	6,801		8,822	
Total donations made		9,291		10,034
		142		135
Less				
Bank Charges		-		1
Balance carried forward		£142		£134

Notes

1 in addition, with Gift Aid, £4,044 was raised and sent directly to Christian Aid.

J A Steward **MA FCA**

Chartered Accountant

'Rydal', 26 Woodcote Hurst, Epsom, KT18 7DT

Independent Examiner's Report to the Parochial Church Council of St Mary Magdalene Church, Wandsworth Common

I report on the accounts of the PCC for the year ended 31 December 2024, which comprise the Statement of Financial Activities, the Balance Sheet and associated Notes.

Respective responsibilities of the Trustees and Independent Examiner

As members of the Parochial Church Council, the Trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. They consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act) and Regulations 3 (c) and 4 of the Church Accounting Regulations 2011 and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under section 145 of the 2011 Act and Regulations 3(c) and 4 of the Church Accounting Regulations 2011;
- follow the procedures laid down in the General Directions given by the Charity Commissioners under 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 PCC and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes considering any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts and seeking explanations from the Trustees 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 matter has come to my attention:

(1) which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements:

- to keep accounting records in accordance with section s.130 of the 2011 Act and Regulations 3(c) and 4 of the Church Accounting Regulations 2011 or
- to prepare accounts which accord with accounting records and to comply with the requirements of the Act, as also contained in the Church Accounting Regulations 1997 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.

Yours sincerely

J A Steward
7 May 2025

THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF ST MARY MAGDALENE, W

England & Wales - Charity number 1140530

Accounts

Parochial Church Council
ST Mary Magdalene Church, Wandsworth Common



Annual Report and Accounts 2023

St Mary Magdalene
WANDSWORTH COMMON

ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2023
ON PCC PROCEEDINGS AND PARISH ACTIVITIES

The Parochial Church Council of St Mary Magdalene, Wandsworth Common (PCC) presents this report on its proceedings for the calendar year to 31st December 2023 and on the activities of the parish generally in that year. The PCC's duties and details of how the PCC works, its meetings and membership, its officers, the electoral roll and other matters are set out at the end of this report.

Introduction

Reverend Philippa Boardman MBE

We have much to give thanks for in 2023, especially the remarkable volunteering of St Mary Magdalene members. Whether it is Sunday worship, weddings, 'Come and Sing' activities, jumbles, the Christmas Tree Festival or cleaning and building maintenance, we are blessed with over a hundred volunteers from the church and the wider community. Volunteers serve regularly in the community too - in Springfield Hospital, Ernest Bevin Academy, the Meadowcroft and HMP Wandsworth. It is lifelong and some of our volunteers are in their 90's! As we give thanks for our parish life, we also remain deeply aware of the suffering and violence ongoing in our wider world. In 2023, the Awareness Foundation which works in Syria and Iraq, continued as our nominated church charity under the dedicated leadership of the Revd Dr Nadim Nassar and Miss Huda Nassar, working with children and young people on their journey of peace-building. More on their work can be found on their website www.awareness-foundation.com .

2023 has seen the continued outworking of our Mission Action Plan (MAP), details of which are in the following pages. The weekly Circle Time sessions for young children and their parents and carers continues to go from strength to strength (MAP priority 2) and Choral singing for the church and wider community has continued to flourish including a 'Come and Sing Vivaldi Gloria' with 150 singers and a glorious rendition to the wider public at the culmination of the day. January to March 2023 saw our continuing involvement in Wandsworth Council's 'Warm Spaces' initiative, to support those struggling with rising living costs (an element of MAP priority 4) and our Eco Group continued their work of 'greening' our church site with an Eco-Garden created at the west end of the church. (MAP priority 5).

Our care and service of the wider community remain at the heart of our Christian faith. The new Springfield hospital buildings opened in 2023 and our CHAT volunteers (Chaplaincy Activities Team) were welcomed on to the new Jupiter Ward. Support for HMP Wandsworth continued through individual volunteering and remotely through taped services, and ongoing prayer for staff and men. Literacy support at Ernest Bevin Academy continued through 2023 with volunteers hearing reading and then moving to a book group discussion format in the autumn. Our dementia-friendly Eucharist services launched in the new residential care home The Meadowcroft (formerly Ronald Gibson House) in early 2023.

We were delighted that our Choir was asked to sing at the first-ever Springfield Village

Christmas lights 'switch-on' event. We received warm feedback from the NHS Trust and look forward to working together on future events.

We rejoiced with our Curate, the Revd Sam Parker as he was ordained as a priest and presided at the Eucharist for the first time in July 2023. We also give our most sincere and heartfelt thanks to three remarkable lay members of our congregation who stood down after years of faithful and dedicated service in the life of the church. Miss Joan Taylor, who stood down from Junior church leadership at the end of August after an incredible 78 years. (Joan was awarded the British Empire Medal in the King's New Year's honours list of 2023, recognising not only her life of service in church but also volunteering in Guiding and the wider community.) Mr Richard Sweet stepped down as Lay Reader after over 30 years of greatly valued and wise ministry. Mr David Coleman stood down as PCC Secretary and Chair of the Buildings Maintenance Committee after many years of tireless and dedicated service. They will be greatly missed in these roles and their voluntary service is an inspiration.

Mission Action Plan 2021 - 2026

We continue to address the priorities set out in our Mission Action Plan for 2021 to 2026 (MAP). This work is encouraged by the Church of England and remains an essential guide to our work over the next three years, both for the church and within the local community.

The MAP is based on our vision for the future:
To become a focal point for the community in Wandsworth Common.
A beautiful space which inspires, uplifts and energises our outreach through the Glory of God.
A caring place of worship, support, safety and opportunity for everyone – including the most vulnerable.

The MAP sets out our five mission priorities:
1.To proclaim the Good News of the Kingdom and grow in faith as we engage with Wandsworth Common and its institutions, especially the three thousand new people coming to live on the new Springfield Village housing development.

2.To teach, baptise and nurture new believers with a fresh focus on welcoming those currently under-represented in our congregation, especially children, families and young people encouraging them to make SMM their home and to grow in faith and love in Jesus Christ.

3. To create a welcoming and inspiring place of worship and support especially for those who are vulnerable, lonely and in need.

4. To develop a range of inclusive activities in our buildings to support those on the margins of society. Strengthen links to existing SMM ministries in prison, hospital, care home and schools.

5.To energise and be active in our care of creation by participating in the Eco-Church awards scheme and engaging with global issues via a safe space for learning and discussion.

Each priority is supported by specific actions we plan to undertake in the years to 2026. For further information, hard copies of the MAP booklet can be found in the church pews and on our website.

How we achieved our objectives in 2023

Proclaiming the Good News of the Kingdom (MAP priority 1)

Regular and Special services

In 2023, it felt as if the 'Covid-years' of 2020-22 were finally behind us with increasing attendance at our regular Sunday services, midweek worship and daily offices. These services would not be possible without the amazing volunteering of over 60 church members including cleaning, choir, sidesmen, servers, social media, pew sheet, linens, flower team, maintenance and coffee teams together with our ministry team augmented by support from Rev Dr Nadim Husar and Mr Paul Mitchell who is on placement with the church as part of his ordination training.

Special services during the year included:

Lent: including Ash Wednesday and Mothering Sunday.
Easter: Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday and Easter Sunday where we joined our neighbouring church of Holy Trinity for their dramatic Sunrise Service with Revd Sam Parker serving as Deacon.
Coronation 'Come and Sing' Choral Evensong: as we prayed for King Charles III as his Coronation approached including the singing of an inspirational 'Zadok the Priest'.
Ordination to the Priesthood of the Revd Sam Parker and his First Eucharist.
The second-ever Pet Blessing Service (St Francis-tide): following its successful launch in 2022 and drawing in many from the wider local community.



Harvest Festivals: both our regular Sunday Harvest service and Harvest thanksgiving for Marmalade Bear Nursery. Generous donations were made at both services for Earlsfield Foodbank.
All Souls Bereavement service: with special invitations to those families for whom the clergy had conducted funerals in recent years.
Remembrance Sunday: with Church Parade of cubs, scouts, guides and brownies.
Advent Carols: with beautiful singing from the Choir and uplifting readings.
Christmas: it was a joy to see the church filled at our 'regular offerings' of the traditional Christmas Carol and Nine Lessons service, the fun-filled Nativity from Scratch, Children's Crib service, Midnight Mass and Christmas morning services.
New for 2023: we were delighted to welcome Marmalade Bear Nursery, children, staff and families for their Nativity in church (rather than the Parish Hall).
We also took a leading role in the first-ever Christmas event in **Springfield Village** with the Choir carolling at the turning on of the Christmas Tree lights following Christmas songs by

Fircroft Primary School. The NHS Trust expressed their appreciation for the joyful contribution of the Choir and we plan to continue working together on other activities in Springfield Village in 2024.

Prayer

A variety of opportunities to grow in the practice of prayer were offered in 2023 including:
Daily offices on Mondays and Tuesday re-established;
Week of Prayer for Christian Unity;
For children: Saturday afternoon informal worship at Easter, Pentecost, in anticipation of Rev Sam's ordination and the blessing of Backpacks in September;
World Day of Prayer 2023 (Taiwan) and Prisons Week 2023; and
Multi-faith Peace ceremony at Tooting Broadway with leaders and members of other world faiths.

Pastoral care

This was as important as ever in 2023 as we mourned the deaths of four beloved church members as well as the ongoing challenges of health, relationships, workplaces and community life. Wherever possible, the clergy met with people in church or at home to support and pray with them. Support for the bereaved was offered through funeral ministry and the Memorial Services held at SMM. The All Souls service in November 2023 with the reading of the names of loved ones who have died was an important time for bereaved families to gather to support one another and hear words of comfort through hymns, anthems, the homily and prayers. Pastoral care is also given in a myriad of ways by church members in often hidden acts of kindness and compassion both within the church and wider community.

Church music

Repertoire, Musicianship and Growth: Although we love our special 'Carol Services' which sometimes find up to 30 singers, our success is more realistically measured Sunday by Sunday. We range in size from 8 at least to 16 on typical Sundays, with around 50 four-part harmony anthems under our belt now, and regularly tackle new anthems on a Sunday morning, increasingly confident that our strong hymn-singing requires little regular rehearsal. An example of this on 5th February 2023 was to learn SS Wesley's 5-part anthem 'Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace' starting at 9.15am. This level of challenge appears not to daunt our musicians, indeed perhaps keeps them coming back.
Under the careful tutelage of our Director of Music, Barry Holden, the choir continue to grow in musical confidence; diction, phrasing, blend, cantabile singing, accuracy of tuning and precision of attack which are some of the key technical aspects which together make a better-sounding choir. Huge thanks are due to singers who arrive every Sunday at 9.15am, often learning a new anthem before 9.45am. We benefit tremendously from having among us Keith Mitchell who often takes on the organ playing, allowing the Director of Music to stay out front and guide our musicians.

Organ Replacement: Thanks to the generosity of donors the longstanding goal of selecting and installing a new digital organ was achieved in 2023. The new organ is a two-manual draw-stop organ from Makin Organs. Its nine separate speakers have been carefully installed behind the pipework façade of the original organ and are entirely invisible. Although digital, the recent advances in digital sampling, combined with powerful amplification, combine to create a surprisingly realistic and powerful variety of colours. In particular, the nine separate amplifiers and woofer, each attached to specific stops, allow for genuine additional volume to be gained without loss of variety between the woodwind, string, reeds and diapason sections.

Come-and-Sing Choral Evensong: Our list has grown to sixty singers with each monthly event attracting about thirty singers. Our intensive rehearsal is followed by tea and cake before our Cathedral-style Evensong. This monthly event attracts additional singers into our orbit and allows our Sunday morning choir a chance to sing longer, more challenging works: that in turn stretches and develops their own technique beyond the limits of the short anthems appropriate for our 10am Sunday service. Singers also take time to socialise before the service for 30 mins over tea and cake and some repair after the service in time-honoured fashion to the Althorp.

Come-and-Sing Events: The first of these took place on 26th February when 170 voices came and sang Vivaldi's joyous 'Gloria' between 2pm and 445pm with 5pm Performance. The 175 participants at the ticketed event enjoyed an excellent tea and cakes, brilliantly marshalled by Sarah and Paul Henry with contributions too numerous to mention. Ben Lewis-Smith accompanied and soloists were led by former parishioner Jenny Esdaile who returned from her new home to sing.

We are very grateful to the many volunteers who bake cakes, do front of house and serve the delicious teas for which the church is rightfully developing a reputation at these events!

Teaching, baptising and nurturing new believers (MAP priority 2)

Lent Talks: The Lent talks format returned in 2023 with three fascinating speakers. The Revd Dr Nadim Nassar spoke about 'Syria – the War and the Children we've forgotten; Isabel Losada, the joyful environmentalist, about 'Life, happiness and saving the planet'; and Her Honour Judge the Revd Sarah Whitehouse KC gave a talk on 'A Judge in the Pulpit and a Priest on the Bench'. The talks were of the highest quality and despite freezing winter weather, were well attended and appreciated by all who came.

Confirmation course 2023: the two confirmation candidates were joined by eight other young adults using the 'Sycamore' teaching materials for the first time. Seven sessions took place on Zoom with short videos and lively and thoughtful discussion.

Advent course: 'Preaching for our Planet': based on the book by Bishop Hugh Montefiore, this creative course on Zoom led by Susanne Mitchell, reflected how far we had come (or failed to come) in addressing environmental issues and the climate crisis in the past 30 years.

Junior church: Junior church is comprised a group of children aged between 2 and 10 years old. There are at least two leaders so that we can split the group and differentiate the activities accordingly. We focus on a variety of topics including stories from the Old Testament and learning about significant dates within the church calendar. We read the children a story or talk to them about the event in question and this is followed by fun adult led craft activities. This year Junior Church said goodbye to Joan Taylor who had retired from leadership after 78 years. In her time Joan had looked after too many children to count and even seen them return years later as parents. Our grateful thanks to Joan for all her dedicated and outstanding work in Junior Church and many thanks to Lucinda for picking up the mantle.

Circle Time: Since its launch back in October 2022, Circle Time continues to serve adults with babies and toddlers in and around Wandsworth Common. Sessions take place at the church on Wednesday mornings from 9.30am – 10.15am. We try to shape each week around a particular theme, but participants can always expect nursery rhymes, stories, and fun activities for little ones to enjoy.

We tend to welcome between 8-12 children each week, and we see a mixture of adults including parents, grandparents, relatives, and carers. Due to the increasing number of pews on wheels, we can now configure the space at the front of the church where we meet. Adults and children now have more space to interact and play, and we can also accommodate more people per session.

Although there are a selection of baby and toddler groups to choose from, Circle Time is a signal to the young families in our community that, as a church, we are here for them.

Ukelele Club: Ukulele Club launched in February 2023 as a fun opportunity for children in our community to connect and grow in their musical gifts. While Ukulele Club was primarily aimed at children aged 12 and under, we've also had interest from several grown-ups in our congregation who have wanted to learn. It's amazing how music draws different people of all ages and stages! More recently, we have been exploring both the ukulele and the guitar, and we are excited to blend the teaching of both instruments, depending on people's interests and preferences.

Young Adult's Group: The young adults group met four times in 2023 for informal fellowship, fun, and some fabulous food! These were great opportunities to get to know one another better, outside of our normal Sunday routine. In the Autumn, ten of us took part in the Sycamore course on Zoom (www.sycamore.fm). Over seven sessions, the course enabled us to explore the Christian faith and its relevance for life today. It also served as preparation for two people who were preparing for confirmation.

Home Groups: During 2023 our group continued to meet monthly for afternoon sessions of Bible study, accompanied by tea and cake. There are ten regular members of the group and over the twelve months we have followed a number of study books, including *Exploring God's Mercy; Five Images of Salvation* by Steven Croft and *Prayers of the Old Testament* by

Lynne M. Baab. We also had a session where we looked at art works that inspire us. In between sessions we keep in touch via a very supportive WhatsApp group.

Men's Bible Briefing: This is a fortnightly bible study session held in Caffe Nero at 7.30am. It lasts forty minutes so attendees have time to get to work. There is now a group of eight committed to attending. Individual circumstances prevent everyone from always being there and typically there are at least five at any one session. There is plenty of lively discussion and a strong spiritual bond develops within the group. Anyone who is interested is welcome to join.



Baptisms, confirmation, weddings and funerals: Twelve children and one adult were baptised in 2023, one wedding and a blessing were held and eight funerals were conducted either at the church or at local cemeteries and crematoria, as well as one memorial service.

Creating a welcoming and inspiring place of worship (MAP priority 3)

St Mary Magdalene church buildings have stood at the heart of the Wandsworth Common community for over 150 years. As a Church of England church, it is here to serve not only regular worshippers but also all those who live within the parish bounds not least at time of joy with baptisms and weddings and times of sorrow with funerals and memorial services. Our aspiration continues to be to maintain and where necessary re-configure our buildings that they can serve the whole community with a range of life affirming and inspiring activities for all people including the most vulnerable. Following the work by Matthew Lloyd Architects in 2021/2022, Sian Newton of Craigmyle Fundraising Consultants was commissioned to produce a Funding Feasibility study which was presented to the PCC in January 2023. This revealed the significant challenges of major fundraising and also the opportunities and approaches that the PCC might embrace.

Meanwhile, smaller projects to enhance the buildings for wider community use have continued apace. These include the installation of a new organ, the installation of a new boiler in the Parish hall and final planning for the modification of further pews to make them 'moveable' and create more flexible spaces at the east and west ends of the church. Meanwhile a new welcome display was created in the church lobby, and the Eco Group continue to work on the solar panels project and creating a green 'eco-garden' at the front of the church.

Developing a range of inclusive activities in our buildings (MAP Priority 4(i))

The following three activities are in addition to the many mentioned elsewhere in this report:

Christmas Tree Festival: On 11th December the church opened its doors for the 11th Christmas Tree Festival. The twenty-five beautifully decorated trees illuminated the church and visitors were able to enjoy the trees, visit Santa's Grotto, drink mulled wine and tea accompanied by delicious cakes, buy home produce and Christmas floral arrangements, take part in the children's activities, including watching the steam driven model railway, buy prize draw tickets and listen to the Beatrix Potter choir.

In addition to raising over £7000 for the Awareness Foundation, the Festival brought many visitors through our doors and we really appreciated the comments showing how embedded the Festival has become within the community. As one person said, 'it marks the start of Christmas for our family'. The Christmas trees remained on display during the Christmas period and so were seen by those attending the Finton House carol concerts and our own Christmas services.

A huge thank you to everyone who made the Festival possible. The trees, activities and Santa bags were sponsored by local businesses and church groups.There was an army of volunteers who helped put up and later dismantle the trees and provided mulled wine, teas, cakes, flowers, manned stalls, assisted Santa in the Grotto, sold prize draw tickets, entertained children and welcomed people on the door.
Thank you to the organising committee, Charlotte, Rowan, Phil and Ann. Particular thanks to Rowan and Phil this year as it will be their last year as part of the committee, they have made an outstanding contribution to the event and its continued success as a fixture in the local Christmas calendar.

Winter Welcome: In autumn 2022, we joined a partnership of six local churches to provide 'Warm Spaces' covering every weekday Monday to Saturday as part of the Wandsworth Borough Council initiative to support those struggling with the rising cost of living. This continued from January to March 2023. We covered Tuesday daytimes. Hot drinks, toasties, home-made soups and cakes were provided together with games, conversation, friendship and music. Leaflets, signposting and other advice were also available. Later in 2023, the Council advised that they would be focussing on after school and early evening 'warm space' provision. Our churches network regretfully concluded that we could not raise enough volunteers at that time of day to make opening possible, so our 'warm space' was suspended for 2023/24. We remain committed to finding ways to support those who are most vulnerable.

Exhibitions:

Holy Week banners: these were created for the Churches Together Good Friday open air service in 2023 by community artist Jeni Walker-Lawes in collaboration with children and adults from the local community.



The Tooting Tapestry was displayed to mark Refugee Week 2023 and honour the contribution of those who have come to Tooting and Wandsworth from other parts of

the world. The Tapestry was facilitated by the local group 'Meet and Make Spaces'.

Windrush 75 this exhibition curated by Revd Dorothy Penniecooke of Ascension, Balham, honoured the lives and contributions of those who had come to the UK on the Empire Windrush in 1948.

Strengthening links to existing SMM ministries in prison, hospital, care home and schools (MAP priority 4 (ii))

HMP Wandsworth: Individual church volunteers continue to give invaluable support to the Chaplaincy team. St Mary Magdalene also joined with other local churches in making a 'Christmas Sock collection' for the men and an amazing 3,200 pairs of socks were distributed to prisoners at Christmas. The new prison timetable and staff shortages mean that the Bible study team are unlikely to return to in-person work in the prison in the foreseeable future. They continue to meet weekly as a team to study and pray for the prison and continue to contribute recordings of readings and intercessions for the Prison Radio station Radio Wanno.

Springfield University Hospital: After reviewing their volunteering experience the Springfield volunteers explored which would be the appropriate ward for them to visit and since early 2023 we have been visiting Jupiter Ward.

Our visits take place on Wednesday evenings and we play games including cards, dominoes and banagram, whilst we talk with service users. Our group comes under the umbrella of the Chaplaincy Team and so we have been named "CHAT" (Chaplaincy Activities Team). As most of the service users spend some time in Jupiter Ward over the weeks we are able to develop a rapport those who join us. We are very well supported by the Chaplaincy Team and feel welcomed by the staff and so our group feels both appreciated and that our volunteering is providing a useful service.

CHAT, together with other members of the congregation, has also gone carol singing and as a new innovation Easter singing, to some of the Springfield wards.

Volunteering at Springfield has also been supported by Revd Sam Parker's involvement. On a practical level Sam's accompaniment to our singing has been much appreciated and his work on Jupiter Ward has added a depth of knowledge to our visits there.

The Meadowcroft: It's taken a while, but the SMM Communion Team now calls Meadowcroft by its correct name (so difficult to abandon Ronald Gibson House!) and have settled, along with the residents, into the routine of this wonderfully smart looking new home.
Each month the band of attendees seems to grow. Residents, along with carers, family members and even the odd visiting family dog, swell the numbers, making it an exciting and vibrant extension of the SMM congregation. We now have the luxury of two priests, the Rev

Philippa Boardman and the Rev Sam Parker, who alternate visits and give the residents some really smashing sermons and services with simple, easy to grasp themes which the congregation really enjoy.

Music is supplied by Keith Mitchell or Marion Cahill on piano and it is touching to see how many hymns the residents can pull up from their memories. They never cease to amaze us. Wherever they are on their dementia journey, hymns and the Lord's Prayer are remembered, creating what the staff at Meadowcroft call 'Golden Moments'. The loyal communion team from SMM help residents negotiate their hymn sheets and orders of service, then round off the visit with some lively conversation plus tea and cake. We rightly remain the hottest gig at Meadowcroft and even more popular than some entertainers!



Everyone is welcome to come along and join us for communion and cake and trust us it really is great fun. Never a dull moment!

Support for charities and other causes

The Awareness Foundation (www.awareness-foundation.com) continued as the church's chosen charity 2021-2023. The Foundation is an international humanitarian charity driven by Christian values which builds peace through education and training.
In 2023, a new programme, PIONEERING WOMEN was added to their two core programmes, LITTLE HEROES and AMBASSADORS FOR PEACE aiming to equip and empower children and young people in Syria and Iraq to become agents of peace and reconciliation.

Other causes: The church continued to support a number of other charities including:
Royal Trinity Hospice, through the proceeds of Sunday after church coffee.
Earlsfield Foodbank through our collections at Harvest, weekly donations and volunteering by church members.
Christian Aid Week – through street collections by church volunteers and online giving.
MacMillan Coffee morning: with great support from the local community, and in memory of Dora Littlechild who ran the Coffee morning for many years and who died in 2023. The short film 'A History of Wandsworth Common' was also shown.

Relationships with local schools and organisations: We continued to build our relationships with local schools in 2023:

Ernest Bevin Academy:

The Literacy Support programme – church volunteers worked with over a dozen students, individually hearing reading 4 days a week from January to July. The format changed in September to a book group discussion with a further dozen students participating.
Remembrance event: over a hundred Year 7 and 8 students plus the Cadet Corps participated in this event, reading war poetry and exhibiting their creative writing which remained on display throughout December. There were lively intergenerational conversations with sixteen church members who attended, some of whom brought wartime memorabilia.

Finton House:

Year Two visit 54 children plus staff participated in their curriculum visit learning about Baptism and the unique features of a church building.
Christmas services: nearly 300 children and a similar number of families, school staff and governors participated in their two Christmas carol services at the church.

Marmalade Bear Nursery:

Harvest service – with generous donations to Foodbank.
Remembrance service – with prayers for peace.
Nativity play – the first time this had been held in church enabling many more families to attend.

8th Upper Tooting Girlguiding Units:

2023 was the year when life mostly seemed to return to some sense of normality at least for Brownies & Guides. Our weekly meetings include a variety of activities, games and badge-work with the girls involved in the choices. Brownies choose which badges they'd like to complete and the Guides choose, plan and execute the activities with in the summer a BBQ evening & fete for the parents at which the Brownies ran a tombola and Guides a mocktail bar and ice-cream parlour.

At Our World Thinking Day celebration it was announced that Barbara had been awarded the Laurel Award, the second highest award in Guiding. Two Guides were awarded Jack Petchey Awards and four of our older Guides are working hard to complete the Gold award, the top award they can achieve, one which requires considerable commitment.

Energising and being active in our care of creation (MAP priority 5)

Eco Church Group

In January the Christian Aid film on climate justice was shown as part of the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity activities arranged by Churches Together. Isabel Losada, The Joyful Environmentalist, was one of our Lent speakers. The Jumble Sale was again promoted as a recycling opportunity. Second hand books gifted in return for donations was a similar activity. St Mary Magdalene was represented at the packed-out service at St John's Waterloo in April to give thanks for Eco Church and Southwark becoming an Eco Diocese. A couple of us visited the Centre for Wildlife Gardening in East Dulwich for inspiration. The year closed with an Advent course revisiting some of Bishop Hugh Montefiore's sermons 'Preaching for our Planet' and the Eco tree at the Christmas tree festival. This year it featured a golden sun powering little solar panels to underline our intentions for 2024!

As with 2022 our most joyful progress has been at the front of the church building. The rain butt proved its worth but we must remember to clean the filter from time to time! New planters have been added and a green painted 'A' frame pallet now gives more display space. We were grateful for some ivy plants from the marvellous floral decoration for Alicia and Oliver's wedding in October. A long- term Balham Park Road resident gifted her pot of lilies. We reminded folk that weeds are only wild flowers and many provide food for bees and other insects and so we try to let things flower before we over tidy. We have applied to install a cycle rack and The Best Exotic Magdalene Bug Hotel is already a new feature.

We are now a registered Fairtrade Church which means all tea, coffee and sugar used on the premises is fair trade. Sales of The Real Advent Calendar, the Christmas Blessing bars and The Real Easter Eggs were also part of this. Our Communion wine is a third strand to our Fairtrade bow.



During the year we reviewed the Eco Church survey noting what progress has been made and what further steps we might take in the short term to achieve silver. We score very highly in Preaching and Teaching, in Community and Global Engagement and in Lifestyle. It is Buildings and, despite all our garden efforts, Land that we need to work on. We are not short of ideas. Thank you for all the support so many of you give. We have plenty of ideas so watch out for Eco tips in the pews sheet and **do get involved**.

PCC's Financial Report for 2023

The accounts show the continuing generosity of all who are connected with the church and particularly this year in the specific and additional giving which enabled us to replace the church's digital organ.
We report by three different types of fund: unrestricted, designated and restricted with each having different aims and reasons for being in our accounts.

Restricted funds: These are given or raised for a specific purpose and balances retained until used for that purpose only. In 2023 the significant fundraising was for the new digital organ with £35,472 raised for that purpose, which was then spent in 2023. A new restricted fund for work with children and young people was started in the year as part of the celebration of Joan Taylor's service as leader of Junior Church. The Roof and Fabric fund also received monies for church linen and fabric – part of which was given in celebration of Richard Sweet's Reader ministry – and the surplus on the "Come and Sing Vivaldi's Gloria" (to be used for enhancing our performance space and kit).

Designated funds: These are more flexible in that the PCC decides to create, add to or use these funds – of which there are now four. Those for Maintenance and West Window works are historic; that for MAP projects was started in 2022 and has been added to in 2023. A new fund: "Re: Capitalised Assets" has been created to reflect the accounting treatment of the purchase of the new organ as a fixed asset to be depreciated over 10 years – this fund will cover the depreciation costs of the next 9 years.

Unrestricted funds: These are the day to day income and running costs of the charity. Income on these funds alone was £184,913, some £19,000 increase over 2022 with notable increases in tax efficient giving and tax rebates due, jumbles, interest earned and open collections. A £3,000 grant from Wandsworth Borough Council relating to Warm spaces was received in 2023.
Expenditure increased by £11,000 over 2022 levels, giving an increased surplus in 2023 of £20,839. The main increase in expenditure related to the Halls with the increased cost of utilities and provision for professional fees connected to the licences of some users. The largest item of expenditure continues to be the Parish Support Fund paid to the Diocese so they can pay the employment costs (including housing, pension contributions, training and professional support) of all the stipendiary clergy in the Diocese. We continue to be generous in our support.
After the transfer of £7,500 to the MAP projects designated fund, the PCC unrestricted funds increased by £13,339 in 2023. The accumulated surpluses over past years now stands at £83,061; giving a good level of reserves for the future activities of the PCC.

Balance Sheet treatment of the new organ: The balance sheet now includes the purchase in the year of a new Makin Digital organ for £42,545 less a year's depreciation charge of £4,254 under the new accounting policy for depreciation relating to a single item of equipment costing over £10,000. The net value of £38,291 is matched by the new designated fund and these will both decline in tandem over the next 9 years.
Charitable Giving: Also reported in the accounts is the generosity of support for other charities. The Awareness Foundation received the surplus of the Christmas Tree Festival of

£7,048 and other specific collections at the "Come and Sing Vivaldi's Gloria" and the first of the 2023 Lent talks. The PCC also resolved to donate £250 of this pot of money to DEC towards their work in Turkey following the earthquake in 2023 – recognising that The Awareness Foundation was already working in Syria following that earthquake which impacted both countries. Money was also collected for and sent to Christian Aid, Children's Society and Royal Trinity Hospice.

Buildings

The maintenance of St Mary Magdalene Church and Halls is a largely hidden yet vital service in the life of the church. This work is essential if we were to keep to our overriding aim of ensuring that the buildings are warm, dry and safe, and making sure that St Mary Magdalene remains at the heart of the Wandsworth Common community for generations to come.

The yearly maintenance schedule is vital in ensuring that there are comprehensive checks including PAT testing, boiler servicing and the regular clearance of gutters and downpipes. Thankfully there was limited water ingress during the year apart from into the Flower Room whose roof is in effect a large sink that receives the water from several drainpipes coming from the main roofs that then flows via a downpipe within the Flower Room. This means that if the Flower room drain in the roof of the Flower Room is blocked, a large volume of water can quickly build up. Thought is currently being given to whether this can be reconfigured in any way to mitigate this risk. General cleaning of gutters and removal of foliage from the roofs and box gutters is a regular task for the volunteer church maintenance team.

Various electrical works were undertaken during the year. These included replacing bulbs in the Parish Hall and Church but it should be noted that much of the current installations are life expired. A more extensive replacement programme with lower energy costs, is planned for 2024.

There were also a number of general repairs and annual servicing arising during the year. These included replacing some life expired Fire Extinguishers, improved draft proofing, upgrading storage cupboards and minor decorating tasks.

The 'Maintenance Crew' of church volunteers visited the church individually and met on numerous occasions to carry out a myriad of other repairs.

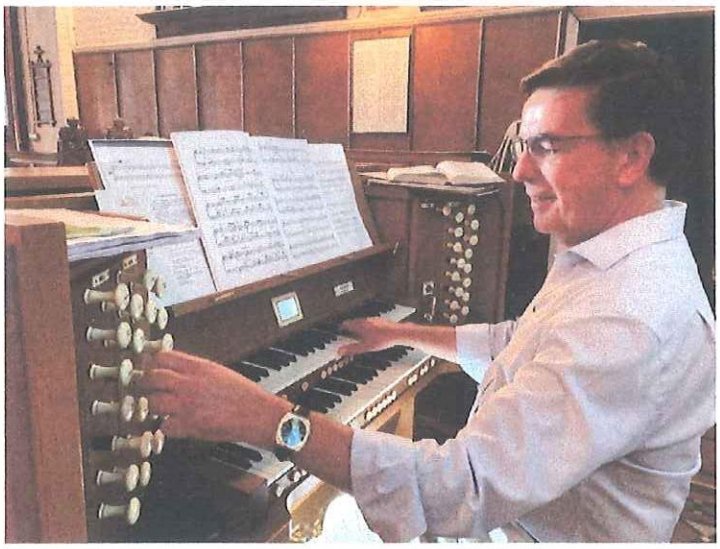
During 2023, three larger projects were undertaken:

1. The installation of a new gas boiler in the Parish Hall

The situation regarding heating the Church Hall had become more acute as the boiler was ageing and had become unreliable over the winter of 2022-23. An options appraisal had been undertaken including heat pumps, infra-red heaters and mats, repairing the existing

boiler and buying a brand new one. While the 'green' options were attractive, it was considered that this technology was in its early days and did not give the reliability that we needed especially with the 50+ small children using the Nursery each weekday. The recommendation of a new boiler – the Worcester Greenstar 8000 Style 35kW Heater was the only pragmatic and reliable course of action available at the current time. But it was noted that should a cost effective and practical eco solution become available in the future then the PCC could choose to take such a course of action and use the Worcester Boiler as a back- up solution.

2 The installation of a new organ:



The previous electronic organ, a Johannes Opus 5, was installed in 1989/1990, and served the church well, but by 2023 had 'outlived its shelf life' of a recommended 25 years. 'Church Organ World' installed a 'demo' organ - the Makin Thirlmere 2-30D Drawstop Console – in July 2023 which was played at services throughout the month. An interim Faculty was granted by the Chancellor. The old organ was removed and the new organ was installed in September 2023. It has been warmly appreciated by organists, choir and congregation.

3 Planning and preparation for further modification of pews to make them 'moveable':

(actual works to begin in January 2024) Following the success of the 2018 plan to put eight pews on casters, arrangements were put in place to make a further eleven pews 'moveable' creating further flexibility at both the east and west ends of the church for recitals, 'Come and Sing' events, Circle Time and receptions following weddings, funerals and memorial services. The castors can be raised to enable the lifted pew to be wheeled to another location and then retracted to set the pew firmly down on its existing feet. Repairs to the Victorian tiles and woodblock, and cleaning and treating of floor where the pews have been fixed is also proposed. The total space created by the proposals would be 92 square meters at the rear west end and 43 square meters at the east end of the church.

David Coleman who chaired the Church Maintenance Committee for many years stepped down in May 2023. David worked tirelessly on projects large and small, organising working parties, meticulous in planning and marshalling documentation including Faculty applications, as well as graciously responding to emergencies at very short notice. We are immensely grateful to him and express our heartfelt thanks.

We record with great sadness the death of Mr Roderick MacLennan, in July 2022. Roderick served as our Church Architect from 2016-2021. May he rest in peace.

Safeguarding

The two new Safeguarding officers have now completed one year and have set a new safeguarding plan which aims to *'enthuse the congregation about safeguarding issues and ensure safeguarding is an integral part of the DNA of Saint Mary Magdalene Church.'* With this in mind, church Safeguarding Officers are continually updating DBS checks, registering Junior Church members and encouraging PCC members and sides persons to attend safeguarding courses run by the Diocese. Furthermore, we are doing more to encourage deeper conversations for all who volunteer and serve at church to consider how we ensure that church is always a welcoming and safe space, especially for those who are vulnerable in our community.

The diocese has expanded the Safeguarding support on offer over the last year, and the Safeguarding officers and one of the church wardens attended a Safeguarding leadership training which culminated in designing a reformed plan of action for safeguarding in the church.

In 2023 the two new Safeguarding Officers (PSOs), Ann Carrington Brook and Charlotte Flowers began with Safeguarding introduction training, and created a Safeguarding action plan for 2023 which included reviewing existing work, renewing displays and creating new systems for data storage, DBS and training monitoring and email.

Actions taken:

PSOs have attended Safeguarding leadership training alongside one of the church wardens. Updating of safeguarding details have been displayed in the entrance, in both halls and also the toilets (it was felt that, while having those details in the entrance was a good idea, but placing them in a totally private place was essential). We have also ensured all details and referral links are added to the SMM website.

Ensured the new Junior Church leaders, as well as other volunteers had relevant DBS checks and that church leadership renewed all relevant trainings.

Worked with new Junior church leaders to create register system to ensure good data recording of all activities.

Encouraged all PCC members to complete the three relevant online trainings and Junior Church leaders and volunteers to complete training.

Challenges for 2023 remain as they were:

To encourage new sides persons and interested members of the congregation to attend safeguarding online courses or together at church; and

To keep all DBS checks up to date and renew where necessary, plus ensure newly introduced disclosure forms are completed and the Safer Recruitment protocol followed. To check that all major events are risk assessed for safeguarding and that the assessments go on file.

People having any concerns about the safety of children or vulnerable adults, are always requested to speak to our Safeguarding Officers, Ann or Charlotte, directly. Their contact details are on the church safeguarding noticeboard in the church entrance or on the SMM website. They can also be emailed at safeguarding@smmwandsworth.org.uk.

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

The Duties of the PCC

How the PCC works and our congregational volunteers

Much of the day-to-day work of the PCC is usually delegated to various groups, but the PCC retains the responsibility for receiving reports from these groups and for taking all major decisions at its regular meetings. The principal groups to which the PCC has delegated authority are:

Standing Committee (which prepares the agenda for PCC meetings and which is authorised to transact the business of the PCC between meetings)

Finance and Risk Committee

Buildings Management Committee

Further information

Constitution: The Parochial Church Council of the ecclesiastical parish of St Mary Magdalene, Wandsworth Common is a corporate body established by the Church of England. It operates under the Parochial Church Council Powers Measure and is a registered charity, registered with Charity Number 1140530.

Address: St Mary Magdalene, Wandsworth Common is situated on Trinity Road, London, SW17 7HP. It is part of the Diocese of Southwark (Kingston Episcopal Area) within the Church of England. The address for correspondence is the Parish Office at 10a Wiseton Road, London, SW17 7EE.

Electoral Roll: The number on the electoral roll as of 31st December was 168 persons, 4 people were removed from the roll during the year and 20 were added.

Church attendance: The annual churchwarden's count undertaken in 2023 showed an average attendance of 75 adults and 6 children.

PCC Meetings: During 2023 there were seven ordinary meetings of the PCC (2023: 7). All meetings of the PCC were held face to face. 75 % of PCC members on average attended these seven meetings (2022: 80%).

Members of the PCC: The method of appointment of PCC members is set out in the Church Representation Rules. At St Mary Magdalene the membership of the PCC consists of a) the incumbent Vicar and other licensed clergy, b) the Churchwardens, c) the reader, d) the lay representatives of the parish elected to the Tooting Deanery Synod and e) lay members. In the case of d) and e), these are elected by those members of the congregation who are on the electoral roll of the church or co - opted to the PCC. All those who worship regularly at St Mary Magdalene are encouraged to register on the electoral roll and stand for election to the PCC.

After the May APCM, the PCC consisted of:

Chair: Revd Philippa Boardman

Curate: Revd Sam Parker

Churchwardens: Tom Roberts; Jane Cooper

Deanery Synod Representatives: Nicola Pattinson and Nicholas Higton

Elected members of the PCC: Alicia Birchall; Graham Dick, Charlotte Flowers, Matthew Heard, Veronica Mills, Keith Mitchell (until May 2023), Richenda Tonge

Co-opted members: (from June 2023), Charles Congdon, Keith Mitchell, Sarah Parsons.

Officers elected by the PCC during 2023:

Vice Chair: Tom Roberts

Treasurer: Keith Mitchell

Secretary: David Coleman (until May) and Sarah Parsons (from June)

Electoral Roll Secretaries: Georgina Child and Carolyn Chambers

Deputy Churchwarden: Nicholas Higton

Safeguarding Officers: Ann Carrington Brook and Charlotte Flowers

Members of the Standing Committee: Revd Philippa Boardman, Tom Roberts, Jane Cooper, Keith Mitchell, David Coleman (until May) Sarah Parsons (from June)

Sides people: Barbara Littlechild (head sides person), John Ager, Alison Blair, Ruth Bowdage, Lucinda Byron-Evans, Carolyn Chambers, Alex Cox, Graham Dick, Charlotte Flowers, Jill Gould, Nick Higton, Veronica Mills, Maha Nassar, Jane Ogram, Nicola Pattinson, Serena Perkins, Gabrielle Richards, Jake Stratton, Joan Taylor, Michael Taylor, Lynn Tilling and Nick Wood

Members of the Buildings Maintenance Committee: Nicholas Higton, Hugh Birchall Serena Perkins and David Coleman (until May 2023) Robin Gisby (from May 2023)

Members of the Finance and Risk Committee: Keith Mitchell, Nick Higton, Jane Player, Alicia Birchall and Andrew Beney

Members of HMP Wandsworth Bible Study Group: Olivia Pethybridge, Peter Carpenter, Serena Perkins, Huda Nassar, Alicia Birchall, Veronica Mills and Tom Roberts

Members of Springfield Hospital CHATS (Chaplaincy Activities Team) Group: Rosemary Birchall, Mary Broderick, Ann Carrington Brook, Graham and Katie Dick, Jill Gisby, Matthew Prescod, Louisa Russell, Richard Sweet and Richenda Tonge

The Meadowcroft Wednesday communion volunteers: Revds Philippa Boardman and Sam Parker, Pat Crosswell, Marion Cahill, Jane Cooper, Lynn Tilling, Rosie Tilling, Joyce Mason, Nell Wells, Doreen Bush and Susanne Mitchell

Ernest Bevin Academy volunteers: Mary Brodrick, Sophie Bull, Susanne Mitchell, Ruth Bowdage (until Sept 2023), Callum Johnston, Stephanie MacKrell (from Sept 2023)

Report of the Deanery Synod 2023

Meetings were held, on 1st February at St Mary's Summerstown, 19th June, at Ascension Balham (Synod service with Bishop Martin of Kingston), 20th September at St Nicholas Tooting and 16th November, at St Alban's Church.

At the February meeting, prior to the forthcoming March meeting of Southwark Diocesan Synod when the issue of fossil fuel investment would be debated, two speakers were invited. The Revd Hugo Foxwood wants Southwark diocese to ensure that money is invested in funds that have ethical criteria and therefore avoid investing in funds related to fossil fuels. Nick Burt, Chair of the Diocesan Policy and Finance, spoke as an individual to provide information rather than on behalf of the Diocesan board of finance. At the end of the discussion, Deanery Synod voted in favour of the motions proposing that the diocese should divest of investments in fossil fuels by the end of 2024. Other deaneries had put forward similar motions to the diocese.

In June we welcomed Bishop Martin to the Tooting Deanery. There was a service and light supper and a chance to hear from and speak with Bishop Martin.

The new triennium began in 2023 and for SMM, Nicola Pattinson remained as a member of the deanery synod and Nic Higton began his term as a member.

Southwark Vision 2023-2035 and the Diocesan Investment Programme (DIP). This document was circulated prior to the September meeting when it was discussed. Feedback both from individual responses and from the discussion, was then passed on to the diocese. This was an important opportunity for the Deanery to influence future planning in the diocese.

In the November meeting, in advance of the 'Season of Lay Ministries' being promoted by the diocese in January 2024, 'Lay Ministry and Service' was the focus of the meeting. We discussed ways of encouraging and celebrating lay service in our churches.

Across the year our lay representative Rosemary Wilson kept us informed about General Synod. The Deanery continues to build a network of eco church contacts.

St Mary Magdalene – Wandsworth Common

Statement of Financial Activities for the year ended 31st December 2023

	Unrestricted Funds £	Designated Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total £	Total 2022 £
Incoming Resources *(Notes 2&3)*					
Income from donors	106,786	-	40,067	146,853	101,395
Other voluntary income	6,122	-	-	6,122	6,827
Government grants	3,000	-	-	3,000	-
Income from operations	64,209	-	1,252	65,461	68,556
Income from investment	4,796	-	-	4,796	1,359
Total income	**184,913**	**-**	**41,319**	**226,232**	**178,137**
Resources Expended *(Notes 2&3)*					
Costs of generating funds	200	-	-	200	90
Work of the Church	129,913	-	-	129,913	130,692
Church Management & Administration	3,742	-	-	3,742	3,281
Other expenditure	30,219	4,254	1,700	36,173	25,054
Total expenditure	**164,074**	**4,254**	**1,700**	**170,028**	**159,117**
Net incoming/(outgoing) resources	20,839	(4,254)	39,619	56,204	19,020
Balances at 1st January 2023	69,722	50,000	42,566	162,288	143,268
Transfer between funds	(7,500)	50,045	(42,545)	-	-
Balances at 31st December 2023	**83,061**	**95,791**	**39,640**	**218,492**	**162,288**

St Mary Magdalene – Wandsworth Common

Balance Sheet at 31st December 2023

		2023		2022
		£	£	£
Fixed Assets	*Note*			
Tangible fixed assets, at cost less depreciation	*4*		38,291	-
Current Assets				
Debtors	*5*	17,328		18,366
Short term deposits		145,290		102,583
Cash at bank and in hand		30,941		49,682
Petty cash		267		267
		193,826		170,898
Less:				
Liabilities				
Creditors falling due within one year	*6*	13,625		8,610
Net current assets			180,201	162,288
Total Net Assets			218,492	162,288
Funds				
Unrestricted Funds			83,061	69,722
Designated Funds	*3A*			
Maintenance Fund		30,000		30,000
West Window Fund		10,000		10,000
MAP Projects Fund		17,500		10,000
Re: Capitalised Assets		38,291		-
			95,791	50,000
Restricted Funds	*3B*		39,640	42,566
			218,492	162,288

Approved by the Parochial Church Council on 10 April 2024 and signed on its behalf by:

Thomas Roberts

Jane Cooper

St Mary Magdalene – Wandsworth Common
Notes to the Accounts for year ended 31st December 2023

1 Accounting Policies

The Accounts have been prepared in accordance with the Church Accounting Regulations 2006 together with applicable accounting standards and the SORP 2015.

The Accounts have been prepared under the historical cost convention. The Accounts include all transactions, assets and liabilities for which the PCC is responsible in law. They do not include the accounts of other church groups that owe affiliation to another body, nor those that are informal gatherings of Church members.

Funds

Restricted funds represent (a) income from trusts or endowments which may be expended only on those restricted objects provided in the terms of the trust or bequest and (b) donations or grants received for a specific object or invited by the PCC for a specific object. The funds may only be expended on the specific object for which they were given and any balance remaining unspent at the end of each year must be carried forward. The PCC does not invest separately for each fund.

Unrestricted funds are general funds which can be used for the PCC ordinary purposes.

Designated funds are general funds that have been set aside by the PCC for particular purposes. The aim and use of the designated funds is set out in the notes to the financial statements.

Incoming Resources

Planned giving, collections and donations are recognised when received. Tax refunds are recognised when the incoming resource to which they relate is received. Grants and legacies are accounted for when the PCC is legally entitled to the amounts due. Interest and all other income are recognised when they are receivable. All income resources including funds raised by sales and events are accounted for gross.

Resources Expended

Grants and donations are accounted for when they are paid over, or when awarded, if that award creates a binding obligation on the PCC. The Parish Support Fund is accounted for when due. All other expenditure is generally recognised when it is incurred and is accounted for gross.

Notes to the Accounts for year ended 31st December 2023 (continued)

Fixed Assets

Consecrated and benefice property is not included in the accounts in accordance with s96(2)(a) of the Charities Act 1993.

Moveable church furnishings held by the vicar and churchwardens in special trust for the PCC and which require a faculty for disposal are inalienable property, listed in the church's inventory, which can be inspected. For anything acquired before 2000 there is insufficient cost information available and therefore such assets are not valued in the Accounts.

Equipment used within the church premises is depreciated on a straight line basis; individual items of equipment costing over £1,000 over a period of four years and individual items costing over £10,000 over a period of ten years. Individual items of equipment with a purchase price of £1,000 or less are written off when the asset is acquired.

Parish Hall

The Parish Hall is approximately 100 years old. It is an integral part of the church building and is not considered to have a separate identity which could have been consecrated or which can be individually valued.

Current Assets

Amounts owing to the PCC at 31st December in respect of fees, rents, taxes due or other income are shown as debtors less provision for any amounts that may prove uncollectible.

Short term deposits include cash held on deposit either with the CBF Church of England Funds or at the bank.

Notes to the Accounts for year ended 31st December 2023 (continued)

2A Unrestricted Funds

	2023		2022
	£	£	£
Income from Donors			
Church open collections	13,111		11,472
Tax efficient giving (including stewardship)	73,947		67,756
Tax rebates received and due	19,728		17,767
		106,786	96,995
Other Voluntary Income			
Fees	2,477		1,788
Donations and bequests	3,645		2,539
		6,122	4,327
Government grants		3,000	-
Income from Operations			
Trading			
Use of photocopier	40		42
Bookstall	-		-
	40		42
Fund Raising			
Jumble sales *(Note 2B)*	4,186		1,799
Other fundraising	77		-
Quiz Nights	-		1,276
Parish hall lettings	59,906		60,204
		64,209	63,321
Income from Investments			
Interest:			
On deposits		4,796	1,359
Total income		184,913	166,002

Resources Expended
Cost of Generating Funds

	2023		2022
	£	£	£
Fund Raising *(Note 2B)*			
Jumble sales		200	90
Activities Directly Related to the Work of the Church			
Parish Support Fund	96,900		95,000
Clergy expenses and housing	11,601		6,441
	108,501		101,441
Church and services			
Choir and organ	2,723		2,423
Mission and Worship	1,238		1,634
Communication	685		-
	4,646		4,057
General running expenses			
Heat and light	4,877		3,859
Insurance	3,600		3,653
Repairs and maintenance	8,289		17,552
	16,766		25,064
		129,913	130,562
Church Management & Administration			
Administration	1,611		1,216
Examiner's fee	360		360
Parish Office	1,192		1,099
Photocopier maintenance	381		371
Bank charges	198		235
Depreciation (note 4)	-		-
		3,742	3,281
Resources expended carried forward		133,855	133,933

Notes to the Accounts for year ended 31st December 2023 (continued)

	2023	2022
	£	£
Resources expended brought forward	133,855	133,933
Other Expenditure		
Parish Hall expenses	30,219	18,754
Total payments	164,074	152,687
Surplus / (deficit) of receipts over payments	20,839	13,315
Unrestricted funds at 1st January 2023	69,722	66,407
Transfer to Designated Funds *(Note 3A)*	(7,500)	(10,000)
Unrestricted funds at 31st December 2023	83,061	69,722

2B **Trading / Fund Raising**

Net income from Jumble Sales £3,986.

3A Designated Funds

Movement of designated funds

Fund	Balance at 01.01.23 £	Transfers £	Expenditure £	Balance at 31.12.23 £
Maintenance Fund	30,000	-	-	30,000
West Window Fund	10,000	-	-	10,000
MAP Projects Fund	10,000	7,500	-	17,500
Re: Capitalised Assets	-	42,545	4,254	38,291
Total Designated Funds	50,000	50,045	4,254	95,791

3B Restricted Funds

Movement of restricted funds

Fund	Balance at 01.01.23 £	Income £	Expenditure / Transfer £	Balance at 31.12.23 £
Roof and Fabric	28,670	3,431	1,463	30,638
Organ	7,310	35,472	42,782	-
Children and young people	-	1,481	-	1,481
Sewing	163	-	-	163
Chair	90	-	-	90
Rood Screen	1,160	-	-	1,160
Servers	937	-	-	937
War Memorial Maintenance	35	-	-	35
Music Fund	1,870	935		2,805
Accessibility Fund	2,331	-	-	2,331
Restricted Funds	42,566	41,319	44,245	39,640

Notes to the Accounts for year ended 31st December 2023 (continued)

4 Fixed Assets

	2023 £	2022 £
Purchase of Makin Thirlmere Digital Organ in year	42,545	-
Depreciation of Digital organ in year	(4,254)	-
	38,291	-

5 Debtors

	2023 £	2022 £
Tax rebates due	17,290	18,366
Debtor re VAT	38	-
Sundry debtors	-	-
	17,328	18,366

6 Creditors

	2023 £	2022 £
Marmalade Bear Nursery School	3,000	3,000
Rental deposits	1,762	1,812
Examiner's fee	360	360
Diocesan Fees payable	-	206
Sundry creditors	8,503	3,232
	13,625	8,610

Notes to the Accounts for year ended 31st December 2023 (continued)

7 Money held in Trust - Charity Projects Fund

The Charity Projects Fund does not form part of the accounts and is only included here to show monies received for and paid to other charities.

Charity Projects Fund income and expenditure:

	2023		2022	
	£	£	£	£
Balance brought forward from prior year:		360		381
Specific collections		2,736		2,884
Other income		25		28
Christmas Tree Festival	9,360		10,733	
less expenditure	2,312		3,024	
		7,048		7,709
Total available to distribute		10,169		11,002
Donations paid and payable				
Christian Aid *(Note 1)*	-		-	
Children's Society	216		52	
DEC Ukraine	-		1,350	
DEC Turkey Syria Earthquake	250			
Trinity Hospice	746		811	
Awareness Foundation	8,822		7,709	
Salvation Army	-		335	
Mayor's Charities	-		373	
Royal British Legion	-		12	
Total donations made		10,034		10,642
		135		360
Less				
Bank charges		1		-
Balance carried forward		£134		£360

Notes

1 In addition, with Gift Aid, £4,071 was raised and sent directly to Christian Aid.

J A Steward **MA FCA**

Chartered Accountant

'Rydal', 26 Woodcote Hurst, Epsom, KT18 7DT

Independent Examiner's Report to the Parochial Church Council of St Mary Magdalene Church, Wandsworth Common

I report on the accounts of the PCC for the year ended 31 December 2023, which comprise the Statement of Financial Activities, the Balance Sheet and associated Notes.

Respective responsibilities of the Trustees and Independent Examiner

As members of the Parochial Church Council, the Trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. They consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act) and Regulations 3 (c) and 4 of the Church Accounting Regulations 2011 and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under section 145 of the 2011 Act and Regulations 3(c) and 4 of the Church Accounting Regulations 2011;
- follow the procedures laid down in the General Directions given by the Charity Commissioners under 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 PCC and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes considering any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts and seeking explanations from the Trustees 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

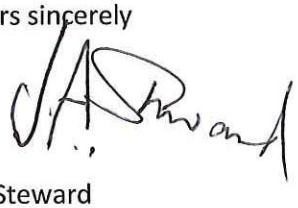
In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

(1) which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements:

- to keep accounting records in accordance with section s.130 of the 2011 Act and Regulations 3(c) and 4 of the Church Accounting Regulations 2011 or
- to prepare accounts which accord with accounting records and to comply with the requirements of the Act, as also contained in the Church Accounting Regulations 1997 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.

Yours sincerely



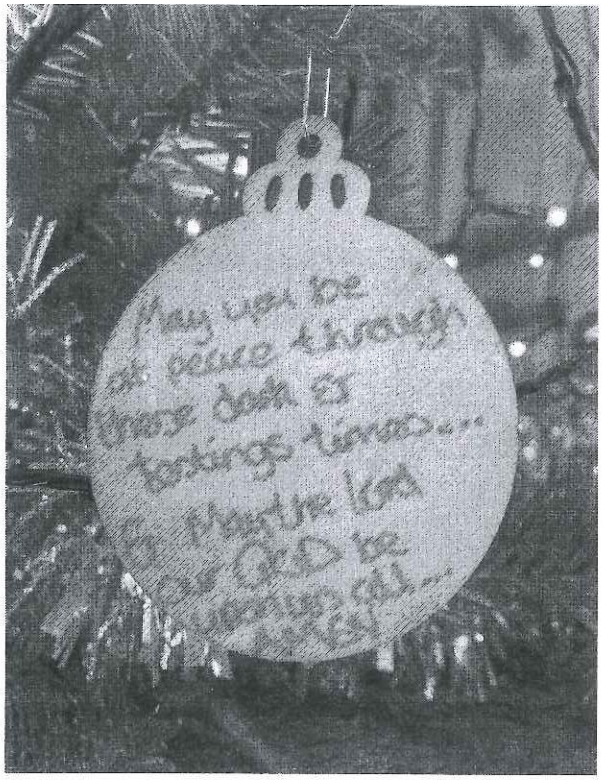
J A Steward
12 April 2024

THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF ST MARY MAGDALENE, W

England & Wales - Charity number 1140530

Accounts

St Mary Magdalene
WANDSWORTH COMMON



ANNUAL REPORT AND ACCOUNTS

of the Parochial Church Council,

St Mary Magdalene, Wandsworth Common

for the year ended **31st December 2022**

(incorporating a report on the proceedings of

the Tooting Deanery Synod)

Cover photo: Message from a prisoner at HMP Wandsworth for the Christmas Tree Festival

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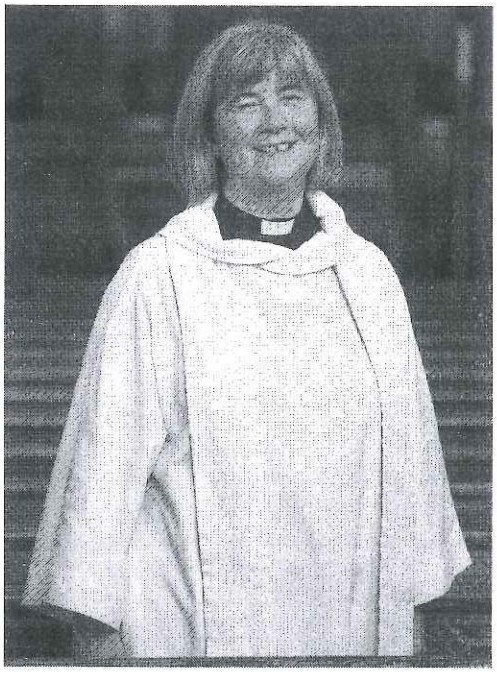
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Annual Report for 2022
on PCC Proceedings and Parish Activities

The Parochial Church Council of St Mary Magdalene, Wandsworth Common (PCC) presents this report on its proceedings for the calendar year to 31st December 2022 and on the activities of the parish generally in that year. The PCC's duties and details of how the PCC works, its meetings and membership, its officers, the electoral roll and other matters are set out at the end of the report.

Introduction - Revd Philippa Boardman MBE



2022 dawned with new hope as the day to day impact of covid receded. We continue to give thanks for all those who worked so tirelessly in the care of others, especially the most vulnerable, during the pandemic.

'We miss singing!' was one of the laments of covid restrictions. What a joy therefore when the internationally renowned choral director and composer John Rutter offered to return for a second 'Come and Sing Day'. None of us could have imagined that the invasion of Ukraine would take place just days before. Nor that John Rutter would write a new anthem 'A Ukrainian Prayer' and honour us by teaching it to our assembled singers and giving the anthem its world premiere. Incredibly quick thinking by our Director of Music, Barry Holden, secured a videographer and sound engineer and a poignant video was uploaded on YouTube, which at the time of writing has had over 450,000 views including by people in Ukraine.

We continue to pray for peace, not only in Ukraine but also in Syria and the Near East where we have such strong links through Revd Dr Nadim Nassar, Miss Huda Nassar and their charity, the Awareness Foundation, which works with children and young people in these devastated lands. The Awareness Foundation is our nominated church charity and more information can be found about it on its website: www.awareness-foundation.com.

2022 saw the continued outworking of our Mission Action Plan, details of which are in the following pages. We took a great step forward with MAP Priority 2 when our new Curate, the Revd Sam Parker and his wife, Emmy, launched 'Circle Time' for young families, with little ones and their carers, and a new team of volunteers enthusiastically joining in. We continue working on the Eco-church 'care of creation' MAP priority 5 and have also joined with other local churches in the nationwide 'Warm Spaces' initiative, to support those who may be struggling with rising living costs (an element of MAP priority 4). This is a further step in using our church buildings in the service of others, which was at the heart of the renewed architectural plans designed by architect Matthew Lloyd and his team, and presented to us in early 2022. This has been followed up by a funding feasibility study, revealing the opportunities and challenges of taking this building renewal forward.

Our care and service of the wider community remain at the heart of our Christian faith. The Springfield hospital visitors continued through 2022 and we were able to see the brand new hospital buildings for ourselves, when over a dozen carol singers went from ward to ward bringing Christmas cheer, joined by Hospital staff and clients. Support for HMP Wandsworth continues remotely through taped services, and ongoing prayer for staff and men. Literacy support at Ernest Bevin College was launched in spring 2022 with volunteers hearing reading every lunchtime Monday to Thursday with great appreciation from the school. Our dementia-friendly Eucharist services at Ronald Gibson House re-started in June and preparations continued for their move to brand-new buildings at The Meadowcroft in early 2023.

We joined with the nation in September 2022 in mourning the death of Her Majesty, Queen Elizabeth II. It was a privilege to host Wandsworth Borough's Civic Service in her honour, with tributes from the Mayor, Deputy Lieutenant, Bishop of Southwark and other World Faith leaders.

It remained a tough year financially as our accounts show, resulting in a small surplus, but finances remain a challenge with rising costs ahead in 2023, not least with the cost of energy.

The church, like so many voluntary organisations, relies on countless and often hidden acts of care and practical support and I am truly thankful for each and every church member who helped our church life to continue and flourish in 2022.

Mission Action Plan 2021 - 2026

We continued to address the priorities set out in our Mission Action Plan for 2021 to 2026. This work is encouraged by the Church of England and remains an essential guide to our work over the next four years, both for the church and within the local community.



The MAP is based on our vision for the future:

To become a focal point for the community in Wandsworth Common.
A beautiful space which inspires, uplifts and energises our outreach through the Glory of God.
A caring place of worship, support, safety and opportunity for everyone – including the most vulnerable.

The MAP sets out our five mission priorities:

1 To proclaim the Good News of the Kingdom and grow in faith as we engage with Wandsworth Common and its institutions, especially the three thousand new people coming to live on the new Springfield Village housing development.

2 To teach, baptise and nurture new believers with a fresh focus on welcoming those currently under-represented in our congregation, especially children, families and young people encouraging them to make SMM their home and to grow in faith and love in Jesus Christ.

3 To create a welcoming and inspiring place of worship and support especially for those who are vulnerable, lonely and in need.

4 To develop a range of inclusive activities in our buildings to support those on the margins of society. Strengthen links to existing SMM ministries in prison, hospital, care home and schools.

5 To energise and be active in our care of creation by participating in the Eco-Church awards scheme and engaging with global issues via a safe space for learning and discussion.

Each priority is supported by specific actions we plan to undertake in the years to 2026. For further information, hard copies of the MAP booklet can be found in the church pews and on our website.

How we achieved our objectives in 2022

Proclaiming the Good News of the Kingdom (MAP priority 1)

Following his joyful ordination at Southwark Cathedral on Saturday 25th June, we were delighted to welcome Revd Sam Parker and his family to SMM at our Sunday Eucharist the next day, followed by Prosecco to celebrate. We also bid 'au revoir' to our Reader, Richard Sweet as he began a six-month sabbatical after 30 years of faithfully and most ably serving as a Reader.



The Vicar and our new Curate

Regular services

January 2022 began with continuing concerns about the Omicron variant and the Government's Plan B which allowed public worship, but still wearing masks for worship and with restrictions *'think carefully before you go'* and *'consider the safety of others'.* The easing of restrictions continued during the year with careful consideration by the Standing Committee and wider consultation. Mask wearing was no longer mandatory from the end of January and Communion in both kinds was reintroduced on Palm Sunday with care being taken to reassure communicants that they could still receive in one kind only if they felt more comfortable to do so. Heartfelt thanks to the Standing Committee, Sidesmen, Cleaning and Maintenance teams for ensuring the safety and care of our worshippers, services and buildings.

Special services

Lent and Easter: Lent began with the traditional Ash Wednesday Eucharist with ashing, particularly conscious of the suffering of the people of Ukraine in the early weeks since the invasion by Russia.

Mothering Sunday brought light and laughter in the sober season of Lent with the service well attended by church families and those from the wider community.

On Palm Sunday we set off from Caffe Nero on Bellevue Parade for our first procession across Wandsworth Common since 2019! Our service continued in church with the traditional reading of the Passion Gospel and we remembered with thanksgiving the late Elizabeth Rackow who organised this Passion Gospel reading for many years with great faithfulness.

On Maundy Thursday there was the traditional service of Eucharist, foot-washing and vigil with inspiring music from the choir, and then the Three Hours at the Cross on Good Friday with the Liturgy for Good Friday from 2.00 – 3.00pm.

Easter Sunday began with a wonderful 5.15am Sunrise Eucharist at Holy Trinity with Easter bonfire (with Revd Philippa 'covering' as they had no Vicar), followed by a champagne breakfast. Very many thanks to Holy Trinity for their warm hospitality.

Our 10am Eucharist was full of joy as we rejoiced 'Alleluia Christ is Risen'!



Cllr Richard Field Mayor of Wandsworth with Cadets from Ernest Bevin College.

Mayor of Wandsworth Civic Service: We were honoured to host this service for the Mayor of Wandsworth, Cllr Richard Field, in March, as the Vicar was his Chaplain 2021-22. Cadets from the Ernest Bevin College Contingent, Combined Cadet Force (Royal Marines) formed a Guard of Honour to greet worshippers who included Mrs Colleen Harris, MVO, DL, representative Deputy Lieutenant, representing the Queen, Local Councillors and Hon Aldermen. The preacher was the Archdeacon of Wandsworth, Ven John Kiddle, who drew attention to the tears on the heraldic crest of the London Borough of Wandsworth, reminding us of those who suffer and sorrow.

Choral Evensong for Platinum Jubilee of HM the Queen: Barry Holden and the choir, assembled from Wandsworth and beyond, led us in this moving tribute to HM the Queen, an oasis of peace and reflection in the midst of the plethora of wonderful, local street parties in the Queen's honour. 'Come & Sing Choral Evensongs' took place on a monthly basis through the year, drawing many who would not otherwise be able to sing this four-part service in their own churches. The Platinum Jubilee was also marked on Pentecost Sunday as the Choir sung 'Come Holy Ghost' by St Paul's Cathedral organist Thomas Attwood (1765 - 1838), thus combining both Pentecost and Jubilee.

Services following the death of HM Queen, Elizabeth II: Following the announcement of her death on 8th September, we joined with the nation in mourning, holding a vigil of prayer and tolling the church bell every hour on the day following her death. Our Sunday Eucharist

honoured HM the Queen with prayers, a special anthem by the choir and the singing of 'God Save the King' for our new sovereign Charles III. On the request of the new Mayor, Cllr Jeremy Ambache, we then hosted the Civic Service in remembrance of the HM the Queen for the Borough on Wednesday 14th September.



Over 200 people attended including the Mayor, Deputy Mayor and Local Councillors, representatives of World Faiths, Fleur Anderson MP and the Deputy Lieutenant, Louise Ireland DL. The Bishop of Southwark, the Rt Revd Christopher Chessun was the preacher. At such short notice, this service would not have been possible without the amazing volunteering of around 40 church members including cleaning, choir, sidesmen, servers, social media, flower team, maintenance and coffee teams.

Harvest Festival: As well as our Sunday Harvest service, we also hosted a Harvest thanksgiving for Marmalade Bear Nursery. Generous donations were made at both services for Earlsfield Foodbank.

Pet Blessing Service: The first-ever pet blessing service was held at SMM at St Francis-tide (early October) attended by 24 dogs, a hamster, various stuffed toys and over 80 adults and children. Great fun was had by all including a rousing rendition of 'God in heaven made a farm'. Humans and animals all survived to tell the tale (tail?)!



Sarah Parsons and Minnie

All Souls Bereavement service: With inspiring choral music from the 'Come and Sing' choir, the reading of the names of loved ones who have died and the lighting of candles - the service was greatly appreciated by all who attended.

Remembrance Sunday: A well-attended service saw the Beavers, Cubs, Scouts, Brownies, Guides and their Leaders joining us for their Church Parade. Two Scouts read the poem 'It's time to remember. Remember why we remember'. The traditional Two Minute Silence was also held with Last Post and Reveille played movingly by Cordelia Holden.

Advent and Christmas: The season of Advent began with an uplifting service of Advent Carols with the traditional congregational carols, inspiring anthems sung by the choir, Bible readings and poetry. It was our first Christmas since 2019 without covid restrictions and we rejoiced in our traditional Christmas Carol and Nine Lessons service with wonderful singing from the choir, a fun-filled Nativity from Scratch, Children's Crib service with guitar music from Revd

Sam Parker and Tom Bull, Midnight Mass and Christmas morning services. These were all joyful and well attended.

Prayer

New ways of prayer (started in 2020) continued. These included the imaginative use of the railings with laminated prayers outside the church with prayers for Ukraine and our new curate Revd Sam. Church members were also on the organising group for the 'World Day of Prayer' at the Salvation Army in Balham in March and we joined in the multi-faith Peace ceremony at Tooting Broadway in October organised by BATCA (Balham and Tooting Community Association). This included leaders from the Jewish, Muslim, Buddhist, Hindu and Sikh communities, as well as contributions from the Mayor of Wandsworth and our MP Dr Rosena Allin-Khan. In December Revd Sam led a contemplative prayer session as an oasis of peace in the Christmas rush.

Pastoral care

This was as important as ever in 2022 as we mourned the deaths of five beloved church members as well as the continuing toll, which the pandemic was taking in people's personal lives and work situations. Wherever possible, the clergy met with people in church or at home to support and pray with them. Support for the bereaved was offered through funeral ministry and the Memorial Services held at SMM. The All Souls service in November 2022 with the reading of the names of loved ones who have died was an important time for bereaved families to gather to support one another and hear words of comfort through hymns, anthems, the homily and prayers.

Two 'Death Cafés' were held, led by the Revd April Keech, a trained facilitator, and hosted by Sally Roberts. These were much appreciated by participants.

Pastoral care is also given in a myriad of ways by church members in often hidden acts of kindness and compassion both within the church and wider community.

Church music

Although SMM loved the special 'Carol Services', which consisted of up to thirty singers, the choir's success was more realistically measured Sunday by Sunday. The choir ranged in size from at least eight to sixteen on typical Sundays. With around fifty four-part harmony anthems under its belt, the choir regularly tackled new anthems on a Sunday morning, increasingly confident that its strong hymn-singing required little regular rehearsal.

The church continued to be tremendously lucky to have Keith Mitchell, who was often able to take on the organ playing, allowing our Director of Music, Barry Holden, to stay out front and guide the choir's musicianship.

The choir's strength of musical confidence; diction, phrasing, blend, cantabile singing, accuracy of tuning and precision of attack are some of the key technical aspects which together made a better-sounding choir.

'Come-and-Sing' with John Rutter saw over 275 singers raise the roof at the church. It was a beautifully organised event, marshalled by Caroline Maddick. The event occurred in the days after Russia's invasion of Ukraine and we were unsure whether this would feel right. Twenty four hours before, however, John Rutter called to ask if we'd consider singing a new work, Ukrainian Prayer, he had written in response to this tragedy. Fortunately we were able to call on friends to help us record this sudden, unexpected premiere of a John Rutter work at SMM!



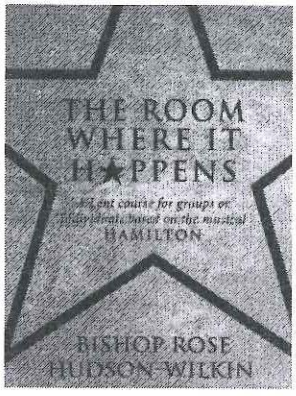
John Rutter leads the assembled choir

Video director, Sven Arnstein, donated his time and skill at no cost to create a YouTube video (John Rutter's Ukrainian Prayer at SMM March 2022), which has since racked up over 450,000 worldwide views, presenting the church's handsome interior to perhaps more people than have ever enjoyed its delights in person.

John Rutter reminded us that there was a further important legacy to this. He allowed the attendees to donate monies to the Disaster Emergency Relief Fund in exchange for a keepsake copy of this new music. We raised over £1,000 on the day for that. He decided to keep with this practice and allowed choirs to download the music entirely free of charge, somewhat at variance with the music publishing industry norms. As over 9,000 choirs have done so, the work has been an instant worldwide hit. *"If the average choir donates £40 from 20 members"*, explained John Rutter, *"that would amount to £360,000 in donations from this work. But such global awareness of my new work would be unimaginable without that YouTube video. It's a new way of publishing, I've come to realise"*.

Each 'Come-and-Sing' Choral Evensong attracted 22 - 28 singers. The choir rehearses for two hours, retires for tea and then sings a proper Cathedral-style Evensong. In 2022, it continued to bring additional singers into SMM's orbit and allowed time for singers to socialise before the service over tea and cake.

Going forward the Choral Evensongs and other events will hopefully broaden the base of local musicians, who come to know and like our acoustically excellent church. But the widest and simplest aim will continue to be to lead the musical aspect of worship in our church, inspiring our parishioners at our weekly services and bringing us all closer to God.



Teaching, baptising and nurturing new believers (MAP priority 2)

Lent course: Our Reader, Richard Sweet led an imaginative and interactive Lent course 'the Room where it happens'. This was based on the blockbuster musical 'Hamilton' and written by the Bishop of

Dover, the Rt. Revd Rose Hudson-Wilkin. The course was well attended and appreciated. As one participant commented *'Is there no end to the wide spectrum of music we've had within the walls of our Church over the last few weeks, sung Ukrainian prayer from John Rutter and hip hop from Lin Manuel Miranda - I love it!'*

Journey with Luke: Throughout the year, the Revd Dr Nadim Nassar led sessions on Luke's Gospel, the Gospel for Year C in the Church of England lectionary. These lively sessions attracted attendees from SMM and beyond.

Advent course: 'Balaam's Ass and other animals that point the way...': This creative course on Zoom led by Susanne Mitchell enabled us to grow in our knowledge of often undiscovered parts of scripture relating to our environment and appreciation of our natural world. It was greatly valued by participants.

Junior church: Following the covid restrictions Junior Church was once again live, alive, up and running. Every Sunday there were two leaders ready to involve the youngsters in an activity. Obviously more adult help would always have been appreciated, as well as more youngsters. In 2022 Junior Church worked in two groups - the under 5's and those over 5 years. The same programme was used for both groups, but presented in an age-appropriate way. It is hoped in time we will also have a group for teenagers.

Families and young people: In October 2022, St Mary Magdalene launched a new midweek group for adults with babies and toddlers called Circle Time. Sessions took place in the church on Wednesday mornings from 9.30am – 10.15am. At the date of writing this report, since the launch, we had connected with over 40 adults. Around 10 adults and 14 children came each time Circle Time met. This included parents, grandparents, carers, and a team of volunteers. The heart behind Circle Time was to provide a space for singing, stories and activities for little ones, as well as an opportunity for adults to connect with one another. While Circle Time is open to all faiths and none, it has been encouraging to see some of our guests engaging in more of what SMM has to offer. For example, two families had their children baptised at the church since the launch and we are expecting more baptisms over the coming months.

Home Groups: These groups continued in 2022 in people's homes, offering a chance for more personal and informal learning, growing in faith and sharing in fellowship.

For example, one home group of nine members continued to meet regularly on the first Thursday afternoon of each month, with a break for August. Their study book for the year was, 'Discovering Jesus; Four Gospels One Person' by T. Desmond Alexander. The twelve chapters examine the four gospels, setting out background information on authorship, the synoptic gospels and scholarship and going on to explore the themes running through the individual gospels. The group studied a chapter per session, using the questions for group discussion at the end of each chapter. As is traditional in their meetings, each session ended with tea and homemade cake. One member commented *'It was wonderful to grow in knowledge and understanding together as a group. We also continue to offer one another prayer and support in between meetings by using our WhatsApp group'.*

Men's Bible Briefing: The Men's Bible Briefing Group continued to meet fortnightly at 7.30am in Café Nero. Over the year the group expanded to eight, of which the typical attendance was five. The discussions remained stimulating and informative. Meeting time still was kept to forty minutes and members continued to find it a valuable start to the day.

Baptisms, confirmation, weddings and funerals: It was a joy to welcome children and their families in holy Baptism after the restrictions of covid, with fourteen children being baptised in 2022. Two weddings took place at SMM and what wonderful celebrations they were, with the church full of families and friends, delighted to be able to be together.

Twelve funerals were conducted in 2022 at the church and local cemeteries and crematoria, as well as a Memorial service.

Creating a welcoming and inspiring place of worship (MAP priority 3)

Matthew Lloyd Architects had been appointed as project architects in late 2021 and in January 2022 Matthew Lloyd made a presentation to members of the congregation in relation to his initial draft scheme. The scheme proposed a radical redevelopment and reimagining of the Parish Hall and, to a lesser extent, a reordering of the nave and chancel. Some changes were proposed to the outside of the church buildings, including opening up windows between the buttresses of the West wall on either side of the font to allow a view out onto Trinity Road and, importantly, a view into the church for passers-by. A reworked entrance lobby – to the church and hall, opening onto a lift and feature staircase overlooking the nave (but separated by soundproof windows) was a key feature, as was a new floor on top of the current hall, the latter being reworked for occupation by the nursery. The Vestry Hall would be kept, with some light modifications and the potential for it being let out as a separate money generating space.

His proposals included smaller 'meantime projects' to be done over the next 1-3 years (for example, re-lighting the church), with the more radical changes over the next 2-5 years.

All in all, Matthew considered this to be an exciting and ambitious project. He was very much aware, however, of the intense planning issues of matching a new piece of architecture to the historic architecture of the Victorian church and, he was quick to point out that from his experience, the fundraising for projects of this nature was more difficult than the building aspects.

Some sixty members of the congregation attended Matthew's presentation and a significant number provided written responses with further oral feedback as well. These comments helped the PCC to develop their thinking over the course of the year in relation to developing the buildings. There was a particular focus on relevant workstreams, including communications, further work on developing relationships with charitable and commercial partners, considering a business plan, 'meantime projects' and fundraising. It was intended that, in time, these would contribute to a review and development of Matthew's building plans to ensure that they properly me the church and its partners' needs.

Fundraising being central to any work on the buildings, a fundraising feasibility study brief was finalised, which was used to recruit a fundraiser to conduct a limited project on, amongst other things, the availability of funds in the funding community for a project of the nature of our plans, as well as other concurrent projects, such as the installation of solar panels. After

a competitive exercise, Sian Newton of Craigmyle Fundraising Consultants was appointed to do this work.

Following the production of a detailed and helpful report at the end of the year, the PCC were able to devote a whole meeting to it in January 2023, at which Sian attended to present the report and answer questions. A series of next steps were identified for the PCC and wider congregation to take forward.

Developing a range of inclusive activities in our buildings (MAP Priority 4(i))

Of the myriad of activities that make up the church year, many of which have been described in this report (not least choral events, Lent talks and use by local schools), the following three activities are also worth mention:



Jeremy Tonge and the Vicar get into the spirit of Christmas

Christmas Tree Festival: In December 2022 we all marked the tenth anniversary of the St Mary Magdalene Christmas Tree Festival. It was our most successful Festival yet in terms of funds raised. We have given The Awareness Foundation around £7,500 towards their amazing work with the children and young people of Syria and beyond. Most of the different ways we raised money produced revenues in line with those from previous years - the hugely important and successful prize draw, tree sponsorship, generous donations and wonderful stalls all delivered similar profits but, in addition, we secured a headline sponsor: Carter Jonas, who generously supported the main event.

We also welcomed The London City Voices choir, who got toes tapping and, along with the ever popular Santa, acted as focal points for our many visitors.

Our advertising promoted the festival and all our Christmas services to the entire parish and across south west London, with over 35,000 recipients of our social media posts alone. The trees were still on show to adorn the two big Finton School Carol concerts, our own Carol Service and Christmas Festivities - all in all many hundreds of visitors saw and enjoyed the trees.

As ever we welcomed the support of the most amazing contingent of volunteers from stall holders to lumberjacks, sponsors to bakers and every other job you can think of. We are so grateful, none of this could be achieved without the wonderful SMM community. Special thanks to the organising committee - Ann, Charlotte, Phil and Rowan. We would like more committee members to join the committee. It's not hard when so many people offer to help at the festival itself, but it would spread the load during the year. Plans have already started for 2023.

Winter Welcome: We joined an initiative of five local churches, begun by our neighbouring Vicar at Holy Trinity, to have at least one of our churches open as a 'Winter Welcome' each day, Monday to Saturday, for those who might be isolated or struggling to pay bills. This was all part of Wandsworth Borough's wider 'Warm Spaces' project, which included a website, information and advice, sharing good practice with other 'Warm Spaces'. We opened every Tuesday in December (until the end of March 2023) in the Vestry Hall with conversation, activities, soup, toasties and cups of tea. Thank you to all the SMM volunteers, the soup-makers, and those who dropped in. It's been great to see guests coming to 'Winter Welcome' and then joining in other activities our churches are offering.



Making new friends at the Winter Welcome

Promise in Store: For much of the year we were pleased to be able to hire out the Vestry Hall four days a week to the charity Promises in Store, which had been set up in 2018 to support young people with learning difficulties, disabilities or life challenges, who made gifts and household goods.

Strengthening links to existing SMM ministries in prison, hospital, care home and schools (MAP priority 4 (ii))

HMP Wandsworth: In October, we rejoiced to welcome Chaplains Wendy Stephens and Tim Clapton, who led a 'Way of Counsel' session in which over half a dozen church members participated. This is a method of group work which they use in the prison to enable the men to share experiences and feelings in a safe and simple, yet profound, way. It is drawn from the heritage of Native Americans.

In November, we joined with other local churches to assemble 1000 'gift bags' for prisoners with hand-written cards and small gifts including chocolate bars, hot drinks sachets and diaries, which were then given to prisoners on Christmas Day. The Chaplains assured us that although small, these gifts had great significance to the men, reminding them that there were people who cared about them from the wider community and they were not forgotten.

The visiting team continued to meet weekly, despite still not being able to return to the prison. We maintained communications with the Prison Chaplaincy, who have indicated the possibility of a return to work within the prison at some point in the future. Inside the prison services were held over the internal radio, to which we contributed recordings of readings and intercessions. Despite the difficulties of engagement, everyone in the team remains committed to serving the prisoners.

Springfield Hospital: Our time with the Springfield Chaplaincy team grew and became more meaningful during the year. On a tour of the new Springfield site in October, Revd Philippa and Revd Sam were able to have a time of reflection with the team on the importance of the Eucharist in our lives. It was inspiring to hear about the work of their team.



Carol singing in Springfield Hospital

Revd Sam nurtured the SMM relationship with the Chaplaincy team and began volunteering with them, including helping to lead a Christmas service for hospital staff. Katie Dick and Ann Carrington-Brook oversaw the rota for the SMM visiting team, training and DBS checks. The SMM volunteers faithfully visited on Wednesday evenings throughout the year and, led by Chaplain Revd Mandy Beck, were able to go carol-singing from ward to ward at Christmas joined by other church members. There are currently exciting discussions underway about developing the work of our SMM volunteers in the new buildings.

Our work with the Springfield development more widely also is referred to MAP Priority 1, in particular, to "Proclaim the Good news of the Kingdom and to grow in faith as we engage with Wandsworth Common and its institutions, *especially the three thousand new people coming to live on the new Springfield Village housing development.*"

In this respect, at the beginning of the year work with Springfield had proved hard going. One of our aims was to find a way to engage with families moving in. We hoped that this might be done by getting information about SMM into any "welcome pack" provided to new residents or a more generic "welcome card", which we could distribute ourselves to the new houses and also use for new families arriving in other parts of the parish. It was recognised that this would be a long term process – we just needed to keep working at it and consider different ways of engaging.

By the end of the year, however, things were progressing. In October Revd Philippa and Revd Sam had had an official tour of the Trinity Building in the new Springfield Village development. They also saw Chapel Square, a space outside the old chapel (now used as a gymnastics club), which was a potential space for outdoor events. Christmas leaflets were delivered to new homes where possible, but was limited due to security systems and gates.

Ronald Gibson House/Meadowcroft: It was a challenging, but rewarding, year for the SMM communion team to Ronald Gibson House.

The regulations around the pandemic were slow to lift, moving from total lockdown to rigorous testing and, until late in the year, mandatory face mask wearing. This was always



SMM's first communion at RGHs new home The Meadow Croft

tricky to negotiate, when giving communion, hymn singing and the wonderful socialising that went on after the service.

However, the team soldiered on and gradually residents returned to the monthly gathering and started once again to get together in the lounge to hear their favourite prayers and sing well-loved hymns. Often the team were joined by carers and members of residents' families. Two members of the SMM congregation are residents, while others were often short stay patients in the St George's rehabilitation wing. We loved to see them all.

In 2022 we were fortunate enough to have Revd Sam join the team to lead prayers and singing. He and Marion Cahill, who played piano, formed a wonderful duo – we were definitely the hottest gig at Ronald Gibson House!

Much of the year was taken up with the planned move to the newly built home – The Meadowcroft - right next to the current RGH and, at the time of writing this report, the residents are happily in their new rooms and cosy lounges and the SMM team are getting used to their regular visits to this brand new building.

Support for charities and other causes

The Awareness Foundation (www.awareness-foundation.com): Having invited nominations from the congregation, in September 2021 the PCC voted to support The Awareness Foundation as SMM's chosen charity of focus for 2021 – 2023.

The Awareness Foundation was founded in 2003 by our own Revd Nadim Nassar. The Foundation is an international humanitarian charity driven by Christian values which builds peace through education and training.

Their two core programmes, LITTLE HEROES and AMBASSADORS FOR PEACE aim to equip and empower children and young people in Syria and Iraq to become agents of peace and reconciliation. The PAX videos together with seminars and talks seek to educate people in the UK, north America, Hong Kong and beyond about peace-building both local and international.

Other causes: The church continued to support a number of other charities and causes, including:

- Royal Trinity Hospice, through the proceeds of Sunday after church coffee.

- Earlsfield Foodbank, we continued to support this much-needed Foodbank based at St Andrew's church, Earlsfield, through our Harvest gifts and weekly donations of food items.
- Christian Aid – Volunteers from the congregation again made street collections and we also continued to make use of our online giving facilities. With thanks especially to Susanne Mitchell (who valiantly stood in for Richenda Tonge) and all those who collected, over £3,000 was raised.

Relationships with local schools and organisations: We also sought to reach out into the community through the church's work with local schools and other organisations.

Schools: We were delighted to re-establish links with local schools as covid restrictions eased. The Literacy Support initiative began at Ernest Bevin College in spring 2022 with nine volunteers hearing reading every lunchtime Monday to Thursday in term time. This has been much appreciated by College staff. Vice Principal Becky Heyes wrote *'I think it has been incredibly successful..... I am so proud of the difference you have all made... I am very appreciative of everyone's support'.*



Ernest Bevin College pupils and Cadet Corps chat with Jack and Jeanette Wood

Ernest Bevin students also re-started their Remembrance event at SMM on 11th November, reading war poetry and exhibiting their creative writing which remained on display throughout December. Church members brought wartime memorabilia as well as their own childhood memories for some lively intergenerational conversations.

It was also a joy to welcome Finton House staff and pupils for a whole school Easter assembly. SMM is the only location in walking distance where the whole school can gather. Finton returned for their Christmas Carol services with 250 children participating in the two services and 600 proud parents and grandparents in attendance.

Marmalade Bear Nursery continue to flourish in the Parish and Church Halls. Revd Sam led a Christmas sing-along with the children and Revd Philippa gave a welcome at the Nursery Nativity play in December.

8th Upper Tooting Girlguiding Units: There has been a long association between St Mary Magdalene and the 8th Upper Tooting Girlguiding Units, who regularly use the church halls for their meetings and join us for services on certain Parade Sundays throughout the year. Several the Units' leaders are regular members of the church congregation.

2022 started with meetings back on Zoom due to high covid rates, but the Guides and Brownies were soon back to 'normal' Face to Face indoor meetings in the Parish Hall. During the year a variety of challenges and badges were worked on including one celebrating diversity and inclusion where the Guides learnt sign language and explored gender stereotypes.

Two Brownies were presented with their Gold Awards, the highest award achievable and the first ones from scratch in the unit. Other celebrations in 2022 were several Jack Petchey Awards to the Guides and Barbara Littlechild, a long standing and active member of the congregation, was presented with a 40 year long service award. The end of the year came with the fabulous news that Joan Taylor, another active member of the congregation over several decades, had been awarded with a British Empire Medal in the New Year Honours list, partly in recognition of her 70+ years of service with Girlguiding, most of it with 8th Upper Tooting.

Energising and being active in our care of creation (MAP priority 5)

Last, but not least, in the MAP Plan is to energise and be active in our care of creation, in part, by participating in the Eco-Church awards scheme. Southwark Diocese encourages all churches to make use of A Rocha's Eco Church action plan, which provides a framework for environmental action. It helps churches consider what they are already doing and where to take action.



The Eco Church Group actively worked to move from the Bronze award, which they won in 2021, to the Silver award. They have created four planters at the front of the church, which change through the seasons; bulbs for spring, summer colour and autumn cyclamen. These were kept alive through the summer heatwave by a valiant team of waterers using the newly installed eco-friendly rain butt, but resorting to the tap when it ran dry. Statements of the eco garden policy were put on the railings. The team that helps with the Vicarage garden follow the same guidelines.



Eco Church Sunday September 2022

Recycling was the main focus of the year. More recycling bins were put around church. A map of where to recycle things, which can't go in doorstep recycling, was displayed and distributed. Jumble Sales were publicised as great recycling opportunities. Cups used at events in the church are compostable/biodegradable. Work began on repairing hymn books. Materials used for craft items and to package preserves that we sell were re- or up-cycled. The Eco tree at the Christmas Tree festival shone with materials imaginatively repurposed. There was also a Christmas wreath making workshop. This involved effort from lots of folk, not just the Eco Group, for which thanks are in order.

Rogationtide was marked with special prayers for allotments and gardens and the blessing of tools and seeds during the weekday service in early May. The Eco cope and processional cross featured on 'Climate Sunday' in September.



Eco Church Volunteers

SMM continued to promote Fairtrade and organic produce via occasional Traidcraft stalls and a Bring and Share Harvest lunch.

Individual members of the Eco Church Group attended various workshops (e.g. clothes repairs) seminars, and talks to increase knowledge and skills. One such outing led to securing one of the 2023 Lent speakers.

Much work was done in relation to the buildings' aspects of our commitment to becoming more environmentally aware. Whilst 150 year old Grade II listed buildings do not lend themselves to the installation of many heat saving ideas, we insulated doors where possible and sought to manage the controls of our heating more effectively. The movement to LED lighting continued, as existing lights failed. Other aspects of the Energy Audit carried out in 2021 remain under active consideration, especially around reducing the church's reliance on gas for heating, for when time and resources allow.

On a much larger scale, work on installing solar panels on the south roofs of the nave and chancel continued to be explored, as well as how to share the benefits of the energy created.

Stewardship and the PCC's Financial Report for 2022

Stewardship

In early 2022 it was decided that a plan needed to be developed to reignite the congregation's attitude and behaviour towards giving. The revenue from planned giving had plateaued, and open collections and donations had declined. In part as a response to this and to the challenges Gabbi Parikh, Director of Giving and Parish Funding at the Diocese, had made in her presentation to the PCC in late 2021, a Stewardship Team was convened. This consisted of Tom Roberts, Ann Carrington Brook, Charlotte Flowers, Nicola Pattinson, Veronica Mills, Alicia Birchall, Jane Player and Jake Stratton. It was specifically intended to be an ideas and brainstorming forum rather than just another committee.

The team met in May and agreed a format for a campaign to raise the profile of giving, educate the congregation about its value, prompt discussion and debate with the intention of inspiring the congregation to increase giving at all levels. Thanks to Lynn Cardy and her design team, a distinctive, high quality notice and leaflet campaign was initiated in July. This was backed up with 'Giving' targeted sermons and poems in the notices at weekly services.

Gradually the campaign produced results with individuals increasing their planned giving. In the last quarter the team decided to raise the profile of QR codes in the church by blanketing the pews with codes. This was reinforced with members of the team being present in all services with handheld card readers. The outcome was significant, producing a substantial

uplift in giving and donations over the last 5 months of the year. The success of this work provides a sound base for further growth in 2023.

A legacy policy was introduced, together with an explanatory information sheet. These were made available should anyone specifically ask about making a proposed legacy in their Will, rather than as materials for an active campaign.

PCC's Financial Report for 2022

The accounts reflect the amazing generosity of church members, visitors and hall users in 2022, giving a surplus of £13,315 (2021: £3,186 deficit) on unrestricted funds plus a surplus of £5,705 (2021: £10,163) on restricted funds. Restricted funds are monies given to the PCC for items or activity as specified by the donor.

The PCC decided to designate £10,000 of the unrestricted funds surplus to "MAP projects", which gives at least some initial funding underway for some of the projects within the 2021 - 2026 Mission Action Plan.

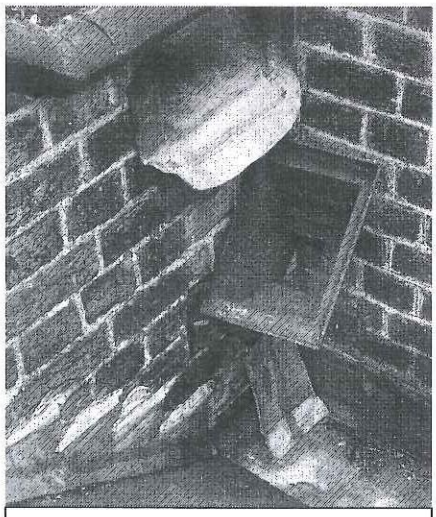
Income at £166,000 increased by £6,000 over 2021. There was increased hall income, including from a four day a week letting of the Vestry Hall, which ended in December 2022. Open collections increased, particularly in December with resumption of attendances at Christmas celebrations. We received no government grants in 2022, as the furlough scheme ended in 2021, and regular giving has fallen in the short term.

Expenditure at £153,000 was less than 2021 spending (2021: £177,412), with the main reductions in administration, as we no longer employ a part time parish administrator, and in hall costs.

Restricted income was the surplus on the John Rutter day, which is held for improvements of the space for future performances, and a legacy and donations towards the cost of replacing the aged digital organ at some point. Expenditure of restricted funds was for architect drawings of the potential redevelopment of the buildings.

At the end of 2022 the PCC's finances were back in a good place with restricted funds of £42,000, designated funds at £50,000 and unrestricted funds of £70,000. Unrestricted funds are represented by short term deposits, cash and the income tax claims made on donations given within the Gift Aid system, which enables UK charities to recover the income tax paid by the donor on the donations made.

Also reported in the accounts is the generosity of support to other charities. The Awareness Foundation received the £7,709 record surplus of the 10th Christmas Tree Festival; relief work in Ukraine received £1,250 (also matched externally) from a collection and sales at the John Rutter day; collections continued for Royal Trinity Hospice with Sunday coffee resuming; and collections for the charities of the Mayor of Wandsworth at the annual civic service and the civic service for the borough in remembrance of HM Queen, Elizabeth II, both of which were held at the church in 2022 as referred to above.



Broken hopper

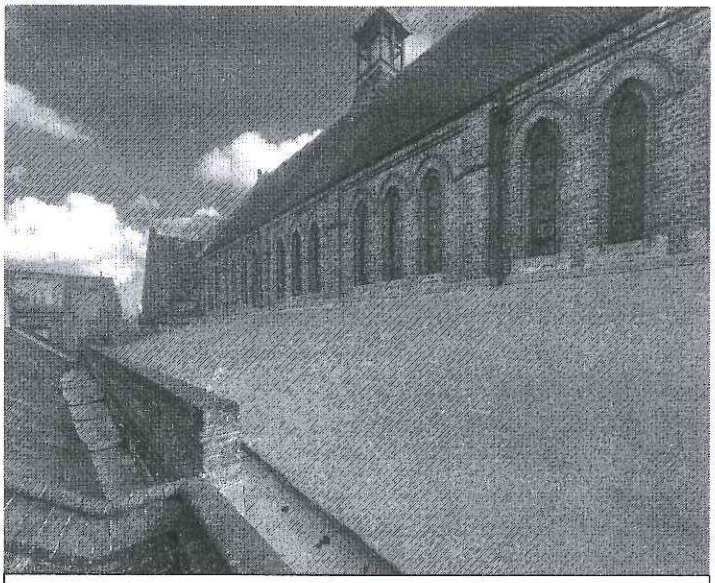
Buildings

During the year we were able to complete a number of important repair and maintenance tasks, albeit they will not have been evident to most people. The main works related to the various roofs and guttering of the church buildings. This work is essential if we were to keep to our overriding aim of ensuring that the buildings are warm, dry and safe.

In late 2021 Alex Sherratt BA DipArch RIBA CA, a partner at Michael Lloyd Architects, had been appointed our new Quinquennial Inspector. He completed a new Quinquennial Report in March 2022.

His summary conclusion was that the church is generally in good condition, and is well maintained by dedicated maintenance team who understand the building fabric issues, and who are effective at prioritising work and arranging to have it carried out. He noted that much work had been completed since the last Quinquennial Inspection, some involving rectification of defects, some to improve the facilities inside the church.

During the year, we undertook substantial works to the roofs and guttering, much of which was highlighted in the Quinquennial Report.



North aisle and middle Church Hall concrete roof, newly solar paint protected

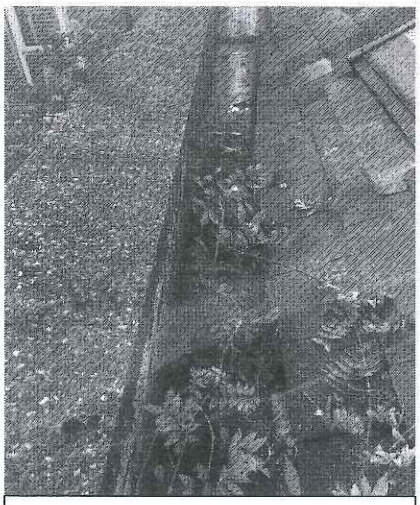
These works included repairs to cast iron hoppers and downpipes and to broken gutters and gutter joints. In one instance a new piece of iron guttering had to be fabricated, a matching modern replacement being not available and a search of salvage yards for a matching one having proved fruitless.

Two coats of solar reflective paint were applied to the large sloping north roof over the north aisle and middle Church Hall. This roof is of unusual construction in that it is made of cement with wrought iron strengthening. If water penetrates the roof, the wrought iron rusts and the roof becomes unstable. This makes the application of protective paint essential.

A considerable number of defective and slipped slates to the four Parish Hall roof elevations, main south roof elevations and south aisle roof elevations were replaced.

Bird spikes were fixed above south chancel windows to protect the stonework from the invasive effects of pigeon guano.

General cleaning of gutters and removal of foliage from the roofs and box gutters is a regular task for the volunteer church maintenance team. One hopper on the south side overlooking



The plants invade!

one of our neighbours' gardens was completely blocked by their plants and rainwater was overflowing down the south aisle boundary wall. A particularly unpleasant task was unblocking the drain gulley over the parish office, to stop water leaking through the roof.

Fortunately, other than in the Parish Office, there were no reports of water ingress into the buildings during the year.

Various electrical works were commissioned. These included replacing the emergency alarm in the Parish Hall disabled toilet, which had not been working for some time; replacing ceiling lights in the Parish Hall kitchen; repairing light fittings in the Vestry Hall; and repairing and resetting the security lights in the passageway to Wiseton Road.

The automatic glass doors in the entrance to the church failed on three occasions. Worn bushes were replaced to ensure the doors hung properly and a new control board built and installed, as the old, obsolete one had failed. Unfortunately, we then experienced problems with the security sensors and compressor for the doors; problems which were rectified early in January 2023.

There was always the usual need to deal with the plethora of less material general repairs and annual servicing arising during the year. Some of these included the installation of a push-bar fire exit mechanism to the Vestry Hall door in accordance with the recommendations of our fire risk assessment; replacing the stopcock to the Vestry Hall, which was leaking; and repairs to the gate to the area behind the Vestry Hall, which was twice damaged by vandals.

The 'Maintenance Crew' of church volunteers met on two occasions to carry out a myriad of other repairs.

During 2023 we will continue to keep the church buildings warm, dry and safe, as well as undertake further works outlined in the new Quinquennial Report.

Safeguarding

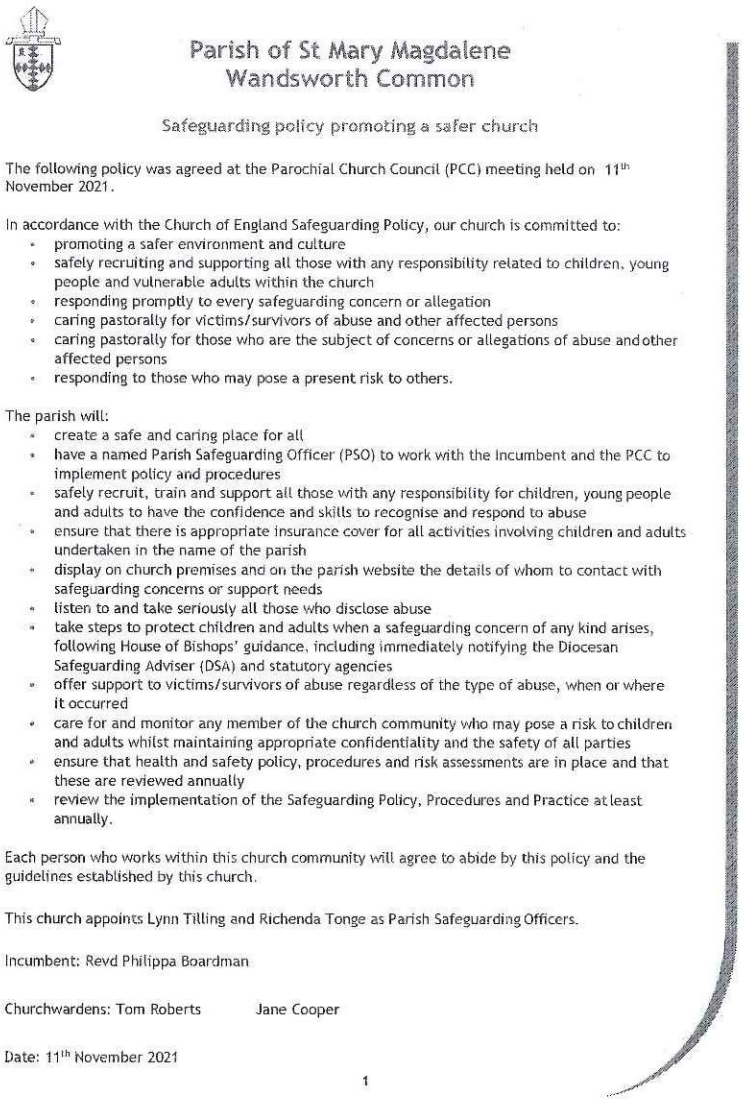
The Diocese takes the view that every member of the congregation has a safeguarding responsibility. With this in mind, SMM Safeguarding Officers are continually updating DBS checks, registering Junior Church members and encouraging PCC members and sides persons to attend safeguarding courses run by the Diocese.

In 2022 SMM returned to its usual full and active life after the closures and regulations post pandemic. We were thankful that our attendance numbers returned to their previous levels, where other churches are even now still struggling to return.

Therefore, the Safeguarding Officers kept up with DBS checks, online training and held a watching brief as normal.

During the year the Diocesan safeguarding office in Southwark appointed a new Safeguarding Adviser, Pamela Chisolm, a former police officer with extensive experience of working with

children and the vulnerable. The structure of the office also changed with extra staff being added. Such is the importance of safeguarding in the Diocese.



Parish of St Mary Magdalene
Wandsworth Common

Safeguarding policy promoting a safer church

The following policy was agreed at the Parochial Church Council (PCC) meeting held on 11th November 2021.

In accordance with the Church of England Safeguarding Policy, our church is committed to:

- promoting a safer environment and culture
- safely recruiting and supporting all those with any responsibility related to children, young people and vulnerable adults within the church
- responding promptly to every safeguarding concern or allegation
- caring pastorally for victims/survivors of abuse and other affected persons
- caring pastorally for those who are the subject of concerns or allegations of abuse and other affected persons
- responding to those who may pose a present risk to others.

The parish will:

- create a safe and caring place for all
- have a named Parish Safeguarding Officer (PSO) to work with the Incumbent and the PCC to implement policy and procedures
- safely recruit, train and support all those with any responsibility for children, young people and adults to have the confidence and skills to recognise and respond to abuse
- ensure that there is appropriate insurance cover for all activities involving children and adults undertaken in the name of the parish
- display on church premises and on the parish website the details of whom to contact with safeguarding concerns or support needs
- listen to and take seriously all those who disclose abuse
- take steps to protect children and adults when a safeguarding concern of any kind arises, following House of Bishops' guidance, including immediately notifying the Diocesan Safeguarding Adviser (DSA) and statutory agencies
- offer support to victims/survivors of abuse regardless of the type of abuse, when or where it occurred
- care for and monitor any member of the church community who may pose a risk to children and adults whilst maintaining appropriate confidentiality and the safety of all parties
- ensure that health and safety policy, procedures and risk assessments are in place and that these are reviewed annually
- review the implementation of the Safeguarding Policy, Procedures and Practice at least annually.

Each person who works within this church community will agree to abide by this policy and the guidelines established by this church.

This church appoints Lynn Tilling and Richenda Tonge as Parish Safeguarding Officers.

Incumbent: Revd Philippa Boardman

Churchwardens: Tom Roberts Jane Cooper

Date: 11th November 2021

1

In 2022 we:

- Recruited two new Safeguarding Officers. Ann Carrington Brook and Charlotte Flowers took on the roles and were quickly immersed in the training for first time Safeguarding Officers. This is a new initiative by the Diocese and one that was much needed.
- Improved safeguarding awareness, by introducing new information and contact details within the new toilets within the church. It was felt that, while having those details in the entrance was a good idea, placing them in a totally private place was essential.
- Pressed the Diocese once again for guidance on video filming destined to appear on YouTube or national broadcasting. Sadly, the Diocese has yet to create a definite set of guidelines that we can work to, but we will keep up the pressure.

Challenges for 2023 remain as they were:

- Create a set of protocols for online services and outreach – mostly those in which children might appear – and have them approved by the PCC. This can only happen when the Diocese comes up with some definite guidelines.
- Encourage new sides persons and interested members of the congregation to attend safeguarding courses when resumed or complete them online. Happily there are more online courses available now and the new Safeguarding Officers will keep up that momentum. Training courses for PCC members now need to be taken or refreshed every three years, where previously it was every five.
- Keep all DBS checks up to date and renew where necessary, plus ensure newly introduced disclosure forms are completed and the Safer Recruitment protocol followed.

- Ensure all children attending Junior Church are registered now they are back with us once again at services.
- Check that all major events are risk assessed and that the assessments go on file.

People having any concerns about the safety of children or vulnerable adults, are always requested to speak to our Safeguarding Officers, Ann or Charlotte, directly. Their contact details are on the church safeguarding noticeboard in the church entrance or on the SMM website. They can also be emailed at safeguarding@smmwandsworth.org.uk

In relation to its safeguarding arrangements, the PCC has complied with the duty under section 5 of the Safeguarding and Clergy Discipline Measure 2016 (duty to have regard to House of Bishops' guidance on safeguarding children and vulnerable adults).

Safeguarding is a central and essential part of the church's life and we offer our enormous thanks to Lynn and Richenda for all they have done, most often behind the scenes, and welcome Ann and Charlotte into their new roles.

The Duties of the PCC

The PCC has the duty, amongst other things, to consult with the Vicar on matters of general concern and importance within the parish and to work with her to promote the whole mission of the church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical in the area.

The PCC is committed to enabling regular public worship at St Mary Magdalene, open to all, and to the provision at the church of sacred space for personal prayer and contemplation.

When planning our activities, we have considered the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit and, in particular, the supplementary guidance on charities for the advancement of religion. We try specially to enable ordinary people to live out their faith as part of our parish community through:

- Worship and prayer
- Teaching of Christianity through sermons, courses and small groups
- Provision of pastoral care for people living in the parish
- Outreach work in the local community

To continue this important work, it is also vital that we maintain the fabric of the church, including its Parish and Vestry Halls, and ensure they remain fit for purpose.

How the PCC works and our congregational volunteers

Much of the day-to-day work of the PCC is usually delegated to various groups, but the PCC retains the responsibility for receiving reports from these groups and for taking all major decisions at its regular meetings. The principal groups to which the PCC delegated authority are the:

- Standing Committee (which prepares the agenda for PCC meetings and is authorised to transact the business of the PCC between meetings)
- Mission Committee
- Finance and Risk Committee (which also has responsibility for Stewardship)

- Buildings Maintenance Committee

The Standing Committee met almost every fortnight to ensure the business of the church continued between PCC meetings, with the other committees meeting more infrequently, when matters dictated.

The PCC also includes those appointed to represent it at the Tooting Deanery Synod.

Opportunity was taken in the middle of the 2022/2023 PCC, to reflect upon how the PCC was working and how this might be improved. There was a general consensus that the format of the PCC meetings was working well and provided a space for enlivened conversation, albeit there remained a need to make PCC meetings more dynamic and engaging! Further work on better feedback to the congregation, confidential matters aside, was also needed. A WhatsApp Group for PCC members has now been set up to aid their communication between meetings.

Many other groups of people, however, contributed to the operation and vitality of our church as this report has shown. Collectively we owe enormous thanks to all those volunteers who contribute so much of their time and skills to the work of St Mary Magdalene in our community and further afield.

There are always opportunities to support the work of the church in many different ways and we continue to encourage every member of the congregation to consider prayerfully how they might contribute their 'time, talents and treasure' at St Mary Magdalene and in the wider parish.

Church administration

Due to lack of funds, we were unable once again to employ a paid parish administrator in 2022 and had to continue with volunteers taking on some tasks and others falling to the Vicar and Churchwardens.

Revd Philippa's regular Mailchimp messages continued to provide information on forthcoming services and also serve as a conduit of news and other matters concerning church life.

The 2021 fire risk assessment recommended changes to our fire and evacuation policy and procedures. This was, in part, due to their continued focus on the Sunday morning services, rather than other uses of the buildings. In order to clarify the position, a single policy and four separate plans for each of the different areas and uses of the church buildings was created, updating the policy and procedures in a few respects at the same time.

Thankfully no fire or evacuation related incidents had occurred during the year, although there is no room for complacency and further work on improving the church's response to fire or other events requiring evacuation continued throughout the year.

Further information

Constitution: The Parochial Church Council of the ecclesiastical parish of St Mary Magdalene, Wandsworth Common is a corporate body established by the Church of England. It operates under the Parochial Church Council Powers Measure and is a registered charity, registered with Charity Number 1140530.

Address: St Mary Magdalene, Wandsworth Common is situated on Trinity Road, London, SW17 7HP. It is part of the Diocese of Southwark (Kingston Episcopal Area) within the Church of England. The address for correspondence is the Parish Office at 10a Wiseton Road, London, SW17 7EE.

Electoral Roll: The number on the electoral roll as of 31st December was 149 (2021: 156). Five people were removed from the roll during the year and one added.

Church attendance: The annual churchwarden's count undertaken in 2022 showed an average attendance of 119 each Sunday, excluding Easter Day, the Crib Service, Midnight Mass and Christmas Day.

PCC Meetings: During 2022 there were seven ordinary meetings of the PCC (2021: 7). At last, all these meetings could be help face-to-face, following the Zoom video conferences of the pandemic. 58% of PCC members on average attended these seven meetings (2021: 81%).

Members of the PCC: The method of appointment of PCC members is set out in the Church Representation Rules. At St Mary Magdalene the membership of the PCC consists of (i) the incumbent Vicar and other licensed clergy, (ii) the Churchwardens, (iii) the reader, (iv) the lay representatives of the parish elected to the Tooting Deanery Synod and (v) lay members. In the case of (iv) and (v), these are elected by those members of the congregation who are on the electoral roll of the church. All those who worship regularly at St Mary Magdalene are encouraged to register on the electoral roll and stand for election to the PCC.

After the May APCM, the PCC consisted of:

- **Chair:** Revd Philippa Boardman
- **Curate:** Revd Sam Parker (from July)
- **Reader:** Richard Sweet
- **Churchwardens:** Tom Roberts; Jane Cooper
- **Deanery Synod Representatives:** Sophie Bull; Nicola Pattinson; and Lynn Tilling
- **Elected members of the PCC:** Alicia Birchall; Ann Carrington Brook; David Coleman; Nicholas Higton; Veronica Mills, Keith Mitchell; and Jane Player

Excluding out of pocket expenses, none of the PCC members (other than the clergy) were paid during the financial year.

Officers elected by the PCC during 2022:

- **Vice Chair:** Tom Roberts
- **Treasurer:** Keith Mitchell
- **Secretary:** David Coleman
- **Electoral Roll Secretaries:** Georgina Child and Carolyn Chambers
- **Deputy Churchwardens:** David Coleman, Nick Higton and Serena Perkins
- **Safeguarding Officers:** Lynn Tilling and Richenda Tonge (to September); Ann Carrington Brook and Charlotte Flowers (from September)

Members of the Standing Committee: Revd Philippa Boardman, Tom Roberts, Jane Cooper, Keith Mitchell and David Coleman

Sides people: Barbara Littlechild (head sides person), John Ager, Alison Blair, Ruth Bowdage, Lucinda Byron-Evans, Carolyn Chambers, Alex Cox, Graham Dick, Charlotte Flowers, Jill Gould, Nick Higton, Veronica Mills, Maha Nassar, Jane Ogram, Nicola Pattinson, Serena Perkins, Gabrielle Richards, Jake Stratton, Joan Taylor, Michael Taylor, Lynn Tilling and Nick Wood

Members of the Buildings Maintenance Committee: Nicholas Higton, Serena Perkins, David Coleman and Hugh Birchall

Members of the Finance and Risk Committee: Keith Mitchell, Nick Higton, Jane Player, Alicia Birchall, Andrew Beney

Members of HMP Wandsworth Bible Study Group: Olivia Pethybridge, Peter Carpenter, Serena Perkins, Huda Nassar, Alicia Birchall, Veronica Mills and Tom Roberts

Members of the Springfield Hospital Visiting Group: Rosemary Birchall, Mary Broderick, Ann Carrington Brook, Graham Dick, Katie Dick, Jill Gisby, Louisa Russell, Richard Sweet and Richenda Tonge

Monthly Wednesday Ronald Gibson House communion volunteers: Revd Philippa Boardman, Revd Sam Parker, Pat Crosswell, Marion Cahill, Jane Cooper, Lynn Tilling, Rosie Tilling, Joyce Mason, Nell Wells and Doreen Bush

Report on the proceedings of Tooting Deanery Synod 2022

Four meetings of Tooting Deanery Synod took place over 2022, and once again there was an emphasis on Eco Deanery and social outreach. The Deanery continues to seek to find useful areas in which we can work together as churches, supporting one another and sharing training opportunities.

In February over Zoom, the focus of the meeting was a talk by Nicola Thomas, head of Justice, Peace and the Integrity of Creation (JPIC), part of the Southwark Diocesan Mission Team. Nicola spoke about the importance of the ecological agenda and challenged us to consider what sacrifices all would need to make in order to make a difference.

At our May meeting, held at Holy Trinity church, the Ven John Kiddle, Archdeacon of Wandsworth (and leader of Diocesan Well-being Group), gave an 'Introduction to Wellbeing', taking as inspiration the book by Peter Wohlleben, 'The Secret Life of Trees'.

On 23rd July, 16 people from across the Deanery, took part in a one day training course in Mental Health first aid, qualifying as Mental Health champions. The course was run by Kate Houghton and hosted by Ascension church, Balham.

In September, following an informal supper, representatives from pairs of churches shared information on what each church is doing as regards Eco Church and also with which areas they are struggling. These points were read out and these notes were kept and later shared amongst all Representatives.

Deanery Synod then looked at the current cost of living crisis, sharing what each church is doing currently, for example the CAP money course at St Nicholas and the Crosslight debt advice centre at the Ascension, Balham. We also discussed other ways in which our churches could help. One of these, providing warm spaces across different days of the week, has since come to fruition across the Deanery and with SMM in particular, working with four nearby churches in the Deanery, sharing advertising etc. As a follow up to this meeting, we began to compile a list of Eco Church representatives for each church in the Deanery, with a view to providing support to one another and exchanging knowledge gained from experience.

At the November meeting, held at the Ascension, updates on Deanery compassion projects were given. A Syrian refugee family continues to be supported. We pledged to fill 225 Christmas gift bags for the prisoners at HMP Wandsworth, in response to an appeal from the Anglican chaplains there. These were filled by our churches and delivered to the prison in December. Revd Marcus Gibbs proposed to compile a log of the social outreach projects being offered by our churches. Our speaker, Revd Vanessa Elston then addressed the Synod on the calling of the church to respond to Eco issues, drawing our attention to the bigger picture.

St Mary Magdalene – Wandsworth Common

Statement of Financial Activities for the year ended 31st December 2022

	Unrestricted Funds	Designated Funds	Restricted Funds	Total	Total 2021
	£	£	£	£	£
Incoming Resources					
(Notes 2&3)					
Income from donors	96,995	-	4,400	101,395	98,922
Other voluntary income	4,327	-	2,500	6,827	5,618
Government grants	-	-	-	-	3,997
Income from operations	63,321	-	5,235	68,556	55,470
Income from investment	1,359	-	-	1,359	53
Total income	**166,002**	-	**12,135**	**178,137**	**164,060**
Resources Expended					
(Notes 2&3)					
Costs of generating funds	90	-	-	90	60
Work of the Church	130,562	-	130	130,692	131,164
Church Management & Administration	3,281	-	-	3,281	11,546
Other expenditure	18,754	-	6,300	25,054	34,642
Total expenditure	**152,687**	-	**6,430**	**159,117**	**177,412**
Net incoming/(outgoing) resources	13,315	-	5,705	19,020	(13,352)
Balances at 1st January 2022	66,407	40,000	36,861	143,268	156,620
Transfer between funds	(10,000)	10,000	-	-	-
Balances at 31st December 2022	**69,722**	**50,000**	**42,566**	**162,288**	**143,268**

St Mary Magdalene – Wandsworth Common
Balance Sheet at 31st December 2022

		2022		2021
		£	£	£
Fixed Assets	*Note*			
Tangible fixed assets	*4*		-	-
Current Assets				
Debtors	*5*	18,366		20,273
Short term deposits		102,583		101,251
Cash at bank and in hand		49,682		27,867
Petty cash		267		267
		170,898		149,658
Less:				
Liabilities				
Creditors falling due within one year	*6*	8,610		6,390
Net current assets			162,288	143,268
Total Net Assets			162,288	143,268
Funds				
Unrestricted Funds			69,722	66,407
Designated Funds	*3A*			
Maintenance Fund		30,000		30,000
West Window Fund		10,000		10,000
MAP Projects Fund		10,000		-
			50,000	40,000
Restricted Funds	*3B*		42,566	36,861
			162,288	143,268

Approved by the Parochial Church Council on 12 April 2023 and signed on its behalf by:

Thomas Roberts
Churchwarden

Jane Cooper
Churchwarden

St Mary Magdalene – Wandsworth Common

Notes to the Accounts for year ended 31st December 2022

1 Accounting Policies

The Accounts have been prepared in accordance with the Church Accounting Regulations 2006 together with applicable accounting standards and the SORP 2015.

The Accounts have been prepared under the historical cost convention. The Accounts include all transactions, assets and liabilities for which the PCC is responsible in law. They do not include the accounts of other church groups that owe affiliation to another body, nor those that are informal gatherings of Church members.

Funds

Restricted funds represent (a) income from trusts or endowments which may be expended only on those restricted objects provided in the terms of the trust or bequest and (b) donations or grants received for a specific object or invited by the PCC for a specific object. The funds may only be expended on the specific object for which they were given and any balance remaining unspent at the end of each year must be carried forward. The PCC does not invest separately for each fund.

Unrestricted funds are general funds which can be used for the PCC ordinary purposes.

Designated funds are general funds that have been set aside by the PCC for particular purposes. The aim and use of the designated funds is set out in the notes to the financial statements.

Incoming Resources

Planned giving, collections and donations are recognised when received. Tax refunds are recognised when the incoming resource to which they relate is received. Grants and legacies are accounted for when the PCC is legally entitled to the amounts due. Interest and all other income are recognised when they are receivable. All income resources including funds raised by sales and events are accounted for gross.

Resources Expended

Grants and donations are accounted for when they are paid over, or when awarded, if that award creates a binding obligation on the PCC. The Parish Support Fund is accounted for when due. All other expenditure is generally recognised when it is incurred and is accounted for gross.

Fixed Assets

Consecrated and benefice property is not included in the accounts in accordance with s96(2)(a) of the Charities Act 1993.

Moveable church furnishings held by the vicar and churchwardens in special trust for the PCC and which require a faculty for disposal are inalienable property, listed in the church's inventory, which can be inspected. For anything acquired before 2000 there is insufficient cost information available and therefore such assets are not valued in the Accounts.

Equipment used within the church premises is depreciated on a straight line basis over four years. Individual items of equipment with a purchase price of £1,000 or less are written off when the asset is acquired.

Parish Hall

The Parish Hall is approximately 100 years old. It is an integral part of the church building and is not considered to have a separate identity which could have been consecrated or which can be individually valued.

Current Assets

Amounts owing to the PCC at 31st December in respect of fees, rents, taxes due or other income are shown as debtors less provision for any amounts that may prove uncollectible.

Short term deposits include cash held on deposit either with the CBF Church of England Funds or at the bank.

2A Unrestricted Funds

	2022		2021
	£	£	£
Income from Donors			
Church open collections	11,472		5,455
Tax efficient giving (including stewardship)	67,756		72,904
Tax rebates received and due	17,767		17,375
		96,995	95,734
Other Voluntary Income			
Fees	1,788		2,368
Donations and bequests	2,539		3,050
		4,327	5,418
Government grants		-	3,997
Income from Operations			
Trading			
Use of photocopier	42		-
Bookstall	-		-
	42		
Fund Raising			
Jumble sales *(Note 2B)*	1,799		1,293
Eco event	-		430
Quiz Nights	1,276		-
Parish hall lettings	60,204		53,747
		63,321	55,470
Income from Investments			
Interest:			
On deposits		1,359	53
Total income		166,002	160,672

Resources Expended
Cost of Generating Funds

	2022		2021
	£	£	£
Fund Raising *(Note 2B)*			
Jumble sales		90	60
Activities Directly Related to the Work of the Church			
Parish Support Fund	95,000		93,000
Clergy expenses	6,441		10,360
	101,441		103,360
Church and services			
Choir and organ	2,423		1,986
Mission and Worship	1,634		530
Communication	-		-
	4,057		2,516
General running expenses			
Heat and light	3,859		2,356
Insurance	3,653		3,600
Repairs and maintenance	17,552		19,332
	25,064		25,288
		130,562	131,164
Church Management & Administration			
Administration	1,216		1,921
Examiner's fee	360		360
Parish Office	1,099		8,789
Photocopier maintenance	371		273
Bank charges	235		203
Depreciation (note 4)	-		-
		3,281	11,546
Resources expended carried forward		133,933	142,770

	2022	2021
	£	£
Resources expended brought forward	133,933	142,770
Other Expenditure		
Parish Hall expenses	18,754	21,091
Total payments	152,687	163,861
Surplus / (deficit) of receipts over payments	13,315	(3,189)
Unrestricted funds at 1st January 2022	66,407	69,596
Transfers to/(from) Designated Funds *(Note 3A)*	(10,000)	-
Unrestricted funds at 31st December 2022	69,722	66,407

2B **Trading / Fund Raising**

Net income from Jumble Sales £1,709.

3A Designated Funds

Movement of designated funds

Fund	Balance at 01.01.22 £	Transfer from Unrestricted Fund £	Expenditure £	Balance at 31.12.22 £
Maintenance Fund	30,000	-	-	30,000
West Window Fund	10,000	-	-	10,000
MAP Projects Fund	-	10,000	-	10,000
Total Designated Funds	40,000	-	-	50,000

3B Restricted Funds

Movement of restricted funds

Fund	Balance at 01.01.22 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Balance at 31.12.22 £
Roof and Fabric	29,385	5,585	6,300	28,670
Organ	760	6,550	-	7,310
Sewing	163	-	-	163
Chair	90	-	-	90
Rood Screen	1,160	-	-	1,160
Servers	937	-	-	937
War Memorial Maintenance	35	-	-	35
Liz Wintle Music Fund	2,000	-	130	1,870
Accessibility Fund	2,331	-	-	2,331
Total Restricted Funds	36,861	12,135	6,430	42,566

4 Fixed Assets

All assets are now fully written off in accordance with the four year depreciation policy.

5 Debtors

	2022	2021
	£	£
Tax rebates due	18,366	17,509
Debtor re VAT	-	2,737
Sundry debtor	-	27
	18,366	20,273

6 Creditors

	2022	2021
	£	£
Marmalade Bear Nursery School	3,000	3,000
Rental deposits	1,812	1,362
Examiner's fee	360	360
Diocesan Fees payable	206	-
Sundry	3,232	1,668
	8,610	6,390

7 Money held in Trust - Charity Projects Fund

The Charity Projects Fund does not form part of the accounts and is only included here to show monies received for and paid to other charities.

Charity Projects Fund income and expenditure:

	2022		2021	
	£	£	£	£
Balance brought forward from prior year:		381		337
Specific collections		2,884		1,451
Other income		28		24
Christmas Tree Festival	10,733		8,213	
less expenditure	3,024		2,726	
		7,709		5,487
Total available to distribute		11,002		7,299
Donations paid and payable				
Christian Aid *(Note 1)*	-		-	
Children's Society	52		168	
DEC Ukraine	1,350		-	
Earlsfield Foodbank	-		1,105	
Trinity Hospice	811		158	
Awareness Foundation	7,709		5,487	
Salvation Army	335		-	
Mayor's Charities	373		-	
Royal British Legion	12		-	
Total donations made		10,642		6,918
		360		381
Less				
Bank charges		-		-
Balance carried forward		£360		£381

Notes

1 In addition, with Gift Aid, £3,066 was raised and sent directly to Christian Aid.

J A Steward **MA FCA**

Chartered Accountant

'Rydal', 26 Woodcote Hurst, Epsom, KT18 7DT

Independent Examiner's Report to the Parochial Church Council of St Mary Magdalene Church, Wandsworth Common

I report on the accounts of the PCC for the year ended 31 December 2022, which comprise the Statement of Financial Activities, the Balance Sheet and associated Notes.

Respective responsibilities of the Trustees and Independent Examiner

As members of the Parochial Church Council, the Trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. They consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act) and Regulations 3 (c) and 4 of the Church Accounting Regulations 2011 and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under section 145 of the 2011 Act and Regulations 3(c) and 4 of the Church Accounting Regulations 2011;
- follow the procedures laid down in the General Directions given by the Charity Commissioners under 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 PCC and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes considering any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts and seeking explanations from the Trustees 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

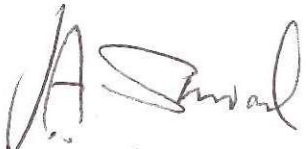
In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

(1) which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements:

- to keep accounting records in accordance with section s.130 of the 2011 Act and Regulations 3(c) and 4 of the Church Accounting Regulations 2011 or
- to prepare accounts which accord with accounting records and to comply with the requirements of the Act, as also contained in the Church Accounting Regulations 1997 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.

Yours sincerely



J A Steward
12 April 2023

THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF ST MARY MAGDALENE, W

England & Wales - Charity number 1140530

Accounts

St Mary Magdalene
WANDSWORTH COMMON

ANNUAL REPORT AND ACCOUNTS



of the Parochial Church Council,

St Mary Magdalene, Wandsworth Common

for the year ended **31st December 2021**

(incorporating a report on the proceedings of

the Tooting Deanery Synod)

Cover photo: Easter Cross

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Annual Report for 2021
on PCC Proceedings and Parish Activities

The Parochial Church Council of St Mary Magdalene, Wandsworth Common (PCC) presents this report on its proceedings for the calendar year to 31st December 2021 and on the activities of the parish generally in that year. The PCC's duties and details of how the PCC works, its meetings and membership, its officers, the electoral roll and other matters are set out at the end of the report.

Introduction - Revd Philippa Boardman MBE



The year began with London in lockdown again and our church doors regretfully closed once more. Prayer and fellowship were maintained through Zoom, Facebook, Mailchimps, phone calls and doorstep conversations. A new dawn was on the horizon, however, with the roll out of the vaccination programme and we give thanks for the scientists, researchers, the NHS, pharmaceutical companies and the thousands of volunteers who worked tirelessly to make this happen.

Early 2021 saw the church engaged in 'The Big Question' – 'what next for St Mary Magdalene, Wandsworth Common?' as we sought God's vision for our next five years, encapsulated in a new Mission Action Plan. Sixty five people responded and the new priorities are highlighted in the pages which follow.

In March, the Government's 'Roadmap out of Lockdown' allowed services to re-start 'in person' on Mothering Sunday with a range of 'Covid protocols' in place, including renewed risk assessments. Our Easter celebrations were like no other with face masks, no congregational singing and even ticketing for Easter Sunday where our two back-to-back services were 'sold out'. Sunday, 27th June saw the return to one united 10.00 am service and on Sunday, 25th July we moved to the Government's Step 4 and, with great joy, congregational singing and coffee time resumed, both of which had been so sorely missed. At Christmas, with Covid protocols and the adage 'prioritise events and celebrations that really matter to you', we were able to offer the full 'Christmas range' including the wonderful Christmas Tree Festival, carol services and Eucharists.

Our care and service of the wider community remain at the heart of our Christian faith. Visiting re-started at Springfield hospital in the autumn, and close links maintained with HMP Wandsworth and Ronald Gibson House, though volunteering is still suspended. The close of the year saw early planning for literacy support at Ernest Bevin College through hearing reading. It is hoped to launch this in Spring 2022. Memorial services in the autumn brought comfort to bereaved families from the wider parish for whom lockdown funeral services had been very restricted.

The generosity of church members continued in the offering of their time, their talents and their giving both for the ministry and upkeep of the church as well as charities: the online Quiz for Foodbanks , raising over £1,000; Christian Aid raising over £6,000 (with Gift Aid); and the Christmas Tree Festival £5,400 for the work of the Awareness Foundation. It remained a tough year financially, as our financial statements show, resulting in a significant deficit, which required very difficult decisions on re-structuring and reducing expenditure.

2021 was a year of great struggle and sorrow, but we are thankful for each and every church member who supported the life of the church, including the Standing Committee (comprising our Churchwardens, PCC Secretary and Treasurer), who continued to meet weekly on Zoom to oversee governance; and our Clergy, Lay Reader and Director of Music who upheld the Worship and Services. We look forward to 2022 with renewed faith and hope and love.

Mission Action Plan 2021 - 2026

One of our most significant achievements during 2021 was to consider and formulate our new Mission Action Plan for 2021 to 2026. This work is encouraged by the Church of England and will be an essential guide to our work over the next five years both for the church and within the local community.



The final MAP was the product of prayer and an extensive consultation process amongst the congregation. Notwithstanding the restrictions required by Covid, discussions were had both amongst the PCC; through WhatsApp and Zoom meetings of the different groups, who had been working together amongst the congregation; and from individual feedback.

This work enabled the PCC to finalise SMM's priorities for the next five years. A small team was then able to pull together a colourful and engaging booklet, which sets out how we'd like to be described in three to five years' time and how we plan to achieve that.

The MAP is based on our vision for the future:

To become a focal point for the community
in Wandsworth Common.
A beautiful space which inspires, uplifts and
energises our outreach through the Glory of God.
A caring place of worship, support, safety and
opportunity for everyone – including the
most vulnerable.

The MAP sets out our five mission priorities:

1 To proclaim the Good News of the Kingdom and grow in faith as we engage with Wandsworth Common and its institutions, especially the three thousand new people coming to live on the new Springfield Village housing development.

2 To teach, baptise and nurture new believers with a fresh focus on welcoming those currently under-represented in our congregation, especially children, families and young people encouraging them to make SMM their home and to grow in faith and love in Jesus Christ.

3 To create a welcoming and inspiring place of worship and support especially for those who are vulnerable, lonely and in need.

4 To develop a range of inclusive activities in our buildings to support those on the margins of society. Strengthen links to existing SMM ministries in prison, hospital, care home and schools.

5 To energise and be active in our care of creation by participating in the Eco-Church awards scheme and engaging with global issues via a safe space for learning and discussion.

Each priority is supported by specific actions we plan to undertake in the years to 2026. For further information, hard copies of the MAP booklet can be found in the church pews and on our website.

How we achieved our objectives in 2021

Proclaiming the Good News of the Kingdom (MAP priority 1)

Regular services

Our Sunday worship and midweek Eucharists continued online on Facebook and 'in person' whenever the latter was allowed. Throughout the year, Government guidance changed as the impact of the pandemic ebbed and flowed. This saw the church closed for 'in person'

services at the beginning of the year, re-opening in mid-March and restrictions gradually relaxed as the vaccination programme brought quiet confidence and hope. Congregational singing and coffee re-started in late July with great joy! There was even a 'Christmas in August' Sunday to allow the singing of Carols which had not been sung at Christmas 2020 due to lockdown.

Government guidance was carefully applied at all times and we are indebted to the Standing Committee, cleaning team and sides people, who did a huge amount of work behind the scenes to give confidence that people could come and worship in safety. Heartfelt thanks are also due to the choir, organists, sound and live streaming technicians, as well as the clergy and lay reader team for their commitment and adaptability, with changes in Government guidance often happening at very short notice. Having the church open for services was a great source of comfort and hope to the congregation and wider community and we welcomed both 'old' and 'new' faces through the year.



Hessian ash crosses

Special services

Lent and Easter: Probably for the first time in its 150 year history, the St Mary Magdalene church building was closed on Ash Wednesday. The service went online with 'ash crosses' being marked on tiny squares of hessian cloth and distributed around the parish, rather than the sign of the cross being ashed on people's foreheads. By mid-March, Government guidance allowed church buildings to begin to re-open and Mothering Sunday saw 'in person' services re-start at 10.00 am and 11.00 am – a very appropriate day both to celebrate those who have 'mothered' us, but also our 'mother church'.

On 23rd March we joined in the call for National Prayer to mark the anniversary of the first Lockdown - all who had died and all who had worked tirelessly in the care and service of others. Holy week and Easter services were re-shaped with Palm Sunday in church (but no procession), Maundy Thursday in church (but no meal [illegible]), the Three Hours on Good Friday and then 10.00 am and 11.00 am services on Easter Day which were ticketed and 'sold out' – another 'first' in our SMM history!



In early April we joined in national prayer for HRH the Duke of Edinburgh as news of his death was announced, also praying for the Queen and the Royal family.

Harvest Festival: The importance of this service was emphasised by the plea of the Wandsworth Foodbank: '*Can you help? Our guest numbers are rising rapidly and we're desperately short of stock.*' There was a generous response from the congregation and we continue to collect for Foodbank, Sunday by Sunday.



Revd Shavaun celebrates her First Mass

Ordination and First Mass of the Revd Shavaun Shodeinde: On 3rd July, our curate, the Revd Shavaun Shodeinde was ordained priest by the Bishop of Kingston at Kingston Parish church. With much rejoicing, Shavaun presided at her First Mass as a priest the following day, Sunday 4th at St Mary Magdalene. Shavaun wore the Windrush cope, created for the 70th anniversary of the landing of the MV Empire Windrush and to act 'as a catalyst for dialogue and debate on othering, belonging and inclusion'. The guest preacher was the Revd Canon Roxanne Hunte. Despite the Covid restrictions, many church members and family and friends of Shavaun gathered for worship. Celebratory prosecco and refreshments se end. A 'BYO' picnic was held on Trinity Fields after the service as indoor gatherings to eat were not allowed at this time.



Mayor Cllr Richard Field and Mrs Sue Field with the Vicar at SMM All Souls service 2021

All Souls 'A service of Lament and Hope': We were joined by the Mayor of Wandsworth Cllr Richard Field and Mrs Sue Field as we remembered those personally known to us, and also those in the UK and across the world who had died during the Pandemic. Those who served in the NHS and in front line services were also remembered. Our Music Director and the 'Come and Sing' Choir, sang an inspiring Choral Evensong. The Mayor read the First Lesson and the names of those who had died were read aloud. The service was gre

Remembrance Sunday: A well-attended service saw around thirty Beavers, Cubs, Scouts and Leaders of the 1st Wandsworth join us for their Church Parade. Two of the Scouts read a poem '*It's time to remember. Remember why we remember*' connecting Remembrance to the present day. The traditional Two Minute Silence was also held with Last Post and Reveille.

Advent and Christmas: The season of Advent began with an uplifting service of Advent Carols with the traditional congregational carols, inspiring anthems sung by the Choir, Bible readings and poetry. Lay members of the congregation led evening Advent worship on the two following Sundays with meditative music, readings, prayers and silence – a new initiative, which was much appreciated. With the spread of the Omicron variant, there was concern that our churches may be closed for 'in-person' Christmas worship for a second

year running. However, with extra precautions in place and careful planning, we were able to stay open for Christmas carols, a fun-filled Nativity from Scratch, Children's Crib service, Midnight Mass and Christmas morning services. These were attended by around one hundred people each, much less than 'pre-pandemic' numbers, but ensuring social-distancing and reassuringly 'safe'. Heartfelt thanks to all those seen and unseen who enabled these services to go ahead.

Prayer

New ways of prayer (started in 2020) continued such as the imaginative use of the railings with laminated prayers outside the church and Zoom prayer gatherings. Revd Shavaun and Keith Mitchell began a half hour of prayer and organ music following the midweek Eucharist. In Lent, church members contributed favourite prayers via short video or audio clips to a '40 days of Prayer' project accessed via our church website.

Church members were also on the organising group for the World Day of Prayer at St Anselms RC church in July, with a liturgy by the women of Vanatu. The Vicar led the multi-faith Peace ceremony at Tooting Broadway in October organised by the Balham and Tooting Community Association. This included leaders from the Jewish, Muslim, Buddhist, Hindu and Sikh communities as well as contributions from the Mayor of Wandsworth and our MP, Dr Rosena Allin-Khan.

Pastoral care

This was as important as ever in 2021 as we mourned the untimely deaths of four beloved church members, as well as the continuing toll which the pandemic was taking in people's personal lives and work situations. Phone calls, cards, Zoom and WhatsApp calls, outdoor walks and garden gate conversations with social-distancing all continued as part of pastoral care. When allowed, the clergy met with people in church or at home to support and pray with them.

The return of coffee time in late July 2021 was also of significant pastoral support with coffee time sometimes continuing as long as the church service! The coffee time after the midweek Eucharist was another valued source of support.

Support for the bereaved was offered through the All Souls service, through funeral ministry and the memorial services held at SMM in the autumn. At these memorial services hundreds of people, who were unable to attend funerals during lockdown, were able to gather to honour loved ones who had died.

Pastoral care is also given in a myriad of ways through volunteering by church members in often hidden acts of kindness and compassion both within the church and wider community.

Church music

The long months Covid restrictions prevented the congregation from singing. A socially-distanced choir of six was permitted to present and lead the choral part of our services at the 10.00 and 11.00 am Sunday services and this continued until mid-summer when restrictions began to ease. The choir members' flexibility during this period is to be thanked enormously. Offering a balanced choir meant restricting numbers to two sopranos and just one/two per part otherwise. Somehow we came through it all thanks to WhatsApp!

With restrictions reduced we began to work towards our pre-pandemic solid list of 30+ members, with a choir ranging typically from eight to 16 on typical Sundays. Our breadth of repertoire and growing confidence enabled us to present 4-part harmony anthems to a good standard almost every week. We also had a significant 'extras' list of singers for Evensongs and special services. Festival services saw 25+ in the choir.

We bade farewell in June to our eldest member and the choir sang at a packed memorial service for her. We also saw two other much loved members of the choir move away from Wandsworth Common. We thank them for their enormous contribution and exceptional musicianship, which blessed our services.

Our strength of musical confidence; diction, phrasing, blend, cantabile singing, accuracy of tuning and precision of attack are some of the key technical aspects which together make a better-sounding choir. While this may sound technical, the progress we made here is the reason our Sunday anthems continued to please, even during restrictions.

Every single Come-and-Sing Choral Evensong has secured us 25+ singers! Obviously these stopped during restrictions. We rehearse for 2 solid hours, retire for tea and then sing a proper Cathedral-style Evensong. It attracts additional singers into our orbit and allows time for singers to socialise before the service for 30 minutes over tea and cake.

Enormous thanks go to our Director of Music, Barry Holden, for his energy and commitment to making music such a core part of our worship.

Teaching, baptising and nurturing new believers (MAP priority 2)

Lent course: The Revd Dr Nadim Nassar led an inspiring Lent course on Zoom with four sessions on the Last Supper, the Garden of Gethsemane, the Trial & Denial, and the Crucifixion based on St Mark's Gospel. In September, he added an excellent session on Jesus' resurrection in Mark.

Exploration of Faith: The Pilgrim course on the Lord's Prayer was led on Zoom by Revd Shavaun for those who were new to the Christian faith, new to Church or who wanted a faith 'refresher'. Six people attended who had not been part of a study group at SMM before.

'Living in Love and Faith': This was an initiative of the National Church to enable Christians holding a wide spectrum of views on human sexuality, relationships and marriage to come together in a safe space to learn, pray and discuss together. St Mary Magdalene hosted this six session course, which was organised for the Tooting Deanery. Over sixty different people

attended from all eleven churches in the Deanery and it was valued by participants with honest and thought-provoking discussion.

Advent course: *'A light for the pathway - learning from the Psalms'* was an imaginative four session course, which included music, art and video clips on Zoom. It was much appreciated by all participants.

Junior church: Unfortunately the Covid restrictions meant that 'on site' Junior church activities were curtailed. A 'Lent course for families' was sent out digitally and leaders endeavoured to send activity ideas out to families throughout the lockdowns and restrictions. Colouring sheets were available for children attending services. Junior church was re-started in the summer, but numbers were low as young families had readjusted to new lifestyles. Heartfelt thanks are due to the Junior church leaders for their faithfulness. Re-engaging with children and young families is a priority in the year ahead.

Families and young people: 2021 continued to be a tough year for families and young people with home-schooling, isolating at home and many out of school activities being closed. On Good Friday, Revd Shavaun organised an Easter drop-in workshop for families who then offered prayers at the Cross.

A 'Teens Focus' Zoom course run by the organisation 'Parenting for Faith' was offered in the autumn. Also in the autumn, Revd Shavaun began a Saturday afternoon Children's Eucharist on a monthly basis. These had the themes of Back to School (September) Harvest (October) Remembrance (November) and Christmas (December), and included music and craft as well as a short Eucharist liturgy. These were attended by between eight and twenty children and their families and were a significant opportunity to connect with families who had brought their children for baptism.

Home Groups: The groups continued in 2021 either on Zoom or in person, offering a chance for more personal and informal learning, growing in faith and sharing in fellowship.

One leader wrote: '*Our home group which is made up of 9-10 members, continued to meet up on the first Thursday of each month throughout 2021 (except August). For most of the year this was on Zoom but joyfully, we returned to meeting in person from September with plenty of tea and delicious home-made cake. We've started a new 12 part study book by Eugene H. Peterson, "Psalms; Prayers of the Heart". Each chapter looks at a different psalm with titles such as "Praying our Trouble" and "Praying our Tears". We keep in touch via email and a WhatsApp group in between sessions, sharing further thoughts about our discussions or other points of interest regarding matters of faith. We all feel the group is a safe space for open and honest discussion and we also find strength and support in each other.'*

As a broader congregation we are keen to encourage more people to get involved in home groups and current members are always willing to help prospective new members find the group that best suits them. As restrictions lift, this will need reinvigorating in 2022. A new online group began in 2021, which emerged from the 'Exploration of Faith' Pilgrim Group mentioned above, whose members decided they wanted to carry on meeting when the Pilgrim course ended. They have been studying 'Biblical women of faith'.

Online Sunday gathering: This is a WhatsApp group originally set up to support a beloved parishioner. Following her death in January 2021, the group met intermittently on Zoom. A handful of participants met again for prayers and shared thoughts on the anniversary of her death. As services at church opened up the need for the Sunday gathering became redundant. The group was instead used for active, weekly communication. It continues as a thriving communication medium.



The Vicar and Reader, Richard Sweet, support Nick Wood at his confirmation

Men's Bible Briefing: This small group continued to meet throughout the year at fortnightly intervals, at 7.30 am initially on Zoom and latterly in Cafe Nero, Bellevue Road. The members find it a valuable chance during the week to share faith together.

Baptisms, confirmation, weddings and funerals. Many families had had to postpone baptisms due to lockdowns and Covid restrictions. As these lifted, it was a joy to welcome ten children and their families in holy Baptism in 2021. We were also delighted that Nick Wood was able to be confirmed at Southwark Cathedral in April 2021 'at the third time of asking'. Nick's perseverance in waiting to be confirmed, as the first two services were arranged and then cancelled, is an inspiration to us all.

Two weddings also took place at SMM and what wonderful celebrations they were, as both [illegible] pointments of dates being arranged and then [illegible]

The clergy conducted eleven funerals in 2021 both at the church and local cemeteries and crematoria. Five memorial services were also held at SMM bringing comfort to those who had not been able to attend funeral services earlier in the year due to Covid restrictions.

Creating a welcoming and inspiring place of worship (MAP priority 3)

Renewing our buildings to create a lively place of welcome for all is a key part of our new MAP. This, in fact, has been a major objective for a number of years and a considerable amount of work has already been done in this respect. 2021 saw work on this project really advance.

In January, the PCC focussed on a renewed vision for the project considering again why it was so important and how we planned to make it happen. Out of these discussions a 'case for support' began to be developed. This document, which reflected the principles of the Asset Based Community Development approach, sought to emphasise SMM's strengths: its volunteering; being a trusted organisation central in the community; and having very good governance. It identified a number of potential partners in the community, with whom we had already had discussions and who might find a home with us in our buildings.

Even in this initial draft of our case for support, a clear direction of travel was beginning to be seen. We were able to understand the considerable work already done, which

supported our objectives, identified areas which needed further explanation or attention and the further work required.

The key elements of the case for support are:

- SMM is an established community church – a focal point for worship and a centre for celebration within Wandsworth Common.
- The church has consistent and long-term relationships with all the major institutions in our parish: schools and care homes; HMP Wandsworth; and Springfield University Hospital.
- The pandemic has highlighted the significant needs within our community, ranging from educational and social opportunities to provision for the most vulnerable – especially those of ex-offenders and those suffering from mental ill-health.
- However, our current buildings, while large, limit our activities and do not provide the essential amenities for our existing and potential partners.
- We have a clear vision: a renewed suite of buildings that would provide both a beautiful place of worship and a hub that supports local social value projects.
- This would be underpinned by a sound business plan and robust governance from a pool of talented parishioners and external experts.
- A substantial amount of work has already been undertaken to establish the core needs of the project, to explore local partnerships, and to explore feasible options for our estate.
- We are excited about the potential we can unleash within Wandsworth – and beyond!

Now was the time to start considering what a renewed building might look like and work commenced on finding a firm of architects to create a possible scheme for the building renewal and to help guide us through the beginnings of the process. After a competitive tendering process, we appointed Matthew Lloyd Architects to this role. They defined the key aims of their brief succinctly as: Reordering; Upgrading; Repairing; Relighting; Making accessible; Extending; and Intensifying various community activities. To engender thought, discussion and feedback, they prepared an initial proposal of what the new buildings could look like. They presented this to the PCC and to the congregation early in 2022.

Matthew Lloyd are known for designing unique and beautiful architectural solutions, whilst ensuring their projects are grounded in their history and communities. We are extremely pleased to be working with them.

2022 will be an exciting year as, having consulted with church members, we will be able to move to the next stage of design, at the same time as renewing our discussions with potential partners, finalising our case for support and building a sound business plan to support fundraising for the project.

Developing a range of inclusive activities in our buildings (MAP Priority 4(i))



Of the myriad of activities that make up the church year, many of which have been described in this report, three of the most memorable were:

Christmas Tree Festival: After missing out on the Christmas Tree Festival in 2020 because Covid, we were all excited to see the Festival back. Unfortunately, as the date for it drew closer, Omicron started to rear its head.

Following careful consideration and risk assessment, the decision was taken to go ahead with the festival with a few sensible precautions. These included having fewer trees, viewed by a one way system in order to enable social distancing and no visiting choirs. Instead, we installed a new grotto and invited Santa to meet children one by one. This saved Santa from being mobbed on the dais!

Decorating Christmas trees gets underway.

Incredible wreaths and flower arrangements were for sale, together with a vast array of p e draw using the online platform Jumblebee. Local businesses and members of the congregation provided some generous prizes and we sold an amazing 1,315 tickets.

Thank you to local businesses and members of the congregation who generously sponsored trees and other elements of the festival. The trees and lights provided a beautiful backdrop for the Christmas services and the eye catching 17ft tree outside the church spread some Christmas cheer to our neighbours.

We were delighted that, after deduction of expenses, we raised almost £5,500 for the Awareness Foundation.

As always members of the congregation put in an enormous amount of time and effort, putting up trees and taking them down, assisting with decoration, cleaning up all the needles and stray bits of tinsel, preparing and selling refreshments and home produce, brewing vats of mulled wine, selling tradecraft gifts, providing children's activities, setting up the steam train, being on the door, counting the money; to name just a few. A huge thank you to the organising committee (Charlotte Flowers, Rowan McCarthy, Phil McCarthy and Ann Carrington Brook) and everyone else for their cheerful hard work.



Jumble Sale: Through the pandemic, of course, we had been unable to hold the church's famed twice yearly recycling event – the jumble sale. As Covid restrictions were lifted, jumbling once again became possible. As many had had a clear out over lock down, there was an enormous amount of jumble delivered for our team of sorters to organise for the sale.

Finally the day arrived and we were very pleased with the number of jumblers who came, sifted, searched and sought out items, which they wanted. In all, £1,233 (net) was raised for the church.

Enormous thanks to those who delivered, sorted, sold and took away unsold items away afterwards.

Wandsworth arts fringe: We were delighted to be able to offer our church space as a venue for the Wandsworth Arts Fringe. Simon Waterfield gave readings from his book 'Ripple in Still Water' a reflection on life with prostrate cancer followed by discussion.



Strengthening links to existing SMM ministries in prison, hospital, care home and schools (MAP priority 4 (ii))

HMP Wandsworth: SMM hosted the Licensing of Wendy Stephens as Anglican chaplain at HMP Wandsworth in September 2021. The Archdeacon of Wandsworth, Ven John Kiddle, led the service. He commended the tireless work of Prison staff and the Chaplaincy during the incredibly demanding months of lockdowns especially as prisoners were unable to receive visits from their families and struggled with their mental health. The Archdeacon also commended the long association of SMM with the Prison through volunteering and urged our continued prayer and support. Delicious refreshments provided by the Chaplaincy were served at the back of church at the end of the service and were enjoyed by Wendy's family, many friends, prison staff and fellow Southwark Pastoral Auxiliaries.

HMP Wandsworth Governor Graham Barratt OBE, with chaplains Wendy Stephens and Lewis Lzeleban.

The Prison Bible Study Group continues to meet weekly on zoom for a forty minute bible study session and prayers for the prisoner[illegible]ond among the members of the team. During 2021 22 was not possible to go into the prison. We are hopeful of returning sometime in 2022.

Springfield Hospital: Visiting to Springfield was not possible for the majority of the year due to the restrictions imposed by Covid - but we were delighted to gain permission to re-start in October, subject to the visitors wearing face coverings and other requirements requested by the hospital. We started tentatively, visiting only one of the acute wards during 2021, but hope to restore our visits to a second ward in 2022. Our usual carol singing around the hospital didn't happen, as it coincided with the appearance of Omicron - so one for 2022.

We had excellent support from the hospital chaplaincy, now known as the Department for Spiritual and Pastoral Care, and particularly from the Chaplain, Tuulia Castledine. A training day organised by the chaplaincy was very well attended by our visiting group. We have also

had discussions with the Ward Activity Manager to see if any volunteers could support the weekly daytime clubs involving service users.



Artist's impression of part of the new Springfield Hospital site

One of our MAP priority 1 initiatives is to participate in Springfield Village activities and, by summer 2022, invite new residents to discover what SMM offers in the way of services, outreach groups and community activities. This has proved difficult to accomplish, but we hope to move forward with this in 2022.

We did continue to try and make suitable contacts with the developers of the Springfield site; a useful team meeting was held in the summer, though follow up from both the developers and the hospital project/community managers has been slow. The physical development of the site has continued apace; the conversion of the main '1840' buildings has advanced well, the new houses being c phase 1, and the first of the new clinical buildir

Springfield Hospital has, like many institutions, been under considerable strain this year; there were a number of Covid-related deaths among hospital staff, ward operations and arrangements for family visitors were curtailed, and working conditions amid a major development site were very challenging. The hospital very much values the prayers said on its behalf within the parish.

Ronald Gibson House: The monthly communion service held at Ronald Gibson House was going from strength to strength prior to the Covid outbreaks, the subsequent lockdown and continuing strict government guidelines for care homes.

News that there might be a lifting of restrictions in the not too distant future has reignited the enthusiasm of our RGH group, who are planning bigger and better outreach in the future.

Prior to lockdown, the SMM communion service had become a monthly highlight for residents as it was treated not only as a welcome spiritual and prayerful moment but as a cheerful social activity, outgrowing its allotted space in the home time and again.

Understanding the limitations of the residents, Revd Philippa restructured the service to simplify it and make it work for all who attended – everyone from the frail and elderly to those far into on their dementia journey. Plus of course staff, who love to join in, and those of us from SMM, who support the Vicar and love meeting the residents.

The services feature communion, prayers, hymns with live piano accompaniment and the Vicar's ingenious visual cues!

After the service has been a time to chat, revive memories, drink tea and enjoy delicious cake. There are often golden breakthrough moments at these services when residents who haven't spoken for some time join in with a loud Amen or other residents locked into their dementia world amaze us all by remembering all the words to hymns. Being there at these moments is a joy and a privilege.

Each year we welcome residents of all ages and stages at Ronald Gibson House to our SMM Christmas Tree Festival. On a quiet day after the event, they come to marvel at the trees, have a delicious tea and more time to socialise. This year the RGH group were looking forward to this more than ever, as we had our new accessible loos and kitchen to make welcoming disabled groups into church that much easier. Sadly, extra government restrictions made that trip impossible, so cancellation was inevitable.

However, not to be deterred, the group is now looking forward to a lifting of restrictions when we will be back at Ronald Gibson House and gearing up to welcome them into the church for more social gatherings. Our new facilities mean that outreach for all kinds of groups that need the stimulation of outside socialising, can be welcomed in with ease.

Members of the congregation are always welcome to come along to the communion service at Ronald Gibson House by contacting the Vicar for a list of dates and times. Trust us, it's wonderfully joyous and uplifting – plus you'll meet some interesting residents who will be so glad of your company.

Support for charities and other causes

The Awareness Foundation (www.awareness-foundation.com)**:** Having invited nominations from the congregation, in September 2021 the PCC voted to support The Awareness Foundation as SMM's chosen charity of focus for 2021 – 2023.

The Awareness Foundation was founded in 2003 by our own Revd Nadim Nassar. The Foundation is an international humanitarian charity driven by Christian values which builds peace through education and training.

Their two core programmes, LITTLE HEROES and AMBASSADORS FOR PEACE aim to equip and empower children and young people in Syria and Iraq to become agents of peace and reconciliation. The PAX videos together with seminars and talks seek to educate people in the UK, north America, Hong Kong and beyond about peace-building both local and international.

Other causes: The church continued to support a number of other charities and causes, including:

- Royal Trinity Hospice, through the proceeds of Sunday after church coffee.

- Wandsworth Foodbank, we continued to support this much-needed Foodbank based at St Andrew's church, Earlsfield, through our Harvest gifts and weekly donations of food items.

- Christian Aid – Street collections were back in 2021, having not been possible in 2020, but we also continued to make use of our online giving facilities. With thanks especially to Richenda Tonge and all those who collected, over £6,000 was raised through online giving, donations of cash and cheques from street collections and Gift Aid tax rebates.

Relationships with local schools and organisations: We also sought to reach out into the community through the church's work with local schools and other organisations.

Schools: Due to the lockdown and Covid restrictions, many annual 'favourites', such as the Ernest Bevin College Remembrance event, the Finton House Christmas concerts and the Beatrix Potter performances at the Christmas Tree Festival, were again not able to happen in 2021.

We were able, however, to welcome Wandsworth Preparatory School for their end of year assembly in July 2021 and we hope that the accessible facilities, now installed in the church, will enable us to further develop the use of the worship space for a host of educational and arts activities in 2022.

Marmalade Bear Nursery continue to flourish in the Halls and we were pleased to welcome Miss Christine and then Miss Karen as acting Headteachers. Revd Philippa gave the welcome at the Nursery Nativity play in December.



Outdoor activities at the Romany

Revd Philippa completed her four year term as a Governor at Ernest Bevin College in the autumn and was subsequently made a trustee of the 'Friends of Ernest Bevin School' enabling continuing links with the College. In late 2021, early planning got underway for Literacy support at Ernest Bevin College through hearing reading. It is hoped to launch this in spring 2022. All the schools, staff and families continue in our prayers at this challenging time.

8th Upper Tooting Girlguiding Units: There has been a long association between St Mary Magdalene and the 8th Upper Tooting Girlguiding Units, who regularly use the church halls for their meetings and join us for services on certain Parade Sundays throughout the year. A number of the Units' leaders are regular members of the church congregation.

2021 was a challenging year for the Units, but one where offering continuity and the opportunity to enjoy all that Guiding has to offer was increasingly important for the young members' mental health.

Sadly the year started with the death of Jill Clark (AKA Flamingo), who was a Unit Helper followed in June by the death of Emma Beckett who had been a and prior to that a Brownie, Guide and Ranger at 8th Upper Tooting. Also the Rainbows were unable to reopen in 2021, and Jane Cooper and Joan

Taylor retired from active Unit Guiding. Jane after 32 years as a Leader and Joan with over 70 years as a volunteer, of which 25 years were with Rainbows. We have much to thank them for.

2021 started again with meetings on Zoom, but after Easter the Units restarted outdoor meetings at The Romany Scout HQ. The Guides 'adopted' another local Unit who had been unable to meet the previous year. Everyone made the most of enjoying the outdoor space; exploring nature, planting pollinator friendly seeds, campfire cooking, the Brownies were thrilled to find a Stag Beetle and the Guides did a litter pick on Wandsworth Common.

September marked a returned to indoor Guiding in the church - it felt like starting anew as for the majority of girls it was the first time they'd met as a full group or indoors with the usual meeting structure. A big challenge was attempting to maintain social distancing, incessant cleaning and a shortage of leaders as a result of recent deaths, relocation, illness and shielding. The Rangers made a return to unit meetings, first virtually and then in person, keeping up varied activities, mixing fun and games, cooking, discussion of global issues and celebrating festive events.

Hopes are high to find an opportunity in 2022 to celebrate the 90 years of Guides and 80 years of Brownies associated with SMM.

Energising and being active in our care of creation (MAP priority 5)

Last but not least in the MAP Plan is to energise and be active in our care of creation by participating in the Eco-Church awards scheme.

Southwark Diocese encourages all churches to make use of A Rocha's Eco Church action plan, which provides a framework for environmental action. It helps churches consider what they are already doing and where to take action in five areas:



- worship and teaching
- buildings
- land
- community and global engagement
- lifestyle

Like minded individuals in the church came together to consider how SMM fared against the Eco Church action plan. In October we were delighted to achieve our Bronze Eco Church Award. In 2022 we will be working towards Silver.

In September we hosted an activity day 'Create,



Praying for COP26

Conserve, Connect' with input from Friends of Wandsworth Common and the creation of the Eco Cope and Cross in preparation for Climate Change Sunday. Two weeks later we participated in the Big Green Day at St Mary Balham; a forum for all kinds of environmental and community groups.

One church member spent much of lockdown watching, photographing and sharing photos of birds mostly taken on Wandsworth Common. This resulted in two photobooks and a calendar last year and inclusion of her wildlife photos and those of the Church Cope in the 'Wandsworth Common Story' book published by the Friends of Wandsworth Common. There was an exhibition of photos as part of the September E re also sold at the event and at the Christmas Tree F he proceeds going to church funds.

Eco chasuble designed and made by SMM children and adults and worn by

In November we invited the community to join in prayers for COP26.

A ear, the Eco Church group sponsored and decorated a Christmas tree for the Christmas Tree Festival and displayed tips for a greener Christmas.

The PCC's Financial Report for 2021

As expected, the accounts reflect a deficit for 2021 of £3,186 on the unrestricted fund and £10,163 on the restricted funds.

The deficit on the restricted funds is the spending to complete the kitchenette and accessible toilet project on the south side of church. This was an expected use of monies specifically raised for this project, which is now complete subject to payment of the retention.

The deficit on the unrestricted fund was also predicted in the PCC's approved 2021 budget, albeit less than expected. Income on the unrestricted fund is comparable to 2020 at £160,000. Small falls in income from donors and halls were offset by an increase in other voluntary income. A steady state after a couple of years of uncertainty and change.

Expenditure increased in 2020 by just under £5,000 with increased contributions to the Diocese for our clergy staff (including the curate) and increased essential maintenance costs for our buildings. The PCC was mindful of the need to reduce costs wherever possible and took the difficult decision to make the part time post of parish administrator redundant at the end of the furlough scheme in August 2021.

Whilst the resulting deficit of £3,186 is not optimal, it is absorbed by the reserves accumulated over previous years of £69,506.

At the end of 2021 the reserves were £66,000 unrestricted, plus £40,000 designated to specific projects and £37,000 restricted to specific projects. This is represented by short term deposits, cash and the income tax claims submitted for the tax recovery on gift aid donations for 2021.



The PCC has approved a surplus budget for 2022 which restores the level of unrestricted reserves, and they continue to monitor the financial position each month.

Fundraising for other charities increased in 2021 with an amazing £5,487 raised for The Awareness Foundation at the Christmas Tree Festival and £1,457 for other charities, including £1,105 from a quiz night fundraiser for our local foodbank.

Buildings

Quinquennial Inspector: Every church is required to be inspected every five years by an architect or chartered building surveyor approved by the Diocesan Advisory Committee. This "Quinquennial Inspector" then reports to the PCC with recommendations as to the matters which need attention during the next five years. Our last report was completed in 2016 and so we were due for a new quinquennial report.

We decided to take the opportunity to change our Quinquennial Inspector, so that his work could best tie in with the work of the architects appointed for the development project. Following a competitive selection process and a lengthy procedure to get approval from the Diocese, in late 2021 Alex Sherratt, a partner at Michael Lloyd Architects, was appointed our new Quinquennial Inspector. He will be[illegible]y 2022.

Alex Sherratt, our new Quinquennial Inspector

Once again the year was a busy one for the Buildings Maintenance Team with a number of emergency works adding to the usual run of maintenance tasks.

Emergency Works: Following the discovery that stonework was flaking off the west façade of the Church, our steeplejacks removed any further loose stonework and reported on the general state of the west façade. On advice from our then Quinquennial Inspector, none of the items in the report required immediate attention and we will discuss the report further with our new Quinquennial Inspector.

Other work of an emergency nature was required in the Parish Hall to prevent water ingress in stormy weather - a significant amount of water had been pouring down the north-west wall and over the entrance into the hall itself. Exposed roofing was repaired and broken tiles were replaced on the north lower slope of the hall roof. The opportunity was also taken to repair the box gutter on that roof.

We commissioned stonemasons to inspect the state of the brickwork and mortar around the windows on the west façade of the Parish Hall. They confirmed that this was the source of the water coming in over the entrance into the hall. They undertook emergency repairs to prevent further water getting in. The brickwork and stone finials on the west façade have been in a poor state of repair for some time and, subject to a decision on the future of the hall itself, will still require additional work to protect them from further deterioration.



Roof works needed!



Deteriorated brickwork on Parish Hall facade

Painting: The exterior of the clerestory windows of the Parish Hall have also been in poor repair for some time, because of lack of funds to restore them and due to the uncertainties surrounding in the future of the hall. This year it was decided that action was now unavoidable and repainting was necessary to prevent further deterioration and potential water ingress in the period until any redevelopment works might commence. Accordingly, the windows were repaired and repainted to provide protection for at least that period.



At the same time, the interior of the (middle) Church Hall was redecorated. This had not been done for some time and was looking very tired, not least because of the number of posters and other materials, which had been put on the

pper windows – before…

… after repainting



r much brighter and cleaner.

Electrics: Our insurers require that the full electrical installation in the church and the halls are inspected every five years. Fortunately only a few items failed the inspection and work to rectify these problems was soon completed.

A number of other electrical matters were dealt with by our usual electrician. These included installing fire safety lighting in the Vestry Hall and Vestry Hall lobby in accordance with the recommendations of our Fire Risk Assessment.

Other matters: The accessible toilet project was finally completed with the installation of cupboards in the kitchenette. Designed to match the existing fittings, the new cupboards and work surfaces now provide the furnishings needed for coffee and tea to be served from the kitchenette. This has already been a significant improvement, permitting refreshments at the back of the church after some services and other events.

There was always, however, the usual need to deal with the plethora of less material general repairs and annual servicing arising during the year. In particular, in 2021 we a

New units in the church kitchenette

- the annual re-sanding and lacquering of the Parish and Vestry Hall floors;

- the blocked drains at the front and back of the Parish Hall to be cleared in order to prevent further flooding of the basement of the hall;

- a new pump to be installed in the Parish Hall boiler – this, together with rebalancing the system, has helped to optimise the heat from the radiators in the hall and help keep the hall sufficiently warm for us all; and

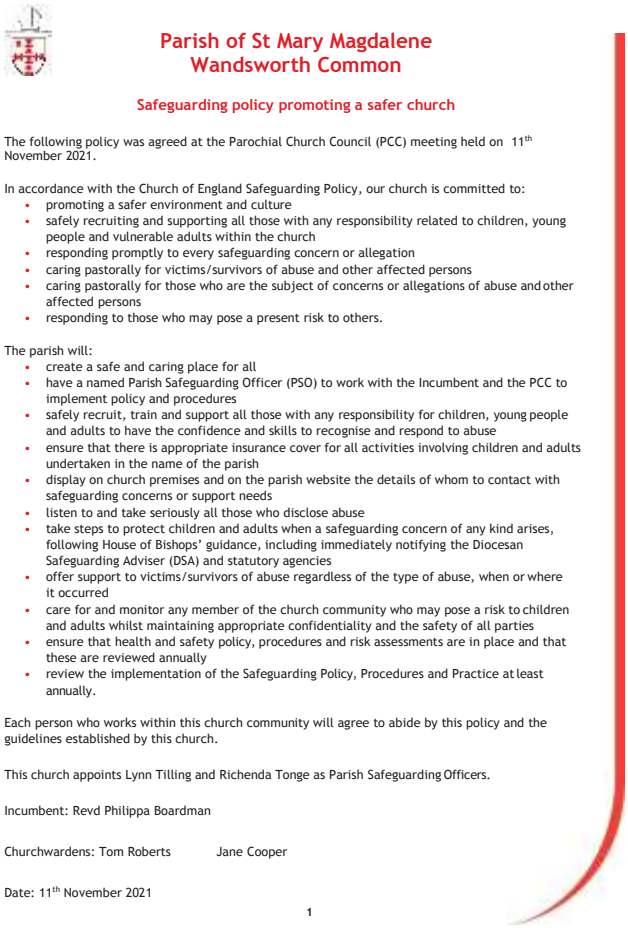
- the rainwater downpipe in the south-west corner of the church, which services the south nave and aisle roofs, to be connected into the new drains from the accessible toilets – the previous drainage pipe had been crushed and water was seeping into the foundations in that corner.

Cleaning: The cleaning regime continued to need to take account of the pandemic restrictions and the Government and Church of England guidance. The church cleaning team rose to the challenge and continued to keep St Mary Magdalene a clean and safe place in which to worship.

Safeguarding

The Diocese takes the view that every member of the congregation has a safeguarding responsibility. With this in mind, the SMM Safeguarding Officers, Lynn Tilling and Richenda Tonge, continued to update DBS checks, register junior church members and encourage PCC members and sides persons to attend safeguarding courses run by the Diocese.

The year was once again challenging for the church as we experienced elements of lockdown and socially distanced congregations remained the norm. Fewer children attended church so our vigilance in that area was less than previously required – although still in place.



Parish of St Mary Magdalene
Wandsworth Common

Safeguarding policy promoting a safer church

The following policy was agreed at the Parochial Church Council (PCC) meeting held on 11th November 2021.

In accordance with the Church of England Safeguarding Policy, our church is committed to:

- promoting a safer environment and culture
- safely recruiting and supporting all those with any responsibility related to children, young people and vulnerable adults within the church
- responding promptly to every safeguarding concern or allegation
- caring pastorally for victims/survivors of abuse and other affected persons
- caring pastorally for those who are the subject of concerns or allegations of abuse and other affected persons
- responding to those who may pose a present risk to others.

The parish will:

- create a safe and caring place for all
- have a named Parish Safeguarding Officer (PSO) to work with the Incumbent and the PCC to implement policy and procedures
- safely recruit, train and support all those with any responsibility for children, young people and adults to have the confidence and skills to recognise and respond to abuse
- ensure that there is appropriate insurance cover for all activities involving children and adults undertaken in the name of the parish
- display on church premises and on the parish website the details of whom to contact with safeguarding concerns or support needs
- listen to and take seriously all those who disclose abuse
- take steps to protect children and adults when a safeguarding concern of any kind arises, following House of Bishops' guidance, including immediately notifying the Diocesan Safeguarding Adviser (DSA) and statutory agencies
- offer support to victims/survivors of abuse regardless of the type of abuse, when or where it occurred
- care for and monitor any member of the church community who may pose a risk to children and adults whilst maintaining appropriate confidentiality and the safety of all parties
- ensure that health and safety policy, procedures and risk assessments are in place and that these are reviewed annually
- review the implementation of the Safeguarding Policy, Procedures and Practice at least annually.

Each person who works within this church community will agree to abide by this policy and the guidelines established by this church.

This church appoints Lynn Tilling and Richenda Tonge as Parish Safeguarding Officers.

Incumbent: Revd Philippa Boardman

Churchwardens: Tom Roberts Jane Cooper

Date: 11th November 2021

1

Live streaming was our new challenge as we had yet to receive guidance from the Diocese about just how we protect children and the vulnerable on screen. The Vicar and the Safeguarding Officers took the view that until such guidance is in place, we do not show children or the vulnerable during live streaming.

Challenges for 2022 remain the same as in 2021 and hopefully we can move some of the following forward as our congregations increase and social distancing is eased. We plan to:

-

ncourage new sides persons and interested members of the congregation to attend safeguarding courses when resumed or complete them online.

-

eep all DBS checks up to date and renew where necessary, plus ensure newly introduced disclosure forms are completed.

- Ensure all children attending junior church are registered when they are back with us at services.

- Check that all major events are risk assessed and that the assessments go on file in the church office. This point is always heavily stressed at all safeguarding leadership courses.

- Recruit two new Safeguarding Officers, as Lynn and Richenda plan to step down when replacements can be found.

People having any concerns about the safety of children or vulnerable adults, are always requested to speak to our Safeguarding Officers directly. Their contact details are on the church safeguarding noticeboard in the church entrance or on the SMM website. They can also be emailed at safeguarding@smmwandsworth.org.uk

In relation to its safeguarding arrangements, the PCC has complied with the duty under section 5 of the Safeguarding and Clergy Discipline Measure 2016 (duty to have regard to House of Bishops' guidance on safeguarding children and vulnerable adults).

Safeguarding is a central and essential part of the church's life and, as always, we offer our thanks to Lynn and Richenda for all they do, most often behind the scenes.

The Duties of the PCC

The PCC has the duty, amongst other things, to consult with the Vicar on matters of general concern and importance within the parish and to work with her to promote the whole mission of the church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical in the area.

The PCC is committed to enabling regular public worship at St Mary Magdalene, open to all, and to the provision at the church of sacred space for personal prayer and contemplation.

When planning our activities, we have considered the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit and, in particular, the supplementary guidance on charities for the advancement of religion. In particular, we try to enable ordinary people to live out their faith as part of our parish community through:

- Worship and prayer
- Teaching of Christianity through sermons, courses and small groups
- Provision of pastoral care for people living in the parish
- Outreach work in the local community

To continue this important work, it is also vital that we maintain the fabric of the church of St Mary Magdalene, including its Parish and Vestry Halls, and ensure they remain fit for purpose.

How the PCC works and our congregational volunteers

Much of the day-to-day work of the PCC is usually delegated to various groups, but the PCC retains the responsibility for receiving reports from these groups and for taking all major decisions at its regular meetings. The principal groups to which the PCC delegated authority are the:

- Standing Committee (which prepares the agenda for PCC meetings and is authorised to transact the business of the PCC between meetings)
- Mission Committee
- Finance and Risk Committee (which also has responsibility for Stewardship)
- Buildings Management Committee

The Standing Committee continued to meet almost every week to ensure the business of the church continued notwithstanding the restrictions imposed by Covid, reporting to the PCC. In practice, the other Committees did not meet often - restricted, as in 2020, by the continued pandemic restrictions.

The PCC also includes those appointed to represent it at the Tooting Deanery Synod.

Notwithstanding Covid, many other groups of people, however, contributed to the operation and vitality of our church as this report has shown. Collectively we owe enormous thanks to all those volunteers who contribute so much of their time and skills to the work of St Mary Magdalene in our community and further afield.

There are always opportunities to support the work of the church in many different ways and we continue to encourage every member of the congregation to consider prayerfully how they might contribute their "time, talents and treasure" at St Mary Magdalene and in the wider parish.

Church administration

We took up the Covid job retention scheme and put our parish administrator on furlough until the scheme came to an end. When it became clear that there would be a material deficit for the year, we had to consider, consult and then decide whether we had to make the post redundant in order to save costs. As there was no other alternative employment, unfortunately we had to make the post holder redundant at the end of August. Due to lack of funds, we have had to continue with volunteers taking on some tasks and others falling to the Vicar and Churchwardens.

Revd Philippa's regular Mailchimp messages continued to provide information on forthcoming services and also serve as a conduit of news and other matters concerning church life. They kept on being used as Covid restrictions began to be reduced and are likely to last as a part of church life. We increased our use of Facebook as a means of communicating with those using it. PCC meetings also continued to make use of Zoom, including its facility for break out groups, where some lively discussion ensued. In fact, only one PCC meeting during the year was held in person.

We conducted a professional fire risk assessment of the church buildings. This was undertaken in the latter part of the year by Precision Safety Services. We were generally found to be in good order and are working on a plan to improve areas where action is necessary or the risks mitigated further. Precision Safety Services will be helping us undertake a Health & Safety Risk Assessment and review our Health & Safety Policy in 2022.

The year could not go by without another mention of risk assessments, particularly in relation to the pandemic. With each change in the Government regulations and Church of England guidance we needed to re-assess risk issues to ensure our Covid precautions remained appropriate. Fortunately, as the Covid restrictions were lessened, we too were able to review and reduce some of our precautions. Aware especially of the vulnerable in our congregation, we kept a number of measures in place throughout the year.

Further information

Constitution: The Parochial Church Council of the ecclesiastical parish of St Mary Magdalene, Wandsworth Common is a corporate body established by the Church of England. It operates under the Parochial Church Council Powers Measure and is a registered charity, registered with Charity Number 1140530.

Address: St Mary Magdalene, Wandsworth Common is situated on Trinity Road, London, SW17 7HP. It is part of the Diocese of Southwark (Kingston Episcopal Area) within the Church of England. The address for correspondence is the Parish Office at 10a Wiseton Road, London, SW17 7EE.

Electoral Roll: The number on the electoral roll as of 31st December was 156 (2020: 162). Eight people were removed from the roll during the year and two added.

Church attendance: People continued to attend in person in good numbers despite the pandemic, people shielding and provision for Junior Church only starting again in the summer.

PCC Meetings: During 2021 there were seven ordinary meetings of the PCC (2020: 7), of which six were held by Zoom video conference. 81% of PCC members on average attended these seven meetings (2020: 82.5%).

Members of the PCC: The method of appointment of PCC members is set out in the Church Representation Rules. At St Mary Magdalene the membership of the PCC consists of (i) the incumbent Vicar, (ii) the Churchwardens, (iii) the reader, (iv) the lay representatives of the parish elected to the Tooting Deanery Synod and (v) lay members; in the case of (iv) and (v) elected by those members of the congregation who are on the electoral roll of the church. All those who worship regularly at St Mary Magdalene are encouraged to register on the electoral roll and stand for election to the PCC.

After the May APCM, the PCC consisted of:

- **Chair:** Revd Philippa Boardman
- **Curate:** Revd Shavaun Shodeinde
- **Reader:** Richard Sweet
- **Churchwardens:** Tom Roberts; Jane Cooper
- **Deanery Synod Representatives:** Sophie Bull; Nicola Pattinson; and Lynn Tilling
- **Elected members of the PCC:** Christopher Bell; Ann Carrington Brook; David Coleman; Charlotte Flowers; Nicholas Higton; Veronica Mills, Keith Mitchell; Jane Player; and Jake Stratton

Officers elected by the PCC during 2021:

- **Vice Chair:** Tom Roberts
- **Treasurer:** Keith Mitchell
- **Secretary:** David Coleman
- **Electoral Roll Secretaries:** Georgina Child and Carolyn Chambers

- **Deputy Churchwardens:** David Coleman, Nick Higton and Serena Perkins
- **Safeguarding Officers:** Lynn Tilling and Richenda Tonge

Members of the Standing Committee: Revd Philippa Boardman, Tom Roberts, Jane Cooper, Keith Mitchell and David Coleman

Sides people: Florence Acquaye (head sides person, with the support of Barbara Littlechild), John Ager, Alison Blair, Ruth Bowdage, Lucinda Byron-Evans, Carolyn Chambers, Alex Cox, Graham Dick, Charlotte Flowers, Jill Gould, Matthew Heard, Nick Higton, Jill Jeffery, Barbara Littlechild, Veronica Mills, Maha Nassar, Jane Ogram, Alice Ogunlana, Nicola Pattinson, Serena Perkins, Gabrielle Richards, Jake Stratton, Joan Taylor, Michael Taylor, Lynn Tilling, Rosie Tilling and Nick Wood

Members of the Buildings Maintenance Committee: Nicholas Higton, Serena Perkins, David Coleman and Hugh Birchall

Members of the Finance and Risk Committee: Keith Mitchell, Nick Higton, Jane Player, Alicia Birchall, Andrew Beney

Members of HMP Wandsworth Bible Study Group: Olivia Pethybridge, Peter Carpenter, Serena Perkins, Huda Nassar, Alicia Birchall, Veronica Mills and Tom Roberts

Members of the Springfield Hospital Visiting Group: Rosemary Birchall, June Brockbank, Mary Broderick, Ann Carrington Brook, Hilary Coulson, Katie Dick, Jill Gisby, Gill Gould, Nicola Martin, Sally Riley, Louisa Russell, Irene Sweet, Richard Sweet and Richenda Tonge

Monthly Wednesday Ronald Gibson House communion volunteers: Revd Philippa Boardman, Pat Crosswell, Marion Cahill, Jane Cooper, Lynn Tilling, Rosie Tilling, Dora Littlechild, Joyce Mason, Nell Wells, Anthea Masters, Carole Low and Doreen Bush

Report on the proceedings of Tooting Deanery Synod 2021

Deanery Synod met three times in 2021. Elections for Diocesan Synod and General Synod took place in 2021. Members of Deanery Synod are the electorate for these elections. Four members of Tooting Deanery Synod put themselves forward for election to General Synod and, of these, two have succeeded as representatives for Southwark Diocese, Mae Christie (House of Clergy) and Rosemary Wilson (House of Laity). As voters, it was very interesting and quite a responsibility for our Deanery Synod Representatives to be involved in this election which only takes place every five years. During the process we heard from a diverse group of candidates from churches across Southwark, all passionate about having a voice on General Synod.

The first meeting of the year took place via Zoom in June with Bishop Richard present. This was the first meeting of the triennium as several parishes had to delay their 2020 APCMs (where elections for Deanery Synod members take place). Bishop Richard preached on the five marks of mission of the Anglican Communion and reflected on the role of the Deanery in relation to these. He was encouraged to see the emphasis the Deanery was already placing on the environment, compassion projects and joint training initiatives.

Across the three meetings the aim of being an Eco Deanery was kept to the fore with churches sharing their progress with Eco Church. As one of our joint compassion projects, the Deanery continues to support our local Syrian refugee family. Their landlady has extended their rental agreement to the summer of 2022 and parishes and individuals in the Deanery continue to make up the shortfall in their rent. Despite the many difficulties caused by the pandemic, the family is making progress in settling in.

The September meeting was held in person at the Ascension church where a light supper was provided. We were introduced to the Church of England's 'Living in Love and Faith' course. This course took place over five weeks in September and October. Run by Rev Marcus Gibbs and Ascension Balham it was hosted by St Mary Magdalene with facilitators from across the Deanery. With over sixty participants it was a great success and Deanery Synod hopes to host more Deanery wide training and courses in future.

At our final meeting of the year, held in person at St Alban's, Wendy Stephen, the newly licensed Anglican chaplain at HMP Wandsworth was introduced with a fascinating question and answer session. Churches across the Deanery responded generously to the chaplaincy's Christmas appeal for pairs of socks for the prisoners.

Financial Statements for the year ended 31st December 2021

St Mary Magdalene – Wandsworth Common
Statement of Financial Activities for the year ended 31st December 2021

	Unrestricted Funds	Designated Funds	Restricted Funds	Total	Total 2020
	£	£	£	£	£
Incoming Resources					
(Notes 2&3)					
Income from donors	95,734	-	3,188	98,922	164,416
Other voluntary income	5,418	-	200	5,618	1,381
Government grants	3,997	-	-	3,997	4,298
Income from operations	55,470	-	-	55,470	52,526
Income from investment	53	-	-	53	302
Total income	**160,672**	-	**3,388**	**164,060**	**222,923**
Resources Expended					
(Notes 2&3)					
Costs of generating funds	60	-	-	60	157
Work of the Church	131,163	-	-	131,163	128,455
Church Management & Administration	11,545	-	-	11,545	17,108
Other expenditure	21,090	-	13,551	34,641	70,993
Total expenditure	**163,858**	-	**13,551**	**177,409**	**216,713**
Net incoming/(outgoing) resources	(3,186)	-	(10,163)	(13,349)	6,210
Balances at 1st January 2021	69,596	40,000	47,024	156,620	150,410
Balances at 31st December 2021	**66,410**	**40,000**	**36,861**	**143,271**	**£156,620**

St Mary Magdalene – Wandsworth Common
Balance Sheet at 31st December 2021

		2021		2020
		£	£	£
Fixed Assets	*Note*			
Tangible fixed assets	*4*		-	-
Current Assets				
Debtors	*5*	20,273		20,702
Short term deposits		101,251		101,198
Cash at bank and in hand		27,867		41,591
Petty cash		267		267
		149,658		163,758
Less:				
Liabilities				
Creditors falling due				
within one year	*6*	6,390		7,138
Net current assets			143,268	156,620
Total Net Assets			£143,268	£156,620
Funds				
Unrestricted Funds			66,407	69,596
Designated Funds	*3A*			
Maintenance Fund		30,000		30,000
West Window Fund		10,000		10,000
			40,000	40,000
Restricted Funds	*3B*		36,861	47,024
			£143,268	£156,620

Approved by the Parochial Church Council on 6th April 2022 and signed on its behalf by:

…… ……

Thomas Roberts Jane Cooper

Churchwarden Churchwarden

St Mary Magdalene – Wandsworth Common

Notes to the Accounts for year ended 31st December 2021

1 Accounting Policies

The Accounts have been prepared in accordance with the Church Accounting Regulations 2006 together with applicable accounting standards and the SORP 2015.

The Accounts have been prepared under the historical cost convention. The Accounts include all transactions, assets and liabilities for which the PCC is responsible in law. They do not include the accounts of other church groups that owe affiliation to another body, nor those that are informal gatherings of Church members.

Funds

Restricted funds represent (a) income from trusts or endowments which may be expended only on those restricted objects provided in the terms of the trust or bequest and (b) donations or grants received for a specific object or invited by the PCC for a specific object. The funds may only be expended on the specific object for which they were given and any balance remaining unspent at the end of each year must be carried forward. The PCC does not invest separately for each fund.

Unrestricted funds are general funds which can be used for the PCC ordinary purposes.

Designated funds are general funds that have been set aside by the PCC for particular purposes. The aim and use of the designated funds is set out in the notes to the financial statements.

Incoming Resources

Planned giving, collections and donations are recognised when received. Tax refunds are recognised when the incoming resource to which they relate is received. Grants and legacies are accounted for when the PCC is legally entitled to the amounts due. Interest and all other income is recognised when it is receivable. All income resources including funds raised by sales and events are accounted for gross.

Resources Expended

Grants and donations are accounted for when they are paid over, or when awarded, if that award creates a binding obligation on the PCC. The Parish Support Fund is accounted for when due. All other expenditure is generally recognised when it is incurred and is accounted for gross.

Fixed Assets

Consecrated and benefice property is not included in the accounts in accordance with s96(2)(a) of the Charities Act 1993.

Moveable church furnishings held by the vicar and churchwardens in special trust for the PCC and which require a faculty for disposal are inalienable property, listed in the church's inventory, which can be inspected. For anything acquired before 2000 there is insufficient cost information available and therefore such assets are not valued in the Accounts.

Equipment used within the church premises is depreciated on a straight line basis over four years. Individual items of equipment with a purchase price of £1,000 or less are written off when the asset is acquired.

Parish Hall

The Parish Hall is approximately 100 years old. It is an integral part of the church building and is not considered to have a separate identity, which could have been consecrated or which can be individually valued.

Current Assets

Amounts owing to the PCC at 31st December in respect of fees, rents, taxes due or other income are shown as debtors, less provision for any amounts that may prove uncollectible.

Short term deposits include cash held on deposit either with the CBF Church of England Funds or at the bank.

2A **Unrestricted Funds**

	2021		2020
	£	£	£
Income from Donors			
Church open collections	5,455		2,344
Tax efficient giving (including stewardship)	72,904		81,272
Tax rebates received and due	17,375		17,363
		95,734	100,979
Other Voluntary Income			
Fees	2,368		678
Donations and bequests	3,050		703
		5,418	1,381
Government grants		3,997	4,298
Trading			
Use of photocopier	-		22
Bookstall	-		-
	-		22
Fund Raising			
Jumble sales *(Note 2B)*	1,293		190
Calendars	-		332
Eco event	430		-
Quiz Nights	-		2,340
Parish hall lettings	53,747		49,642
		55,470	52,526
Income from Investments			
Interest:			
On deposit		53	302
Total income		£160,672	£159,486

Resources Expended
Cost of Generating Funds

	2021		2020
	£	£	£
Fund Raising *(Note 2B)*			
Jumble sales		60	157
Activities Directly Related to the Work of the Church			
Parish Support Fund	93,000		100,593
Clergy expenses	10,360		15,997
	103,360		106,590
Church and services			
Choir and organ	1,986		2,812
Mission and Worship	530		935
Communication	-		416
	2,516		4,163
General running expenses			
Heat and light	2,356		2,398
Insurance	3,600		3,600
Repairs and maintenance	19,331		11,704
	25,287		17,702
		131,163	128,455
Church Management & Administration			
Administration	1,920		7,340
Examiner's fee	360		360
Parish Office	8,789		8,562
Photocopier maintenance	272		457
Bank charges	203		139
Charitable donation	-		250
Depreciation (note 1)	-		-
		11,545	17,108
Resources expended carried forward		142,768	145,720

	2021	2020
	£	£
Resources expended brought forward	142,768	145,720
Other Expenditure		
Parish Hall expenses	21,090	13,257
Total payments	£163,858	£158,977
(Deficit)/surplus of receipts over payments	(3,186)	509
Transfers to/(from) Designated Funds *(Note 3A)*		
Transfer from Boiler Fund	-	-
Unrestricted funds at 1st January 2021	69,593	69,087
Unrestricted funds at 31st December 2021	£66,407	£69,596

2B **Trading / Fund Raising**

Net income from Jumble Sales £1,233

3A **Designated Funds**

Movement of designated funds

Fund	Balance at 01.01.21 £	Transfer from Unrestricted Fund £	Expenditure £	Balance at 31.12.21 £
Maintenance Fund	30,000	-	-	30,000
West Window Fund	10,000	-	-	10,000
Total Designated Funds	£40,000	-	-	£40,000

3B **Restricted Funds**

Movement of restricted funds

Fund	Balance at 01.01.21 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Balance at 31.12.21 £
Roof and Fabric	28,785	600	-	29,385
Organ	560	200	-	760
Sewing	163	-	-	163
Chair	90	-	-	90
Rood Screen	1,160	-	-	1,160
Servers	937	-	-	937
War Memorial Maintenance	35	-	-	35
Liz Wintle Music Fund	2,000	-	-	2,000
Southwark IT Grant	168	-	168	-
Accessibility Fund	13,126	2,588	13,383	2,331
Total Restricted Funds	£47,024	£3,388	£13,551	£36,861

4 **Fixed Assets**

All assets are now fully written off in accordance with the four year depreciation policy.

5 **Debtors**

	2021	2020
	£	£
Tax rebates due	17,509	17,233
Debtor re VAT	2,737	3,469
Sundry debtor	27	-
	£20,273	£20,702

6 **Creditors**

	2021	2020
	£	£
Marmalade Bear Nursery School	3,000	3,000
Payable re accessible loo	-	2,600
Rental deposits	1,362	960
Examiner's fee	360	360
Charity Fund	-	218
Sundry	1,668	-
	£6,390	£7,138

7 **Money held in Trust - Charity Projects Fund**

The Charity Projects Fund does not form part of the accounts and is only included here to show monies received for and paid to other charities.

Charity Projects Fund income and expenditure:

	2021		2020	
	£	£	£	£
Balance brought forward from prior year:		337		596
Specific collections		1,451		971
Other income		24		-
Christmas Tree Festival	8,213		5,001	
less expenditure	2,726		803	
		5,487		4,198
Total available to distribute		7,299		5,765
Donations paid and payable				
Christian Aid *(Note 1)*	-		-	
Children's Society	168		284	
Clink Charity	-		250	
Epilepsy Research	-		145	
Earlsfield Foodbank	1,105		53	
Trinity Hospice	158		461	
Awareness Foundation	5,487		-	
Welcare	-		4,148	
Royal British Legion	-		27	
Total donations made		6,918		5,368
		381		397
Less				
Bank charges		-		60
Balance carried forward		£381		£337

Notes

1 In addition, £5,248.97 (with Gift Aid, £6,240.57) was raised and sent directly to Christian Aid.

Independent Examiner's Report

[To follow]

THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF ST MARY MAGDALENE, W

England & Wales - Charity number 1140530

Accounts

St Mary Magdalene
WANDSWORTH COMMON

ANNUAL REPORT AND ACCOUNTS



of the Parochial Church Council,

St Mary Magdalene, Wandsworth Common

for the year ended **31st December 2020**

(incorporating a report on the proceedings of

the Tooting Deanery Synod)

Cover photo: a 'thank you' banner for all key workers during the pandemic.
This remained in place throughout the year.

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Annual Report for 2020
on PCC Proceedings and Parish Activities

Introduction - Revd Philippa Boardman MBE

Who could have imagined at the beginning of the year, the world changing events which were soon to be upon us with COVID-19 and the first lockdown which started on 23rd March? Since then, there has been so much suffering with millions of lives lost across the world. There have, however, also been amazing responses of compassion, care of neighbour and community and sacrificial service not least in the NHS, emergency services, residential care homes, schools and those whose often "hidden" work is essential to keep our society functioning.

As a church community, although the church doors were closed for a significant part of 2020 on Government advice, the bonds of care and compassion, prayer and communication remained strong. Zoom meetings and WhatsApp groups developed, pre-recorded sermons and then "livestreaming" of services on Facebook began. Close to 100 "mail chimp" messages were sent, and thousands of newsletters and pew sheets were delivered to those not on the internet. Help with shopping, cards and phone calls – even the church railings were transformed, as ways of staying in touch.



The Vicar's Christmas sermon

Our regular activities did not stop, rather they "changed shape". Since March 2020, our volunteer teams have not been allowed to go into HMP Wandsworth, Springfield Hospital or Ronald Gibson House. Instead they have met for prayer and Bible study on Zoom, undertaken training for telephone support and sent outline services, so that RGH staff can lead Easter and Christmas worship for residents themselves. Collections have also been made in response to specific requests from books, jigsaws and beanie hats for prisoners to toiletries for RGH residents.

Christian Aid week collecting took a new shape with a very successful Just Giving page. While the Christmas Tree Festival team used all their ingenuity with an online prize draw, the socially-distanced sale of wreaths and decorations, as well as beautifying the church with trees for the online Christmas services. An incredible £4,148 was raised for Welcare.

Governance was strengthened through weekly Zoom meetings of the Standing Committee, which comprises our Churchwardens, PCC Secretary and Treasurer. This was an incredible support to the Vicar, as we sought to respond diligently to changing Government advice, including risk assessments and making our buildings COVID-19 secure, as re-opening became possible. Our finances suffered a heavy blow with the loss of bookings income, but (as the accounts show) the generosity of the congregation has been outstanding in response.



It was a joy to welcome the Revd Shavaun Shodeinde as our curate in early July with her family, and many were able to watch her livestreamed ordination as a Deacon at the Cathedral. Other "new arrivals" in 2020 included a new website, and the accessible toilets and tea point, following successful grant applications to the National Lottery, Viridor-Credits and the Allchurches Trust, plus the monies raised by the church from the 2019 John Rutter day and a number of donations.

Revd Shavaun Shodeinde is welcomed as deacon

2020 was a year of great sorrow but as we look into 2021, we stand ready with our strong volunteer base and improved facilities to engage with the emerging needs of our post-pandemic society and play our part in "building back better" in the love and light of God.

PCC report on its proceedings and the activities of the parish

The Parochial Church Council of St Mary Magdalene, Wandsworth Common (PCC) presents this report on its proceedings for the calendar year to 31st December 2020 and on the activities of the parish generally in that year. Details of how the PCC works, its meetings and membership, its officers, the electoral roll, church attendance and other matters are set out at the end of the report.

Objectives and activities

The PCC has the duty, amongst other things, to consult with the vicar on matters of general concern and importance within the parish and to work with her to promote the whole mission of the church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical in the area.

The PCC is committed to enabling regular public worship at St Mary Magdalene, open to all, and to the provision at the church of sacred space for personal prayer and contemplation.

When planning our activities, we have considered the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit and, in particular, the supplementary guidance on charities for the advancement of religion. In particular, we try to enable ordinary people to live out their faith as part of our parish community through:

- Worship and prayer
- Teaching of Christianity through sermons, courses and small groups
- Provision of pastoral care for people living in the parish

- Outreach work in the local community

To continue this important work, it is also vital that we maintain the fabric of the church of St Mary Magdalene, including its Parish and Vestry Halls.

Mission Action Plan

In January 2016 we adopted a Mission Action Plan (MAP) to direct the mission and ministry at St Mary Magdalene from 2016 - 2020. This was the PCC's second MAP, building on the work we had done in past years and providing us with an opportunity to continue to grow our church, our faith and our profile in the local community. Further details of the principal elements of our current MAP are set out at the end of this report.



Main strands of the 2016-2020 MAP

The COVID-19 pandemic made it difficult to take forward items in the plan during 2020, although there were successes, further details of which are set out in this report.

Notwithstanding the pandemic, early in 2020 we began to consider the creation of a new five year Mission Action Plan for 2021 - 25. In early March, with thanks to the hospitality of Tom and Sally Roberts, the PCC met with Katherine von Schubert to start this process and to help make us think how our work on a new MAP should be centred around our vision and wider objectives for the church. Katherine is a freelance writer, editor and speaker and helps churches in the Diocese to think through their local role and calling, and their engagement with the locality.

Katherine also produced a paper later in the year considering churches' response to COVID-19. This provided the basis of a PCC discussion, as members considered what the church had lost; what we were fearful about; what we had had to do differently; and the best thing we were doing as a church as a result of the pandemic. This thinking will enhance our understanding of what "church" might look like in a post pandemic world and in the creation of our new MAP.

Later in 2020, the PCC once again turned its mind to the new MAP, looking at achievements in the three areas of faith, compassion and sustainability over the last few years; identifying initiatives for each of these three areas we could take forward; and considering how we could consult with, and get input from, the wider congregation. This provided a strong basis for extending the conversation to the congregation in early 2021.

How we achieved our objectives in 2020

Worship, prayer and the teaching of Christianity



Our new Curate!

A new curate

During the year we were blessed to welcome our new curate, Revd Shavaun Shodeinde, to St Mary Magdalene and she immediately began to make an impression on the work of the church and, by telephone and Zoom, to get to know a large number of congregants.

Organising for Revd Shavaun's arrival had presented challenges in itself. A search for suitable accommodation for her family, thanks to the persistence of Jane Cooper, eventually was rewarded with success, notwithstanding the difficulties of getting estate agents to focus on our needs during lockdown. Fortunately, everything came together in the end.

On 27th June, Revd Shavaun was licensed by the Bishop (a first on Zoom!) and joined us for her first Sunday at St Mary Magdalene on 5th July. Regrettably, plans to celebrate with a socially distanced picnic on Trinity Fields had to be abandoned. Her ordination had to wait until 19th September and it was also a shame that, under the COVID-19 restrictions, members of the congregation were not permitted to join her for the service at the Cathedral, although we were able to wish her well with messages on the church railings.

Regular services

The ringing of the church bell before all services continued throughout the COVID-19 pandemic. It remained an important reminder to the parish that prayer continued at the heart of Wandsworth Common for the needs of the community and the wider world, whatever the prevailing circumstances and challenges in the world.

In planning services, we were, of course, primarily concerned to ensure the safety of our church family and were careful to review and apply the relevant Government and Church of England guidance in relation to opening the church.



A vicar in a visor!

There was a long period during the first lockdown of 2020 in which all churches were required to close their doors. As soon as we were permitted (and it was safe) to do so, we welcomed back our parishioners, at first for individual prayer on Wednesday and Sunday mornings. When public worship was then allowed to resume, we provided a shortened Eucharist service on Wednesday mornings and two on Sunday mornings. These were, of course, very services - ensuring we had the correct social

distancing, one way system, test and trace, personal hygiene and cleaning regimes in place. Holy Communion was only permitted in one kind and required the clergy to wear face coverings. Furthermore, there was no singing allowed by the congregation and the relaxation of the rules later in the year only allowed a limited choir to perform. Coffee after services ceased immediately, as did Junior Church. All very strange!

Soon livestreaming of our services on Facebook became the norm. We believe that this, at least, meant we were able to reach out to those in our community who had access to the relevant technology. The circulation by mail chimp of service sheets and prayers also helped people engage in our services from home. For those without the necessary technology at home, or unable to access it, a system for personal delivery of materials was soon put in place.

The church team quickly rose to all the challenges and thanks are due to everyone, including the sidesmen, choir, organists, cleaning team, sound and live streaming technicians, as well as the clergy team.

Special services



Even without a congregation, the Church still looked wonderful at Easter

Lent and Easter: Lent began with the traditional Ash Wednesday Eucharist with ashing, complemented by moving singing by the choir. A huge labyrinth canvas was borrowed from the Diocese as an imaginative aid to prayer. Little did we realise that within a month, the church doors would be closed. For the first time in the 150 year history of St Mary Magdalene, there were no Holy Week or Easter services in the church. So "church" went outside, thanks to Jane Cooper, with laminated prayers on the railings and a wooden cross as a creative seasonal focus.

All Souls: A poignant and uplifting late afternoon service was held with reading of names of loved ones who have died. This was attended not only by church members, but also by members of the wider local community who had been bereaved.

Remembrance weekend: Sadly, for the first time since 2017, we were unable to welcome pupils from Ernest Bevin College for their Remembrance event. However, we were open for Remembrance Sunday with the observance of the Two Minutes' Silence.

Advent and Christmas: On Advent Sunday, a well-attended service saw the choir provide an inspiring choral lead in the continued absence of congregational singing. A small and dedicated team launched a ticketing and seating system for Christmas services. Sadly, all Christmas services eventually had to go online only, as COVID-19 infections increased. But good numbers were still able to share in Christmas worship in this way.

Christmas Tree Festival

Once again, the fantastic team of Rowan and Phil MacCarthy, Ann Carrington Brook and Charlotte Flowers swung into action, although it was evident from the start that this year's Christmas Tree Festival would be very different to past years. Essentially it became a virtual festival. Whilst the number of trees was slimmed down – 15 instead of last year's 31 - they formed a beautiful backdrop to the live streamed services. There was also a splendid and eye catching 17ft tree outside the church. The raffle became an online prize draw and people were very generous both donating prizes and buying tickets. Rosemary Birchall made beautiful wreaths and flowers for the festival.

In the end, despite COVID-19, just over £4,000 was raised for Welcare.

Enormous thanks are due to the organising committee and their fantastic army of helpers – including the tree builders, tree decorators, tree fellers, cleaning team – and generous sponsors and supporters.

Baptisms, weddings and funerals

We were able to continue offering these services, always careful to observe the latest Government and Church of England advice to keep everyone safe.

We welcomed two children in Holy Baptism in 2020 (with a number of families preferring to postpone to 2021). It was a joy to conduct the wedding of a couple who had had to postpone their wedding twice beforehand due to lockdowns. Two funerals took place at St Mary Magdalene and six at local crematoriums, as bereaved families bore the additional burdens of COVID-19 restrictions.

Church music

Musically, like most church activities, 2020 was the year of adaptation, of patience, of being pleased to present something and of being grateful for singers sufficiently confident to sing solo or in smaller numbers than they might have liked.

Pre-lockdown the regular choir list settled at 35 members, and withstood the loss of some good singers by dint of new talent emerging. The standard Sunday morning choir size ranged typically from 12 – 18 and they were able to offer suitable 4-part harmony anthems to an encouraging standard. The warm appreciation the congregation always shows for the choir is a stand-out aspect of our parish.

The choir was not able to continue its rehearsal schedule at all after the beginning of the first lockdown, so they were not able to grow their repertoire. During the lull between lockdowns, a small choir was permitted with due social distancing: this stretched all choristers to maintain their own singing parts independently without the benefit of other singers nearby.

Choral Evensong did not happen in 2020 for obvious reasons, but there are plans to reinstate as soon as circumstances permit. It is a part of our worship, which is relevant and right for our church and it brings additional singers into the choir, attracting 24 – 34 singers each time.

Looking forward, it would be exciting to develop a series of concerts to use our space.

Teaching

Lent talks: Another series of stimulating Lent talks were arranged. Speakers were to include Roger Royle ("Is God directing you?"), our own Debbie Whitworth ("Is the rehabilitation of offenders possible?", Huda Nassar ("What future for the children of Syria?") and Michael Savage ("What death can teach us about living fully"). Sadly only the first two of these talks could take place before the first lockdown began.



The vicar and Revd Roger Royle



Debbie Morgan, the Vicar and Mark Sillery of the Clink

Advent Course: ***"***Exploring themes of the environment and care for creation", an inspiring Advent course was led by Susanne Mitchell on four Wednesday evenings in Advent on Zoom. Sessions were a mix of reading, discussion and a simple activity based on the book "Go to the Ant - Biodiversity and the Bible" by Ghillean Prance who is Scientific Director of the Eden Project in Cornwall and formerly Director of the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew. Topics included the theology of insects and trees! The course was well attended and appreciated by all participants. An Eco-Church group is now up and running at St Mary Magdalene and making plans for 2021.

Junior Church: Unfortunately, the COVID-19 lockdowns meant that Junior Church activities had to cease at the church. Our team of dedicated leaders, however, endeavoured to send activity ideas out to families and colouring sheets were available for those attending services. The team kept abreast of the ever changing regulations, prepared to recommence with the relevant safeguards, as soon as was permitted.

Families and young people: 2020 was a particularly tough year for families and young people with home-schooling and many schools, colleges and out of school activities being closed. Due to safeguarding, contact via social media with young people was not possible, but Revd Shavaun sent a card and letter of introduction to the teenagers and, towards the end of the year, set up a Zoom network to stay in touch with parents. At Christmas, church families designed and put posters in their front windows to create an Advent Trail. A Christingle-making workshop (with families booking in for separate 'slots' to ensure social

distancing) was offered and it was wonderful to welcome seven families who were also able to say prayers at the Crib and enjoy the sparkling trees.

Home Groups: The five established home groups continued during 2020, albeit in a morphed existence due to COVID-19. The groups continued to be led by members of the congregation with an aggregate of up to 30 attending (each group varied from 5 - 10 members). There were a handful of new members joining established groups, which was encouraging. These groups of mixed ages met at different times of the day or evening; with frequency varying from every other week, once a month or to once every half term. The largest group met once a month during the afternoons and, during "normal times", would include tea and cake! Zoom meetings provided welcome video contact and the various WhatsApp groups were the perfect way to share prayer requests or messages, photos and links of encouragement during the various lockdowns.

Each group mutually decided what to study and how to lead each session. Areas of discussion over 2020 included Philippians, Psalms, prayer reflections and Theology books (Revd Nadim's book continued to be popular). The groups provided an informal and varied way for members of the congregation to develop their faith and understanding of Christianity, as well as get to know others outside the traditional service setting. Sermons and current affairs were also often discussed and personal reflections shared. The year was not short of world events to challenge and probe our Christian faith!

As a broader congregation we are always working towards encouraging more people to get involved in home groups and frequently share notices and reminders about current home group activity. There are key home group contacts within the congregation which are available to discuss current activity and help new members find a group which would suit their personal Christian journey of exploration.

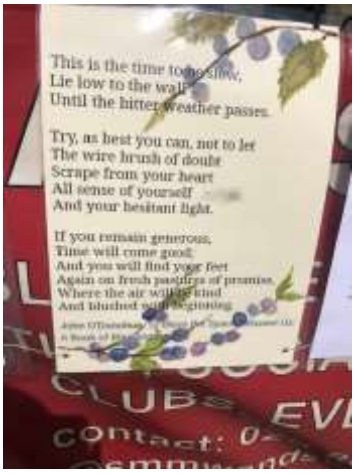
Online Sunday gathering: This group was started by close supporters of Jill Clark and her family, when as a result of her illness she could no longer get to church. Its start coincided with the first lockdown and initially provided a forum for sharing faith while the church was closed. It took place on Sundays at 4.30 pm. Lead by Sally Roberts it lasted about 25 minutes during which the Collect and Readings of the day were read by those present. Prayers were said and spiritual readings, prayers and a blessing were included. Typically, it was followed by ten minutes of open conversation. There were a wide variety of participants with numbers ranging from 6 to 25. After Jill died in early 2021, it was decided to keep the group going.

Men's Bible Briefing: This small group of dedicated men met fortnightly by Zoom on Thursdays. Lockdown allowed us to move the start to 8.00 am. It remained a thriving group much enjoyed by those who attend.

Prayer

With church buildings closed for much of the year, church members explored new ways of prayer at home - online and with apps such as Daily Prayer. The Daily Hope phone line of the Church of England provided 24/7 prayers and hymns for those unable to access the

internet. A major initiative was the use of the church railings to reach out to the community with prayers (see below) and in November the church bell was rung at 6.00 pm every evening as part of a national call to pause and pray.



A prayer on the railings

Church Railings: During lockdown, an innovation was to use the railings outside the front of the church to display prayers, banners and to create a colourful, visual presence in the parish that showed we were still "open for business":

For Palm Sunday, we covered a Cross made from Christmas trees used at the Christmas Tree Festival with palm Crosses. For Good Friday, we left the Cross bare. For Easter, we covered the Cross with flowers. At Pentecost there were red, orange and yellow ribbons on the Cross, and lots of prayers spanning along the railings.



Palm Sunday Cross

- The Child family painted a "thank you" banner for all key workers during the pandemic. This remained in place throughout the year. (See cover photo)

- Then we turned the railings into a "We'll Meet Again" display to celebrate VE Day and we displayed experiences of the congregation during wartime.



Sunflowers and Faith

- Revd Shavaun's welcome was celebrated with a banner. For her ordination rainbows and doves were put along the railings, and a message was placed over her welcome banner.

- In July, we put red and green ribbons on the Cross for St Mary Magdalene's day, with lots of prayers from women all around the world, including prayers from the past.

- In August, we celebrated Sunflowers and Faith. Sunflowers turn their faces to the sun, and Christians turn their faces to the Son. The railings were decorated with sunflowers coloured in by some of the congregation.

- Remembrance Day came next. As building works were going on in the Church, poppies went along the railings and the hoardings. These were very striking on their black background.

- Finally, Christmas: the large Christmas Tree from the Festival was lit up outside. In late December, Susanne Mitchell also masterminded the display with prayers for the Nativity.

Pastoral care

Pastoral care was more important than ever in 2020 and needed to "change shape" with the ever-changing circumstances of the pandemic. Phone calls, cards, Zoom meetings and WhatsApp calls, outdoor walks, and garden gate conversations with social distancing all became part of pastoral care. When allowed, the clergy met with people in church to support and pray with them. Pastoral care is also given in a myriad of ways through volunteering by members of the congregation in often hidden acts of kindness and compassion both within the church and wider community.

A new initiative in autumn 2020 was to host three Death Cafés – a national movement which seeks to bring people together of all faiths or none, to talk about death in a supportive and non-judgemental setting. These sessions were facilitated by the Revd April Keech, who runs Death Cafés in the East End of London, and hosted by Sally Roberts. We would like to offer further Death Cafés and bereavement support in 2021.

Safeguarding

The diocese takes the view that every member of the congregation has a safeguarding responsibility. At St Mary Magdalene, the PCC, Churchwardens, Clergy and Safeguarding Officers are committed to ensuring that the church and its various events comply with safeguarding best practice. This goes further than ensuring up to date DBS checks on all in authority or who have contact with children and vulnerable adults. We aim to develop a culture where everyone is aware of the issues at stake, have the relevant training and where they know whom to contact and where to look to find helpful information.

The year was like no other in that, since part way through Lent 2020, the church was frequently closed, had a reduced socially distanced congregation or periods only of private prayer. Regretfully too, Junior Church sessions were on pause. During this time the Safeguarding Officers kept up to date the remit of DBS checks and online safeguarding courses as required. Sadly all "live" safeguarding courses were cancelled.

In relation to its safeguarding arrangements, the PCC has complied with the duty under section 5 of the Safeguarding and Clergy Discipline Measure 2016 (duty to have regard to the House of Bishops' guidance on safeguarding children and vulnerable adults).

During 2020 we received a new updated version of A Safe Church (the newly revised safeguarding guidelines as laid down by Southward Diocese) and adopted a new Domestic Abuse Policy. A particular challenge was the new online streaming of services - because these were organised at such speed, Safeguarding Officers across the Diocese had to run to catch up with the safeguarding implications of appearing online. We remain in the process of creating our own church online protocols around this very new area for our church. In the interim, we agreed that children should not appear in any videos online under the St Mary Magdalene headline until we can create a satisfactory set of guidelines approved by the Clergy and the PCC.

Safeguarding challenges for 2021:

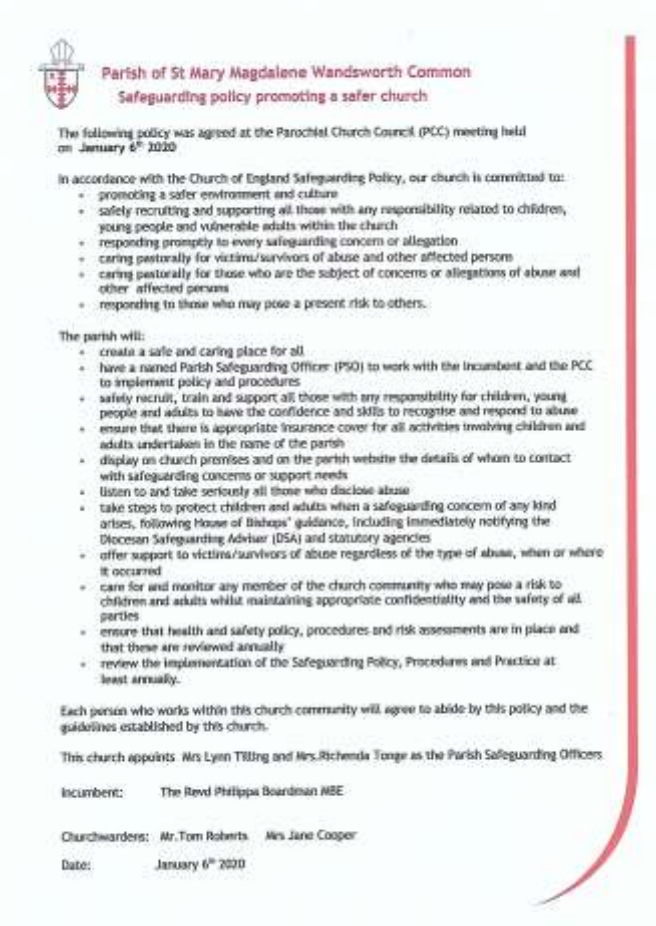
- Create a set of protocols for online services and outreach – mostly those in which children might appear – and have them approved by the PCC.

- Encourage new sides persons and interested members of the congregation to attend safeguarding courses, when resumed, or complete them online.

- Keep all DBS checks up to date and renew them where necessary, plus ensure newly updated disclosure forms are completed.

- Ensure all children attending Junior Church are registered when they are back with us at services.

- Check that all major events are risk assessed and that the assessments go on file.



Parish of St Mary Magdalene Wandsworth Common
Safeguarding policy promoting a safer church

The following policy was agreed at the Parochial Church Council (PCC) meeting held on January 6th 2020

In accordance with the Church of England Safeguarding Policy, our church is committed to:

- promoting a safer environment and culture
- safely recruiting and supporting all those with any responsibility related to children, young people and vulnerable adults within the church
- responding promptly to every safeguarding concern or allegation
- caring pastorally for victims/survivors of abuse and other affected persons
- caring pastorally for those who are the subject of concerns or allegations of abuse and other affected persons
- responding to those who may pose a present risk to others.

The parish will:

- create a safe and caring place for all
- have a named Parish Safeguarding Officer (PSO) to work with the Incumbent and the PCC to implement policy and procedures
- safely recruit, train and support all those with any responsibility for children, young people and adults to have the confidence and skills to recognise and respond to abuse
- ensure that there is appropriate insurance cover for all activities involving children and adults undertaken in the name of the parish
- display on church premises and on the parish website the details of whom to contact with safeguarding concerns or support needs
- listen to and take seriously all those who disclose abuse
- take steps to protect children and adults when a safeguarding concern of any kind arises, following House of Bishops' guidance, including immediately notifying the Diocesan Safeguarding Adviser (DSA) and statutory agencies
- offer support to victims/survivors of abuse regardless of the type of abuse, when or where it occurred
- care for and monitor any member of the church community who may pose a risk to children and adults whilst maintaining appropriate confidentiality and the safety of all parties
- ensure that health and safety policy, procedures and risk assessments are in place and that these are reviewed annually
- review the implementation of the Safeguarding Policy, Procedures and Practice at least annually.

Each person who works within this church community will agree to abide by this policy and the guidelines established by this church.

This church appoints Mrs Lynn Tilling and Mrs.Richenda Tonge as the Parish Safeguarding Officers

Incumbent: The Revd Philippa Boardman MBE

Churchwarders: Mr.Tom Roberts Mrs Jane Cooper

Date: January 6th 2020

- Publicise the need for safeguarding awareness among the congregation and keep them informed about guidelines, protocols and the help available from the Safeguarding Officers and the Diocese.

- Recruit two new Safeguarding Officers, because Lynn Tilling and Richenda Tonge plan to step down, when replacements can be found, after several years dedicated service.

Safeguarding is a central and essential part of the church's life and, as always, we offer our thanks to Lynn and Richenda for all they do, most often behind the scenes.

Outreach



HMP Wandsworth

HMP Wandsworth Bible Study Group: During 2020 our activities were constrained by the limitations of the COVID-19 lockdowns. Despite a small glimmer of light in October, we were not able to go into the prison or communicate with the prisoners in person. We continued to hold studies by Zoom each week, which had the benefit of bringing the team closer together and improving the quality of their studies.

Periodically, a synopsis of the study was sent to the prison for inclusion in a Chaplaincy weekly newsletter. Very sadly two members of the team, Costa Boamah and Jill Clark, died, Costa during the year and Jill in early 2021. Their insight, energy and contribution will be much missed by all of us, including the prisoners.

Springfield Hospital Our team was able to start visiting the hospital in January 2020 and continued to do so throughout February, but was halted at the first lockdown in March and did not resume for the rest of the year. The chaplain at Springfield set up a telephone helpline for those service users who are in the community, but unable to access direct support. Two of our volunteers took the training modules required to support this. The whole team remains ready to support visiting once Government guidelines allow.

Ronald Gibson House During 2020 sadly we were not able to provide the usual monthly communion services. These have always provided a happy, relaxed atmosphere in which everyone enjoys the service, the singing and the chat! Hopefully we will be back there soon to support both staff and residents.

In 2020 our fundraising efforts were also stalled somewhat as the pandemic made life at care homes more difficult than ever with a complete lockdown. However, in tandem with the RGH League of Friends, we did manage to stay in touch and make a difference to the lives of the residents and carers. During lockdown we:

- Organised a delivery of relaxing bath salts for every one of the 80+ members of staff at RGH as a treat when they came off shift.

- Set up a collection box outside the home to receive donations of toiletries, gifts, cakes and more.

- Created dozens of laundry bags for care staff to transport and wash their uniforms safely. These were sewn from donated fabric, duvet covers and sheets.

- Responded to the shout out for toiletries for residents whose families were unable to deliver them personally. The church congregation donated enthusiastically.

- Donated money from the League of Friends' reserve to buy Christmas Cards and individual, carefully chosen Christmas gifts for every resident.

- Raised funds by organising a sale of designer knitting yarn donated by a local resident with links to the yarn industry.

- Introduced an online plant sale, rather than the usual plant sale held in the church hall.

Currently care homes are still in lockdown but we are hoping there is a glimmer of light at the end of the tunnel. When life does return to normal, we shall have to re-establish our relationship with the home and re-introduce ourselves to the residents. Hopefully they won't have forgotten us!

Relationships with local schools and organisations We also sought to reach out into the community through the church's work with local schools and other organisations.

Schools: Due to the lockdown and school closures, many annual "favourites", such as the Ernest Bevin College Remembrance event, the Finton House carol concerts and Beatrix Potter performances at the Christmas Tree Festival, were not able to happen in 2020. Marmalade Bear Nursery, however, continued to flourish in the Parish Hall. We were sad to say goodbye to Miss Suki, longstanding Headteacher at Marmalade Bear, at the end of 2020. Revd Philippa continues to serve as a Governor at Ernest Bevin College. All the schools, staff and families continue in our prayers.

We hope that the accessible toilet facilities, now installed in the church, will enable us to offer the space to these and other local schools in 2021 for a host of educational and arts activities.

8th Upper Tooting Girlguiding Units There has been a long association between St Mary Magdalene and the 8th Upper Tooting Girlguiding Units, who regularly use the church halls for their meetings and join us for services on certain Parade Sundays throughout the year. A number of the Units' leaders are regular members of the church congregation.

The year started as usual with weekly meetings, a trip to Clip 'n' climb for the Guides, an escape room for the Rangers and the annual Spring Fair was just squeezed in before lockdown started in March. Brownie and Guide meetings at the church then moved onto Zoom. The Guides really embraced the meetings and continued through the summer. The Brownies found it harder. The Rainbows and Rangers elected to take a break, as neither group were comfortable with Zoom. The Trefoil Guild held monthly "paper meetings".

In September, the Brownies and Guides were offered a blended approach of Zoom meetings and outdoor meetings, capitalizing on their links with the Scout Group to use the Scouts' facilities at the Romany. Sadly, plans to return to indoor meetings at the church in November were thwarted with the second lockdown.

It is widely recognized that children's mental health suffered during 2020 and that regular social contact and continuity with familiar activities was very important in alleviating this. The girls and leaders both had to adapt to meeting in new ways and learning new skills, but feedback from the parents and girls was very positive.

The Unit were saddened at the start of 2021 to hear of the death of Jill Clark (AKA Flamingo), who had been a dedicated volunteer with Brownies for 14 years.

Support for charities and other causes

Welcare: In May 2018 the PCC voted to support Welcare as our chosen charity of focus for the next two years.

welcare
strengthening families since 1894

Welcare is dedicated to helping children and families overcome challenges and build towards a better future. Its work reflects its Christian foundations and it supports and

works with those in need – of all faiths or none. Operating within the Diocese of Southwark, Welcare has "been there" for children and families in times of need and crisis for over 120 years. It aims to build on the positive elements of family life, working with families, children and young people to prevent challenges from developing or escalating.

Other causes: The church continued to support a number of other charities and causes, including:

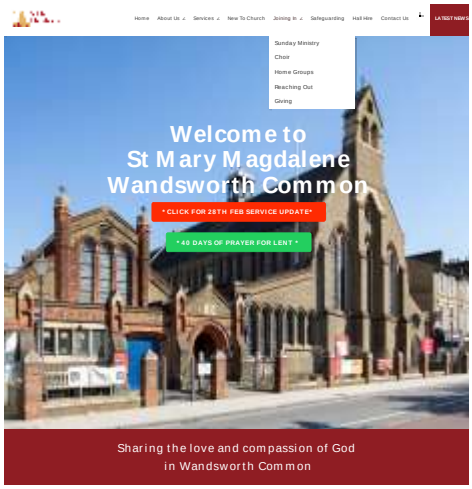
- Royal Trinity Hospice (usually through the proceeds of Sunday after church coffee, but without coffee during most of 2020, through direct donations from church funds).

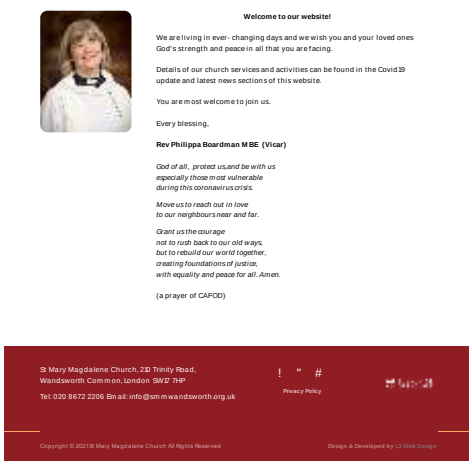
- Wandsworth Foodbank stopped receiving food items after March 2020 and church members gave individual financial support instead. Earlsfield Foodbank continued to receive food donations which we collected during the times the church buildings were open.



Foodbank donations

- Christian Aid – thank you especially to Richenda Tonge and all those who participated in the online giving campaign as street collections were not permitted in 2000 – notwithstanding the limitations of this £2,815 was raised online, plus cash, cheques and Gift Aid tax rebates.





Redevelopment of St Mary Magdalene

The first place of worship (a tin tabernacle) was built on the church site in 1870. Now one hundred and fifty years later, we continue to work hard to re-imagine and renovate the church and halls for the next one hundred and fifty years.

Like many things in 2020, work on this project slowed down, but there were some important advances:

- Recognising that improving communications both externally and internally were a necessity to any development project, we commissioned a new website. This not only enabled us to give a fresh view of St Mary Magdalene and its work within the community, but also made it much easier to keep it up to date as the outside "window" into the church and its life. After the long process of deciding upon the right web designer, creating content, checking content (checking and checking again!), we launched the website in June.

Our new website!

- The accessible toilet project (more on which, see below) was also an exercise in "building capacity" so as to help enable us to open our doors and bring more people into the church, so that we can engage more with different groups within our buildings when lockdown restrictions permit.

- We continued to identify, and develop relationships with, potential charitable partners, whose work relates to the mission objectives of the church and who might make use of the spaces within the church buildings. Memoranda of understanding were signed with three such charities. Sadly, the pandemic hit many charities hard and they have had to reassess their own property needs, which made it difficult to advance our discussions with them. We did, however, keep in touch and hope to move forward when restrictions end and they are able to pick up again on their work and internal needs.

- The Standing Committee met on two mornings, suitably socially distanced, to discuss ways of revitalising the passion for the project, identifying a vision for it and establishing a pathway to taking the project forward. This led early in 2021 to the PCC being challenged to reflect on this vision and identify how we were going to meet this in practice, the next key steps and how we galvanised ourselves to make the whole project happen.

PCC's Financial Report for 2020

The accounts reflect the challenges of 2020 and the closure of the buildings due to COVID-19.

Income from the halls, collections, jumble sales, fees and donations all took a battering, but members of the congregation responded magnificently to an appeal to review their planned giving to the church. Stewardship and the associated tax rebate under the Gift Aid scheme increased by 28% (from £77,298 to £98,635). This is truly amazing.

We reduced our expenditure wherever possible and consequently report a small surplus for the year on general funds of £509. So good to be able to report a surplus. Further, we added £5,701 to the restricted funds, even with spending on the accessible toilet project and paying for the roof repairs completed over Christmas and New Year 2019/20, which totalled £57,736.

The general fund at the end of 2020 was £69,596 which underwrites our concern that 2021 will be another challenging year, due to COVID-19 having started with another closure of the buildings and suspension of congregations attending services in person.

Fundraising for other charities in 2020 was also reduced due to closure of the buildings, but an innovative approach to the Christmas Tree Festival raised over £4,000 for Welcare and we have managed to continue our regular support of Royal Trinity Hospice, as well as specific donations for a small number of other charities in the year.

Buildings

Work this year was dominated by the accessible toilet project. There was always, however, the usual need to deal with the plethora of general repairs arising during the year. In this respect, in 2020 we dealt with a number of consequential works to the replacement of the Parish Hall entrance and Flower Room flat roofs (for example, installing of new lights in the Flower Room and repairing the skylight windows above the entrance to the Parish Hall). We also installed Nest heater controls for the radiators in the Parish and Vestry Halls.



The new accessible toilet

The accessible toilet project comprised the building of two toilets, one accessible, and a tea point in the south aisle of the church, including the provision of fresh water and drainage. The project was pursued vigorously during the year, not least in putting together applications for funding. We were grateful to receive grants from:

- Viridor Credits: £18,219
- Wandsworth Grant Fund: £10,000
- National Lottery Awards for All: £10,000
- AllChurches Trust: £2,700

The remaining costs were covered by proceeds from the John Rutter "Come and Sing" day in 2019 and by the PCC.

Plans and specifications were discussed in detail and finalised with our architect (there were, in the end, ten versions of the drawings!), a detailed faculty application submitted and a tender for the lead contractor made. Having decided upon the contractor, Abbeyview Services Limited, building was finally started in October. By the end of November, subject to "snagging", the works had finished. We are looking forward to the opportunities these new facilities will open up.

Cleaning: The cleaning regime in 2020 needed to take account of the pandemic restrictions and the Government and Church of England guidance. Under the guiding hand of Serena Perkins, however, the church cleaning team rose to the challenge and continued to keep St Mary Magdalene a clean and safe place in which to worship.

Church administration

Improving administration and efficiencies is the last of our MAP objectives. In 2020, we took the difficult decision to furlough our parish administrator under the Government Job Retention Scheme, as the need to manage the bookings for our two halls evaporated during the pandemic.

We have needed to respond to COVID-19 by making use of new means of communication. The new website is referred to above. Revd Philippa's regular mail chimp messages not only have provided information on forthcoming services, but also have served as a conduit of news and other matters concerning church life. As we began to learn the art of live-streaming services, we were also able to increase our use of Facebook as a means of communicating with those using it. PCC meetings also became virtual for the first time, making use of the Zoom video conferencing facility, including its facility for break out groups, where some lively discussion ensued.



A Zoom PCC Meeting

In February we reviewed our general and fire risk assessments, and a revised Health & Safety Policy was approved. Inevitably there were a number of action points arising from this exercise, but it was reassuring to know that our church and its two halls remained safe for all those who visit and use them. We also reviewed the church's accessibility audit during 2020 and reminded ourselves of the need to "think accessibility" in all we do.

Another victim of the pandemic was fixing a date for the APCM, which (under revised rules from the Bishop) was eventually held in October. Fortunately, during a period of more relaxed regulations, the meeting was able to be held face-to-face in church, avoiding the need to hold it by electronic communication. It did, however, mean the use of mail chimp messages and emails (in addition to the usual forms of communication) for the provision of information, such as the notice and agenda for the meeting and forms for the election of churchwardens, Deanery Synod Representatives and new lay members of the PCC. This served, however, to ensure a greater number of people were capable of being involved in the process with so many unable to attend the church in person. It may, in fact, become a model for future years.


THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND

COVID-19 Advice on the Conduct of Public Worship

Yet more guidance….

The year could not go by without mention of risk assessments, particularly in relation to the pandemic. With each change in the Government regulations and Church of England guidance we needed to re-assess risk issues – at first, when the church buildings were closed, then when they were open for individual prayer and then for public worship, as well for the special occasions (such as funerals) which were conducted at the church. When restrictions were relaxed in July,

we considered the basis on which we would start to open up our halls for letting, only to have to stop the process when restrictions tightened up again. The Church of England website contains 37 COVID-19 FAQs and 28 different COVID-19 guidance notes (many of which have been updated several times) and all of which we have faithfully followed.

In addition to COVID-19 regulations to get to grips with, a major revision of the Church Representation Rules came into effect in January 2020. The new concept of the "Model Rules" for parish governance now became our watchword.

How the PCC works and our congregational volunteers

Much of the day to day work of the PCC is delegated to various groups, but the PCC retains the responsibility for receiving reports from these groups and for taking all major decisions at its regular meetings. Until the new PCC for 2020/2021 started in November, the principal groups to which the PCC had delegated authority were:

- The Standing Committee (which prepares the agenda for PCC meetings and is authorised to transact the business of the PCC between meetings).
- The Mission, Worship and Spirituality Group
- The Buildings Maintenance Group
- The Redevelopment Group
- The Stewardship Group

From the first lockdown until the end of the year, the Standing Committee met almost every week to ensure the business of the church continued notwithstanding the restrictions imposed by COVID-19. The other groups were unfortunately only able to meet infrequently.

In November, the PCC considered how this structure could be improved, so that its business could be better run. In conclusion, in addition to the Standing Committee, the PCC agreed to change the existing committee structure into the:

- Mission Committee
- Finance and Risk Committee
- Buildings Management Committee.

The PCC also includes those appointed to represent it at the Tooting Deanery Synod.

Notwithstanding COVID-19, many other groups of people, however, contributed to the operation and vitality of our church as this report has shown. Collectively we owe enormous thanks to all those volunteers who contribute so much of their time and skills to the work of St Mary Magdalene in our community and further afield.



At the October APCM, Joan Taylor stepped down from membership of the PCC after an incredible period of continuous service since 1962. This included many years as a superbly efficient PCC secretary, Deanery Synod

representative and blazing the trail in 1976 as St Mary Magdalene's first female Churchwarden. On All Saints Day, Joan received the news that the Bishop of Southwark had awarded her the Lancelot Andrewes medal for 'godly service and zeal from the Gospel'. All Saints Day 2020 also happened to be Joan's 90th birthday. Bishop Christopher presented her with the medal in early 2021.

At the APCM Jill Jeffrey also stepped down from the PCC after over thirty years of dedicated service, either as an elected member of the laity or as a Deanery Synod representative. Another person who had given a considerable number of years' service to the PCC, Anthea Masters, retired from her position as Electoral Roll Officer.

Enormous thanks are due to each of Joan, Jill and Anthea, whose diligent service to the PCC spanning, in aggregate, over 100 years is quite extraordinary.

There are always opportunities to support the work of the church in many different ways and we continue to encourage every member of the congregation to consider prayerfully how they might contribute their "time, talents and treasure" at St Mary Magdalene and in the wider parish.

Further information

Constitution: The Parochial Church Council of the ecclesiastical parish of St Mary Magdalene, Wandsworth Common is a corporate body established by the Church of England. It operates under the Parochial Church Council Powers Measure and is a registered charity, registered with Charity Number 1140530.

Address: St Mary Magdalene, Wandsworth Common is situated on Trinity Road, London, SW17 7HP. It is part of the Diocese of Southwark (Kingston Episcopal Area) within the Church of England. The address for correspondence is the Parish Office at 10a Wiseton Road, London, SW17 7EE.

Electoral Roll: The number on the electoral roll as of 31st December was 162. Three people were removed from the roll during the year and 20 added.

Church attendance: When the church was open, people continued to attend in person in good numbers despite the pandemic, people shielding and no provision for Junior Church. In the month of October 2020, when the church was open for the whole month, 78 adults attended on a Sunday. As there was no Junior Church, we found that few children attended – sometimes only a family with a baby or a grandchild. Eighteen adults attended the midweek Eucharist (a significant increase).

PCC Meetings: During 2020 there were six ordinary meetings of the PCC (2019: 7), of which four were held by Zoom video conference. 82.5% of PCC members on average attended these six meetings (2019: 79%).

Members of the PCC: The method of appointment of PCC members is set out in the Church Representation Rules. At St Mary Magdalene the membership of the PCC consists of (i) the

incumbent vicar, (ii) the churchwardens, (iii) the reader, (iv) the lay representatives of the parish elected to the Tooting Deanery Synod and (v) lay members; in the case of (iv) and (v) elected by those members of the congregation who are on the electoral roll of the church. All those who worship regularly at St Mary Magdalene are encouraged to register on the electoral roll and stand for election to the PCC.

During 2020, the PCC consisted of:

- **Chair:** Revd Philippa Boardman
- **Curate:** Revd Shavaun Shodeinde (from September)
- **Reader:** Richard Sweet
- **Churchwardens:** Tom Roberts; Jane Cooper
- **Deanery Synod Representatives:** Sophie Bull (from October); Jane Cooper (to October); Jill Jeffery (to October); Joan Taylor (to October); Nicola Pattinson; Lynn Tilling (from October)
- **Elected members of the PCC:** Christopher Bell; Alicia Birchall; Sophie Bull (to October); Ann Carrington Brook (from October); Carolyn Chambers (to October); David Coleman (from October); James Esdaile (to October); Charlotte Flowers; Nicholas Higton (from October); Barbara Littlechild (to October); Keith Mitchell (from October); Serena Perkins (to October); Jane Player (from October); Jake Stratton; and Michael Taylor (to October)
- **Co-opted to the PCC:** David Coleman; Keith Mitchell (both to October)

Officers elected by the PCC during 2020:
- **Vice Chair:** Tom Roberts
- **Treasurer:** Keith Mitchell
- **Secretary:** David Coleman
- **Electoral Roll Secretaries:** Georgina Child; Anthea Masters (to May); Carolyn Chambers (from June)
- **Deputy Churchwardens:** David Coleman, Nick Higton and Serena Perkins
- **Safeguarding Officers:** Lynn Tilling and Richenda Tonge

Members of the Standing Committee: Revd Philippa Boardman, Tom Roberts, Jane Cooper, Keith Mitchell and David Coleman

Sides people: Florence Acquaye (head sides person), John Ager, Alison Blair, Ruth Bowdage (to October), Lucinda Byron-Evans, Carolyn Chambers, Jill Clark (to October), Alex Cox, Graham Dick, James Esdaile (to October), Charlotte Flowers, Jill Gould, Matthew Heard (from November), Nick Higton, Jill Jeffery, Barbara Littlechild, Jane Ogram, Alice Ogunlana, Maha Nassar (from November), Nicola Pattinson, Serena Perkins, Clare Rees (to October), Gabrielle Richards, Chris Ryan, Jake Stratton, Joan Taylor, Michael Taylor, Lynn Tilling, Rosie Tilling and Nick Wood

Members of the Mission, Worship and Spirituality Group: Revd Philippa Boardman, Jane Cooper, Nicola Pattinson, Richenda Tonge, Jenny Esdaile, Jill Jeffery, Georgie Child and Lucinda Byron-Evans

Members of the Buildings Maintenance Group: Nicholas Higton, Serena Perkins, David Coleman and Hugh Birchall

Members of the Stewardship Group: Keith Mitchell, James Esdaile, Nick Higton, Tom Roberts, Alicia Birchall and Revd Philippa Boardman

Members of HMP Wandsworth Bible Study Group: Olivia Pethybridge, Peter Carpenter, Costa Boamah, Serena Perkins, Huda Nassar, Charlotte Flowers, Alicia Birchall, Veronica Milla, Eucharia Emeruwa and Tom Roberts

Members of the Springfield Hospital Visiting Group: Rosemary Birchall, June Brockbank, Mary Broderick, Ann Carrington Brook, Hilary Coulson, Katie Dick, Jill Gisby, Gill Gould, Nicola Martin, Sally Riley, Louisa Russell, Irene Sweet, Richard Sweet and Richenda Tonge

Monthly Wednesday Ronald Gibson House communion volunteers: Revd Philippa Boardman, Pat Crosswell, Marion Cahill, Jane Cooper, Lynn Tilling, Rosie Tilling, Dora Littlechild, Joyce Mason, Nell Wells, Anthea Masters, Carole Low and Doreen Bush

Mission Action Plan 2016 - 2020

The principal elements of our current MAP are:

- **Buildings:** To develop a plan to make sure that our buildings: make more effective use of our space for the needs of the congregation and the local community; provide facilities appropriate to 21st century use; establish a source of income to support the parish in its mission and ministry; and provide a community hub for our parish activities.

- **Vocation and discipleship:** To become a parish which encourages people to engage with their faith, allowing them to grow in their discipleship by building on the foundations established in our home groups so they can be a forum for discussion about discipleship; growing our worship leadership team; and identifying opportunities for lay participation, and leadership, in our services.

- **Ministry to families:** To grow a new ministry and outreach project for the substantial number of families in our parish and to engage parents and children of all ages who are not currently members of our congregation with faith and the life of the church.

- **Fresh expressions:** To develop at least one "fresh expression" of worship (i.e., a form of church for our changing culture, established primarily for the benefit of people who are not yet members of any church) complementary to our ministry to families.

- **Springfield Hospital redevelopment:** To make sure we are involved in the plans for the forthcoming redevelopment of the Springfield Hospital site, part of which is in our parish.

- **Stewardship:** To continue to focus on stewardship and, in particular, to increase our income from planned giving to enable us to continue to pay for the costs of running our own parish and, through our contribution to the Parish Support Fund, the costs of our own stipendiary ministry, but also by 2020 to increase our contribution to the Parish Support Fund to cover at least 50% of the costs of a stipendiary minister in another parish.

- **Outreach:** To continue to develop our outreach projects and consolidate the work we do with HMP Wandsworth, Springfield Hospital and the residents of Ronald Gibson House.

- **Administration:** To improve the administration and efficiency of the day to day running of our church.

Report on the proceedings of Tooting Deanery Synod 2020

The Deanery Synod met four times in 2020.

The first meeting of the year in January was held at the Ascension, Balham but owing to the pandemic, the other three meetings took place on Zoom. This meant that for the first time ever, the new Area Dean, Rev Marcus Gibbs, was commissioned by Bishop Richard online via Zoom rather than in person. On this occasion, Revd Sue Clarke was thanked for all her work as retiring area dean. As APCMs were delayed by the pandemic, it was not until December that newly elected lay members were welcomed. These new members included from St Mary Magdalene, Sophie Bull and Lynn Tilling, joining Nicola Pattinson. We thank those stepping down, Jane Cooper, Jill Jeffrey and Joan Taylor, for their many years of service representing our church on the Synod.

For 2020 our Deanery's focus was on climate change and exploring Eco Church possibilities. Speakers included Ian Christie (Senior lecturer in the Social Science of Sustainable Development at the University of Surrey), who told us *"As Christians, we should be engaged and we can make a difference...We should work cooperatively with people of other faiths and none"*. In September Laura Bagley (Environment Coordinator for the Diocese of Southwark) talked about becoming an Eco Deanery, explaining how individual parishes can help by registering with Eco Church (the A Rocha scheme) and by holding an annual Climate Sunday service. Since this time St Mary Magdalene has established an Eco Church group, we have registered and almost completed the Eco Church survey, held a Climate Change Sunday, run an Advent study course with an environmental theme and done an energy audit.

In an August newsletter we had an update about the Syrian refugee family of seven, being supported by the Deanery churches. They moved into the area in February and are settling in well with the support of the churches and the local Furzedown community. In spite of lockdown they are glad to be safely here after 8 years living in Lebanon.

At the December meeting we looked at the impact of the pandemic, in particular in relation to the important outreach work of our churches. There were speakers from two initiatives partnering with our churches: Sarah Chapman from Wandsworth Foodbank and Andrew Toynbee from Crosslight, a debt advice organisation. Other outreach activities were discussed, for example, dementia drop ins, supporting care homes and providing breakfasts for school children.

St Mary Magdalene – Wandsworth Common
Statement of Financial Activities for the year ended 31st December 2020

	Unrestricted Funds	Designated Funds	Restricted Funds	Total	Total 2019
	£	£	£	£	£
Incoming Resources					
(Notes 2&3)					
Income from donors	100,979		63,437	164,416	114,011
Other voluntary income	1,381			1,381	6,282
Government grants	4,298			4,298	-
Income from operations	52,526			52,526	65,103
Income from investment	302			302	561
Total income	**159,486**		**63,437**	**222,923**	**185,957**
Resources Expended					
(Notes 2&3)					
Costs of generating funds	157			157	-
Activities directly related to the Work of the Church	128,455			128,455	128,813
Church Management & Administration	17,108			17,108	12,340
Other expenditure	13,257		57,736	70,993	37,525
Total expenditure	**158,977**		**57,736**	**216,713**	**178,678**
Net incoming/(outgoing) resources	509		5,701	6,210	7,279
Balances at 1st January 2020	69,087	40,000	41,323	150,410	143,131
Balances at 31st December 2020	**£69,596**	**£40,000**	**£47,024**	**£156,620**	**£150,410**

St Mary Magdalene – Wandsworth Common
Balance Sheet at 31st December 2020

			2020	2019
		£	£	£
Fixed Assets	*Note*			
Tangible fixed assets	*4*		-	-
Current Assets				
Debtors	*5*	20,702		23,698
Short term deposits		101,198		70,896
Cash at bank and in hand		41,591		61,593
Petty cash		267		267
		163,758		156,454
Less:				
Liabilities				
Creditors falling due within one year	*6*	(7,138)		(6,044)
Net current assets			156,620	150,410
Total Net Assets			£156,620	£150,410
Funds				
Unrestricted Funds			69,596	69,087
Designated Funds	*3A*			
Maintenance Fund		30,000		30,000
West Window Fund		10,000		10,000
			40,000	40,000
Restricted Funds	*3B*		47,024	41,323
			£156,620	£150,410

Approved by the Parochial Church Council on 12th April 2021 and signed on its behalf by

Thomas Roberts
Churchwarden

Jane Cooper
Churchwarden

St Mary Magdalene – Wandsworth Common

Notes to the Accounts for year ended 31st December 2020

1 Accounting Policies

The Accounts have been prepared in accordance with the Church Accounting Regulations 2006 together with applicable accounting standards and the SORP 2015.

The Accounts have been prepared under the historical cost convention. The Accounts include all transactions, assets and liabilities for which the PCC is responsible in law. They do not include the accounts of other church groups that owe affiliation to another body, nor those that are informal gatherings of Church members.

Funds

Restricted funds represent (a) income from trusts or endowments which may be expended only on those restricted objects provided in the terms of the trust or bequest and (b) donations or grants received for a specific object or invited by the PCC for a specific object. The funds may only be expended on the specific object for which they were given and any balance remaining unspent at the end of each year must be carried forward. The PCC does not invest separately for each fund.

Unrestricted funds are general funds which can be used for the PCC ordinary purposes.

Designated funds are general funds that have been set aside by the PCC for particular purposes. The aim and use of the designated funds is set out in the notes to the financial statements.

Incoming Resources

Planned giving, collections and donations are recognised when received. Tax refunds are recognised when the incoming resource to which they relate is received. Grants and legacies are accounted for when the PCC is legally entitled to the amounts due. Interest and all other income is recognised when it is receivable. All income resources including funds raised by sales and events are accounted for gross.

Resources Expended

Grants and donations are accounted for when they are paid over, or when awarded, if that award creates a binding obligation on the PCC. The parish support fund is accounted for when due. All other expenditure is generally recognised when it is incurred and is accounted for gross.

Fixed Assets

Consecrated and benefice property is not included in the accounts in accordance with s96(2)(a) of the Charities Act 1993.

Moveable church furnishings held by the vicar and churchwardens in special trust for the PCC and which require a faculty for disposal are inalienable property, listed in the church's inventory, which can be inspected. For anything acquired before 2000 there is insufficient cost information available and therefore such assets are not valued in the Accounts.

Equipment used within the church premises is depreciated on a straight line basis over four years. Individual items of equipment with a purchase price of £1,000 or less are written off when the asset is acquired.

Parish Hall

The Parish Hall is approximately 100 years old. It is an integral part of the church building and is not considered to have a separate identity which could have been consecrated or which can be individually valued.

Current Assets

Amounts owing to the PCC at 31st December in respect of fees, rents, taxes due or other income are shown as debtors less provision for any amounts that may prove uncollectible.

Short term deposits include cash held on deposit either with the CBF Church of England Funds or at the bank.

2A **Unrestricted Funds**

	2020		2019
	£	£	£
Income from Donors			
Church open collections	2,344		10,945
Tax efficient giving (including stewardship)	81,272		64,098
Tax rebates received and due	17,363		13,200
		100,979	88,243
Other Voluntary Income			
Fees	678		1,287
Donations and bequests	703		4,995
		1,381	6,282
Government grants		4,298	-
Income from Operating Activities			
Trading			
Use of photocopier	22		16
Bookstall	-		20
	22		36
Fund Raising			
Jumble sales *(Note 2B)*	190		3,205
Calendars	332		-
Plant sale	-		72
Quiz Nights	2,340		1,060
Parish hall lettings	49,642		60,730
		52,526	65,103
Income from Investments			
Interest:			
On deposits		302	561
Total income		£159,486	£160,189

Resources Expended
Cost of Generating Funds

	2020		2019
	£	£	£
Fund Raising *(Note 2B)*			
Jumble sales		157	-
Activities Directly Related to the Work of the Church			
Parish Support Fund	100,593		100,000
Clergy expenses	5,997		1,238
	106,590		101,238
Church and services			
Choir and organ	2,812		3,311
Mission and Worship	935		2,969
Communication	416		-
	4,163		6,280
General running expenses			
Heat and light	2,398		3,374
Insurance	3,600		3,600
Repairs and maintenance	11,704		14,321
	17,702		21,295
		128,455	128,813
Church Management & Administration			
Administration	7,340		1,318
Examiner's fee	360		360
Parish Office	8,562		10,154
Photocopier maintenance	457		346
Bank charges	139		162
Charitable donation	250		-
Depreciation (note 1)	-		-
		17,108	12,340
Resources expended carried forward		145,720	141,153

	2020		2019
	£	£	£
Resources expended brought forward		145,720	141,153
Other Expenditure			
Parish hall expenses		13,257	29,475
Total payments		£158,977	£170,628
Surplus of receipts over payments		509	(10,439)
Transfers to/(from) Designated Funds *(Note 3A)*			
Transfer from Boiler Fund		-	10,000
Unrestricted funds at 1st January 2020		69,087	69,526
Unrestricted funds at 31st December 2020		£69,596	£69,087

2B **Trading / Fund Raising**

Net income from Jumble Sales £33.

3A **Designated Funds**

Movement of designated funds

Fund	Balance at 01.01.20 £	Transfer from Unrestricted Fund £	Expenditure £	Balance at 31.12.20 £
Maintenance Fund	30,000			30,000
West Window Fund	10,000			10,000
Total Designated Funds	£40,000	-	-	£40,000

3B **Restricted Funds**

Movement of restricted funds

Fund	Balance at 01.01.20 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Balance at 31.12.20 £
Roof and Fabric	29,414	9,984	10,613	28,785
Organ	560			560
Sewing	163			163
Chair	90			90
Rood Screen	1,160			1,160
Servers	937			937
War Memorial Maintenance	35			35
Liz Wintle Music Fund	2,000			2,000
Southwark IT Grant	-	647	479	168
Accessibility Fund	6,964	52,806	46,644	13,126
Total Restricted Funds	£41,323	63,437	57,736	£47,024

4 **Fixed Assets**

All assets are now fully written off in accordance with the four year depreciation policy.

5 **Debtors**

	2020	2019
	£	£
Tax rebates due	17,233	20,650
Debtor re VAT	3,469	2,196
Debtor re PAYE	-	852
	£20,702	£23,698

6 **Creditors**

	2020	2019
	£	£
Marmalade Bear Nursery School	3,000	3,000
Payable re organ speaker	-	985
Payable re accessible loo	2,600	-
Rental deposits	960	1,060
Examiner's fee	360	360
Charity Fund	218	444
Sundry	-	195
	£7,138	£6,044

7 **Money held in Trust - Charity Projects Fund**

The Charity Projects Fund does not form part of the accounts and is only included here to show monies received for and paid to other charities.

Charity Projects Fund income and expenditure:

	2020		2019	
	£	£	£	£
Balance brought forward from prior year:		596		683
Specific collections		971		2,455
Christmas Tree Festival	5,001		8,450	
less expenditure	803		2,727	
		4,198		5,723
Total available to distribute		5,765		8,861
Donations paid and payable				
Christian Aid *(Note 1)*	-		-	
Children's Society	284		144	
Clink Charity	250		-	
Epilepsy Research	145		-	
Earlsfield Foodbank	53		-	
Trinity Hospice	461		512	
DEC – Cyclone Idai Appeal	-		250	
Awareness Foundation	-		573	
Brendoncare	-		394	
Welcare	4,148		5,500	
Wandsworth Community Chaplaincy Trust	-		785	
Royal British Legion	27		47	
Total donations made		5,368		8,205
		397		656
Less				
Bank charges		60		60
Balance carried forward		£337		£596

Notes

1 In addition, £2,320.50 (with Gift Aid, £2,795.50) was raised and sent directly to Christian Aid.

Independent Examiner's Report

J A Steward **MA FCA**

Chartered Accountant
'Rydal', 26 Woodcote Hurst, Epsom, KT18 7DT

Independent Examiner's Report to the Parochial Church Council of St Mary Magdalene Church, Wandsworth Common

I report on the accounts of the PCC for the year ended 31 December 2020, which comprise the Statement of Financial Activities, the Balance Sheet and associated Notes.

Respective responsibilities of the Trustees and Independent Examiner

As members of the Parochial Church Council, the Trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. They consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act) and Regulations 3 (c) and 4 of the Church Accounting Regulations 2011 and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under section 145 of the 2011 Act and Regulations 3(c) and 4 of the Church Accounting Regulations 2011;
- follow the procedures laid down in the General Directions given by the Charity Commissioners under 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 PCC and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes considering any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts and seeking explanations from the Trustees 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 matter has come to my attention:

(1) which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements:

- to keep accounting records in accordance with section s.130 of the 2011 Act and Regulations 3(c) and 4 of the Church Accounting Regulations 2011 or
- to prepare accounts which accord with accounting records and to comply with the requirements of the Act, as also contained in the Church Accounting Regulations 1997 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.

Yours sincerely



J A Steward
14 April 2021