



St. Mary's Church Oxted

Annual Report and Accounts 2021
Registered Charity No. 116439

Knowing Christ
Growing Community, Renewing Heritage

PCC Members

Ex Officio members

Rev. James Ashton
2020

Vicar (Chairman) – from 7 January

Austin Copp
2020

Churchwarden – from September

Vic Stone

Churchwarden – from April 2021

Synod representatives

Sue Mallinson *

Catharina Hickson

Valerie Adamson

Jasmine Copp

Natasha Copp

Katharine Nockles

Diocesan and Deanery Synod

Diocesan Synod

Deanery Synod (2020 – 2023)

Deanery Synod (2020 – 2023)

Deanery Synod (2020 – 2023)

Deanery Synod (2020 – 2023)

(Also Parish Safeguarding Officer)

*Sue Mallinson represents St. Peter's Tandridge on Deanery Synod and is on the electoral roll of St. Mary's , also representing Tandridge Deanery on Diocesan Synod.

Licensed Readers

Sue Mallinson

Frances Withers (until her retirement in April 2021)

Co-opted members

Rev. David Weightman

Rev. Ken Robinson

Elected Members

Iona Cowland (2018 – 2021)

Jon Stone (2021 - 2024)

Vic Stone (2019 -2022)

Marian Dalton (2019 – 2022)

Andrew Heathfield (2020 – 2023)

Richard Adamson (2020 – 2023)

Colin Rutt (2020 – 2023)

Martin Fisher (2020 – 2023)

Katy Aspinwall (2020 -2023)

Hazel Showler (2020 – 2023)

Treasurer

PCC Secretary

Vice Chairman from 18 November 2020

Standing Committee

Rev. James Ashton, Austin Copp, Vic Stone, Martin Fisher, Iona Cowland,
Rev. David Weightman, Marian Dalton

Members of the Standing Committee are agreed at the PCC meeting after the APCM. It conducts the business on behalf of the PCC (as directed by the PCC) in between PCC meetings and also sets the agenda for meetings.

Electoral Roll Officer - Paul Shillito

Assistant Treasurer - Martin Fisher

Churches Together in Oxted and District - David Cook

Mission Group

David Cook, Valerie Adamson, Ruth D'Alessandro

The Mission Group (joint with St. Peter's) coordinates the links the churches have with the mission organisations the PCC decides to support. This includes donating money from PCC funds; raising awareness of their work; ensuring there is prayer for the work of the charities within services and other church events and encouraging people to pray at other times, inviting people from the charities to speak at services.

Ministry Team

Rev. James Ashton	Vicar
Rev. Mark Anderson	Assistant Curate (until December 2021)
Frances Withers	Reader (until her retirement in April 2021)
Sue Mallinson	Reader
Rev. David Weightman	Assistant Priest
Rev. Ken Robinson	Assistant Priest
Mary Cook	Pastoral Visitor

Introduction to Annual Report

2021 was another interesting year in the life of our church. Our wider community continued to contend with Covid, and many were affected by the pandemic as the year went on. For another year some of our seasonal celebrations had to be transformed and carried out in a slightly different way. The stoicism shown by all staff and volunteers has been a joy to see. We have had to respond to complex needs, often at short notice, and with limited resources. Thank you very much to all who have been part of this remarkable team effort. Speaking as the vicar, there is no way that we would continue to live and grow, without the creative and willing service of so many. THANK YOU all very much.

One of the great joys of 2021 was the way we expanded our life together to use our 'Tree of Hope' area in the churchyard. At Easter, we enjoyed an Easter Trail, during the Summer, we welcomed people to 'St Mary's on Sea' and we held a number of creative events there during the Oxted Adventure. This has been a brilliant witness to all in our community, and has been a vital lesson in how our church exists beyond the walls of our building!

We still have challenges this year with crumbling stonework, and we are trusting that this work will be completed during 2022. Please do pray about this, and support us in other ways if you can.

In April 2021, we celebrated with Frances Withers, as she retired as a reader. She has served in that role for many years with great creativity and distinction. The Diocesan Warden of Readers, Raymond Wheeler attended St Mary's, and spoke warmly of her service to the diocese. We also said farewell to the Anderson family, and we continue to hold Mark, Millie, Zoe and Evie in our thoughts and prayers as they settle into life in Winchester Diocese. Our ministry team remains strong, and we are delighted to work together with the clergy and readers from Hurst Green and Crowhurst too.

A verse that I find enormously encouraging in the bible is 1 Peter 3:15, which says this:

"But in your hearts set apart Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect"

May this verse be our guide and strength this year.

With my prayers and thanks for your partnership in the gospel.

James A

Churchwardens' Reports

Becoming a warden in the middle of the Covid-19 pandemic has meant that the 'normal' life of church has been tricky to navigate. The increasing numbers of people returning to services and engaging with events has meant that the spiritual life of our community has been growing again and it has been particularly encouraging to see new families coming to Café Service.

Having the church open more and being able to hold and be involved in various events again has meant that it feels that the Growing Community part of our mission has restarted. Events such as the church Open Day which saw over 100 people visit our church and the various Christmas events and services, particularly the Adventure, saw many new people visiting. During times of increased Covid-19 measures, having the church open at different times in the week for prayer or just for people to come out and have some quiet time meant we had new visitors who had not been before. We have certainly seen God working in our community, giving us more opportunities to serve more people.

Vic Stone

I'm pleased to report that all insurances are current and electrical system as well as PAT appliance testing has been completed. Gas boiler safety check and fire extinguisher services have been carried out and fire alarm has been tested. Our lightning protection inspection failed but remedial works have been scheduled for 21st April. These incurred a little over £1500 in aggregate fees that are essential and on completion of this work I believe the building to be safe and secure.

Whilst no professional roof inspection has been done this year, from my visual inspection I don't identify any serious issues and propose to roll a paid inspection over for a year. Guttering at eave level appears clear but there are some leaking joints that could do with professional work over the summer.

The issues with the fabric and the Church being on the at risk register particularly on the Tower, Porch and East wall end are well known and have the PCCs approval to instruct works, with fundraising in parallel to try and mitigate spiralling inflation.

Austin Copp

Junior Church, 'Munch' and Youth Group

Junior Church

At St Mary's we have Junior Church during term time, on Sunday morning in OCH. We have a brilliant group of volunteer leaders and helpers, who we are enormously grateful to.

Each week there is a hearty group of children of all ages, gathering to worship, play games, read the bible, do crafts, and pray together. It is great fun for all, and the children always learn something new and exciting about Jesus. Please pray that our Junior Church would continue to grow.

We also teamed with St John's to periodically host 'Munch' – a group for early teenagers. This has seen some interesting talks on a variety of topics, and also pizza-making and building of friendships across the team. We look forward to working together more in the future.

James A

Youth

We were so excited to re-launch Youth Group in September 2021. We hosted our first Youth evening since March 2020; with games, snacks, and chats.

Since then, we have seen a steady increase in the number of young people with up to 9 attendees coming together to play the Sock Game, Frustration and Dobble (to name a few!).

It's also been great to welcome some lovely new team members to add to the super-hot-chocolate makers and fantastic game bringers!

After such a long break without any youth offering, it is really encouraging to see this new group thriving- a real answer to prayer. If you or anyone you know is (turning) 14-18 years old, then come along on alternate Thursdays 8-9pm in the meeting room at Oxted Community Hall.

Jasmine Copp

St Mary's primary school in 2021

St Mary' School is for reception to year 6 (aged 4 years turning 5 to 11 years old) children. It is led by our [Christian values](#) **Confidently me, Belonging together, Challenged to contribute**. These enable all Christians, those of other faiths or no faith to flourish equally. Sarah Lewis Headteacher, Anna Woodward Deputy Head, continue to lead and inspire this community.

The Theme of 2021 emerged as **Hope** when Sarah Lewis was exploring how we could 'mark' our school with a celebration to acknowledge the tremendous way that everyone has come together to support and sustain both within the school community and with the wider community during the Covid pandemic. The Hope project also celebrates the coming together of the infants and juniors into one big Primary School and its future. This celebration had been postponed because of Covid. School was anticipating the arrival of Bishop Jonathan to lead the celebration of the Primary school; to bless the new Oasis, an outdoor prayer and worship area, the new building and classrooms.

Worship and workshops on the theme developed to explore what Hope means, what symbols are used and seen. At a more personal level, what had given the children hope through the strange times of hightech learning? Some pupils had been in school, some at home, staff working in teams sometimes onsite with pupils other times preparing, leading and responding to remote learning. The sudden changes back and forth bringing stress for pupils, parents and staff alike – everyone pulled together and presented their best smiles.

The Hope project grew and a very large Marquee appeared on site – open sides let in fresh air, sunshine, terracotta clay and a fabulous potter called Josh from the Watts gallery. He came to show the how to make clay tiles. Videos were made to remind everyone – Covid bubbles remained. When I visited there was a quiet hum of focused excitement as children made their tiles, added their carefully drawn-out designs ready to be dried and fired. Many thanks to our neighbour schools, Oxted, Warlingham and Moorhouse for firing our tiles, we are a big school now which makes for a lot of tiles!

The tiles have been permanently hung in a number of designs around school including a rainbow, a signpost and the word HOPE by two fabulous dads of the school, Glenn Cockerill and John Timlin.

The school did have it's day to celebrate becoming St Mary's primary school with Bishop Jonathan leading and many others invited to the Oasis for an *outdoor* gathering in the Autumn term.

More can be found on the school's website /parents/newsletters/ the Special Edition tells you about the hope project and the Watts gallery, artists Mary Watts who built an chappel of terracotta clay and George Frederick Watts artist whose most famous painting is entitled HOPE. The most exciting though is the pupils and their work and how they tell us what has inspired them – do look at all the lovely photos. The school really value every-one's love, friendship, help and support; and the prayers of those of faith. Every-one has been amazing and continue to be so, Thank you!

Catharina

Stibe Hickson, Governor

TANDRIDGE DEANERY SYNOD 2021 - three Zoom Meetings

25 March 2021

The main speaker was Nicola Thomas, new Head of Justice, Peace and the Integrity of Creation (JPIC). Nicola had joined the Southwark Diocesan Mission Team (led by Revd Jay Colwill) in January from the Home Office where she had been Deputy Director of Refugee Integration and Vulnerability. She came with a wealth of experience of working on refugee issues, including creating the community sponsorship scheme.

A practising Roman Catholic, Nicola wanted to engage in the wider range of areas offered by the Southwark role. She said the Christian Church values communities and individuals uniquely well. It has a reason to do the right thing even when it is unpopular, working with the most vulnerable and excluded. Social and environmental justice, including climate change, are the same thing, and have the greatest impact on poor people. The Eco Church survey scheme (from A Rocha) was something she had not know much about previously. There were questions and sharing of information on initiatives to help refugees, teaching English as a second or additional language and Eco Church, including the challenges we face with our buildings. Our churchyards can be more successful in showing a better side, with their wildlife, butterflies and bees. Southwark is aiming to be an Eco Diocese and holds a regular Eco Church Surgery drop-in Zoom.

Becoming carbon neutral feels like a huge change, but it starts with manageable steps - see recent blog <https://southwark.anglican.org/five-energy-saving-tips-for-churches/>

The environment is a very important issue for our youth in churches and it is the way to reach and keep them. Encourage them and their families to be your

environment activists and share things at church; they are very informed on the subject.

30 June 2021

This was effectively the first meeting of the new 'triennium' of the Deanery Synod albeit a year late. Due to the pandemic many annual meetings to elect the deanery reps were a year delayed. Living in Love and Faith (LLF) was the subject for this meeting.

The Deanery Synod met, significantly on the day the Methodist Church announced the decision to permit same sex couples to get married in church, (with an opt-out for ministers). Three trained 'in house' facilitators, April Alexander (Bletchingley), Revd Ian Whitley (Lingfield & Dormansland) and Revd Helen Burnett (Chaldon) presented to the Synod this Church of England nationwide project in which we are called to participate, as the church discerns how to proceed on matters regarding sexuality and marriage. There is a short introductory video here <https://youtu.be/g7A3wt0jqZM> with other resources at <https://www.churchofengland.org/resources/living-love-and-faith> The materials are designed to be used in small groups, organised in individual parishes or groups of churches, with the possibility of a course run by the Deanery in September (this did not happen). The Diocese is setting up a network of pastoral support.

April Alexander spoke about the long and painful background to LLF from 1967 when homosexual relationships for men became legal. Since then the church has struggled to find a united and consistent voice and lead on the subject, and despite an acknowledgement that many clergy are gay, a 'don't ask, don't tell' culture has persisted. In 2017 a General Synod vote, to 'take note' of a report from the House of Bishops about marriage and same sex relationships, was defeated by the House of Clergy and it was decided to widen the debate to allow everyone in parishes to make their views known. Hence LLF was born. These discussions will be difficult, but we need to have them.

- A course was held in the Oxted Team Ministry early in 2022, when Canon Revd Anna

Eltringham had returned to ministry; she and Revd James Ashton were facilitators.

At the same synod there were elections:

Deanery Lay Chair - April Alexander replacing Sue Mallinson

Deanery Leadership Team - incorporating the work of the Standing Committee

- with responsibility to fulfil the Southwark Diocesan Vision for Mission

Revd Michelle Edmonds - Area Dean

Revd James Ashton Asst Area

Dean

April Alexander Deanery Lay Chair

Janet Harman Deanery Secretary

Barbara Verco Treasurer

Catharina Hickson and Susan Gibbin Lay representatives

Revds Peter O'Connell and Phaedra Pamphilon-Green Clergy representatives

Diocesan Synod

Laity - April Alexander (Bletchingley) Leonie Flowerday (Warlingham All Saints)

Sue Mallinson (Tandridge) Catharina Hickson (Oxted) Eleanor Stoneham (Limpsfield)

Clergy - Michelle Edmonds (Warlingham Team) **Lotwina Farodoye (Oxted Team)**

Helen Cook (Limpsfield)

Later **Helen Ainsworth** from St John's Hurst Green, was elected to General Synod.

20 October 2021

The Venerable Rosemarie Mallett, Archdeacon of Croydon and Diocesan Lead on Anti-Racism had lead discussion at Diocesan Synod which unanimously approved the Southwark Anti-Racism Charter (ARC). The Revd Sandra Schloss from St Luke's Peckham, also Camberwell Area Dean, came to present ARC to Tandridge Synod.

The Charter is active and intentional. It says: *'being anti-racist is not the same as simply not being racist, It is not enough as a Diocese not to be racist; instead we must actively counter, disrupt and oppose racial injustice. This isn't an easy task, it takes introspection, as well as continued intentional action and is not a static description of*

ourselves'. The pastoral principles of living well together are similar to those for Living in Love and Faith (LLF). We must acknowledge prejudice, speak into silence, address ignorance, cast out fear, admit hypocrisy and pay attention to power. The Charter is not an overnight fix, but a living document to come back to, based on scripture.

'There is no longer Jew or Greek, there is no longer slave or free, there is no longer male or female; for all of you are one in Jesus'

Galatians 3.28

The key principles of Southwark's Anti-Racism Charter are:

- * An explicit theological understanding that God's kingdom is multi-ethnic, and that it is through our baptismal covenant that we recognise the dignity of every human being and our unity in Christ,
- * An intentional focus in our theological studies, liturgy, teaching, prayer, word and work to take strategic and practical solutions to combat racism and inequality
- * A clear strategy for increasing and sustaining diversity in our governance structures at Diocesan and parish level so as to ensure representation and participation of people from diverse ethnic backgrounds at all levels of our organisation.

As well as its three principles, the ARC includes six Diocesan commitments and a 12-point action plan for leadership and development. Southwark is ahead of most other

dioceses. Each diocese is its own separate entity and although the adoption of an ARC is recommended, it can't be mandated.

NOTE: UKME (United Kingdom Minority Ethnic) not BAME (Black, Asian Minority Ethnic)

Deanery Arts Festival - proposed for September 2022 will most likely be held in 2023.

A variety of high quality events taking place across the deanery over a month, involving music, drama, comedy, art, flowers etc. Regular parish events could be opened to the Deanery, and there is money available from Deanery funds.

Mallinson

Hear Here

Hear Here – supports those with hearing aids, by cleaning, retubing checking, supplying batteries and advising. Sadly, in response to Covid this was closed by the Guildford diocesan leads. All support was returned to the hospital clinics who would send out supplies on receipt of a return stamp addressed envelope.

Hear here runs on the first Friday of the month with Friday coffee mornings in Oxted Community Hall.

Retraining of the volunteers started in the autumn 2021 in the hope that we would be able to restart serving the community. All volunteers are DBS checked. Hear Here has restarted in 2022.

Hearing Champions for St Mary's and Oxted are now Roger Hewitt, Dudley Withers, Hazel Showler and Catharina Hickson. Many thanks to this lovely team who so willingly share their time expertise, skills and smiles.

Catharina Hickson, Hear Here

lead St Mary's Oxted

Fellowship/Social

Unfortunately due to the continuing effects of the Covid 19 pandemic this was largely a year of cancelled or very modified events and planning for anything became very difficult.

The big fund-raising events such as the April Trivia Quiz, The May Fayre and the Christmas Market were either cancelled or abandoned due to Covid19 restrictions as were some social events such as the Barn Dance, and things like coffee in the Hall, even when services were possible for a limited time.

It was possible to celebrate Harvest Festival however in the first weekend of October. The flower ladies got busy on Friday October 2nd and the church was open on the Saturday for people to come in and look round at the Harvest Flower Festival as well as enjoy tower tours and cream teas . It is good to report

that there was a steady stream of visitors. It was also possible to hold a bring and share Harvest Lunch which was enjoyed by about 40 people.

Unlike in 2020 the Harvest services for the pupils of St. Mary's School were held in church and as usual they donated a huge amount of produce which was sorted by a small band of volunteers. About 50 parcels were distributed to local people, and food was sent to Pastens, Welcare, Caterham Food Bank and the Renewed Hope Trust at Redhill -- organisations that help children with special needs, the homeless and families in some sort of need..

Unlike in 2020 on 7th November it was possible to hold the annual Memorial Service for the departed in church. Despite some reservations it was more popular than ever and was attended by well over 100 people, with once again many of them travelling some distance to attend. After the service many of them enjoyed a tea in Oxted Community Hall.

In December the usual Oxted Adventure returned with some of the events taking place in church or in the churchyard with the addition of some decorated trees being placed in the Churchyard.

Valerie Adamson

Oxted Churches

Due to Covid 19 the usual joint Easter and Christmas cards giving details of services in each of the Oxted churches were not produced. Instead articles were published in the Oxted Local magazine giving some details of services along with details of church contacts.

The World Day of Prayer service held on the first Friday in March was organised jointly by members of St. Mary's and St. Peter's, Limpsfield and was broadcast on YouTube.

Fortunately by November restrictions had eased and it was possible to hold the usual joint Churches Trivia quiz which was well attended. With no printing costs to pay for, the profit from the evening was given to charity - half to the CTOD collection for a water project in Rajasthan and half to the Heritage Trust

Valerie Adamson

Churches Together in Oxted and District 2021

During the year we have had to say goodbye and thank you to two stalwart Committee members – past Chairman Rev Mark Anderson and Communications Secretary Barbara Hester, who have contributed greatly to CTOD. But we have welcomed Tim Maton from Kings Church and Keith Dickson from HG Evangelical Church

We have been greatly affected by Covid but by the autumn of 2021 most of our member churches had more or less returned to normal activities

The Good Friday walk of Witness had to be cancelled for the second time.

Richard Piskorz of All Saints launched the “Job Club” and this was supported by CTOD. A team of people with experience in interview techniques and writing CV’s was assembled to assist local unemployed people to find suitable employment.

Another new initiative was the CTOD agreement to support the Oxted 3 Churches Bereavement drop in scheme, which had been running at the URC and was looking for new support.

Other items discussed were the support of a local food bank organised by Rev Lotwina Farodyne the Curate at St John’s.

The final service at HG Methodist Church in August was well attended and raised a generous donation towards our CTOD Charity

The CTOD Charity was a specific project of the Oxted One World Group for harvesting Monsoon water in Rajasthan, India which suffers from very low rainfall. This has been supported by collections at our joint services over the year

Our Chair, Wendy Hewitt, has led us in our Zoom meetings and AGM as well as devising our Zoom based Lent course for 2021 “Care for God’s Creation”

Both TICTOC (now relaunched as GIFT (Growing in Faith Together) and the Men’s prayer breakfast have continued throughout the year on Zoom as well as face to face meetings

David Cook (CTOD Treasurer)

Missions and Charities

St Mary's are continuing to support five Charities: (for the fourth year)

Their Voice - a local charity supporting victims of human trafficking and modern slavery with whom several Church members have regular personal contact in donating items beneficial to needy young mothers and babies

Crosslight Advice - an independent community focussed charity working to alleviate poverty caused by problem debt - with a vision to restore dignity and hope through financial advice.

A speaker who will tell us about this Charity has been requested.

Spark Ministries - an Albanian based charity to bring the love of God to the nation's children

through kids summer camps and a puppet theatre based in a travelling van.

Rachel Wilson is due to visit on April 3rd to give us an update on her work.

The Leprosy Mission - an international Christian charity bringing relief to leprosy victims in around 30 countries with 141 years of experience.

A speaker from the Leprosy Mission is due to update us on their work on 19th June

Mission Africa which brings Christianity to remote parts of Uganda.

Terry Charlton of Mission Africa is due to visit us on September 25th and has sent us a glowing thankful report on how helpful our support has been.

In 2021 we donated £2,000 to four of the above charities (all except Spark Ministries, where the payment will be made later) and we hope to repeat this in 2022. We also support them in prayer and through visual publicity to help our congregation see "Mission" as part of our discipleship in how we follow Jesus and his command to love others as we love ourselves.

David Cook

Love Your Neighbour

Throughout 2021 the Love Your Neighbour buddy scheme continued to offer valuable support to people across Oxted including shopping, collecting prescriptions & telephone chats.

Although requests for help dropped off throughout 2021, as covid vaccinations rolled out and people set up regular online food & medication deliveries, it is still a live scheme and continues to be part of a forum of support groups throughout Tandridge District.

We have built strong links with Tandridge District Council, Tandridge Voluntary Action, Citizens Advice Bureau and neighbouring communities and are able to register people for foodbank vouchers and signpost individuals to many agencies for specific support, including the Wellbeing team and activities that take place in Oxted each week.

Natasha Copp

Sheep safely graze St Mary's churchyards 2021

We still have Cinnamon and Chocolate our very first two ewes in our flock but sadly Rambo our alpha ram died. You could watch the new leadership being discerned with much headbutting till peace was re-established. The flock continue to move between the area between church and OCH, the Old graveyard and the church yard extension across the lane. Cinnamon lambed first with twins in late April and Chocolate lambed a singleton in early May. Sadly our other Ewe lost her lamb and died – An increasing number of dogs being allowed in off lead, some chase the sheep, some even being allowed into the sheep enclosure which scare and even chase the sheep. This can cause to sheep to die from stress. We will have a new sign saying dogs on lead only.

The sheep are cared for by Roger and Angela Hewitt (secretary), Hazel and Paul Showler and Catharina and Robin Hickson. In the winter they need supplementary feeding come rain or shine and even more when it is windy! Fences need monitoring, posts replacing, leaves and twigs sweeping, holes filling and bracken cutting to start with. If you'd like to help please let us know.

Catharina Hickson

St. Mary's Monkeys Playgroup

St Mary's Monkeys playgroup was closed from January 2021, until we could reopen the doors 21st May 2021, due to the pandemic. The only way to reopen in May 2021, was to introduce a bookings system, as the Covid rules required us to cap the number of adult guests at 30 heads plus helpers. In order to manage this, we set up a private St Mary's Monkeys playgroup Facebook page and a bookings system was introduced. Every week since reopening in May 2021, the playgroup has been fully booked and oversubscribed. At the time of writing, we have 547 members of the Facebook page, new guests join us weekly. Thanks to strong support from St Mary's Church, as well as playgroup parents and carers, the playgroup made a number of generous monetary contributions during 2021 to various charities, as well as increasing revenue for St Mary's Church. This included a £200 donation to support Afghanistan refugees, actioned after the playgroup opened throughout August 2021. The team is working exceptionally hard to keep the playgroup open now during the school holidays (historically the playgroup has only opened during school term time). In the Autumn 2021, breastfeeding support was introduced and we now have two breastfeeding peer supporters who attend on a rota basis. Since May 2021, additional toys have been introduced (mainly either donated or good quality items purchased from local charity shops) and the regular cleaning of books and toys has been improved. We have also donated a considerable number of toys and books to local charities where we were holding an excessive number. The selection of food on offer has been broadened and we now offer a wider range of fruit each week to give children (and families) a chance to "try before they buy" - reducing food waste and costs to families. We are working hard to better accommodate children, parents and carers with food allergies so that we continue to be, as inclusive as possible. We have also introduced both a food caddy bin and all recyclable rubbish is removed at the end of the session so that we can operate as environmentally responsibly as possible. An Arts and Crafts table has been introduced and runs most weeks which is themed and the children very much enjoy these activities. Sadly, the St Mary's Monkeys playgroup Christmas party had to be cancelled due to Covid, after a lot of hard work had already been completed in advance but all the planning, buying and wrapping has not been wasted and we look forward to a terrific celebration in 2022 with our stock held from 2021

Penny Kirk

Love St Mary's

During 2021 our creative team have continued to make beautiful useful items in the comfort of their own homes. We always appreciate new makers and new ideas for crafts and hope to be able to get together in person in 2022.

Love St Mary's hosted three stalls during 2021: in July at the Love Oxted Mini-Artisan Market; at St Mary's Open Day in October; and at St Mary's School Christmas Fair in December. We raised £540 in total towards St Mary's Oxted Heritage Fund.

Catherine Hough

Meeting Place 2021

After over a year of absence due to the Covid Pandemic, Meeting Place restarted outdoors in August rather than inside. Although this created a lot of extra work- carrying tables, chairs and refreshments outdoors (and returning them inside afterwards)- all who attended said they felt much safer in the fresh air. Fortunately, we were blessed with mostly very good weather through September. This also had the advantage of attracting passers by who would not otherwise have known we were 'open for business.'

Our regulars returned gradually and were glad of the company, though some were not happy to be indoors when the weather turned inclement. The Meeting Room in the OCH has limited room to spread out, so those who were more vulnerable stayed away.

We were glad to accept the help of two new volunteers- Sue Knight and Jean Marjason- onto the team, helping to spread the load, especially as illness has meant asking people to swap duties.

Meeting Place for coffee, cake and conversation, Friday mornings 9:30-11:30. All welcome.

Catherine Hough

Oxted Ringers Report for 2021.

2021 started with no ringing due to the Covid pandemic. By the early summer when lockdown restrictions were being eased, builders moved in to the tower to undertake repairs to the louvres and clock faces. Frustratingly the contractors 'elf and safety' rules prevented access to our tower and therefore there was still no ringing. On completion of the building work the ringers took the opportunity to paint the bell frame.

Ringing commenced in September for Sunday services and practice nights. The regular Surrey Association "Listen and Strike" practice sessions also restarted. We recruited two new young ringers at the end of the year. In December an ART Module 1 bell handling refresher training course was hosted for the Surrey Association.

During the year we rang, with the help of nearby ringers, for all weddings and funerals. We also tolled a bell in April in memory of the Duke of Edinburgh.

Then Omicron arrived and all ringing stopped again (although the ringers did manage to decorate a churchyard Christmas tree with a bell ringing theme)!

2022 shows signs of a dim light at the end of a very long tunnel. We are optimistic that we will be ringing again within the next few weeks and recommence training our new recruits.

One quarter peal was rung.

Ian Griffiths

Visiting Team

Many from St Mary's have been involved with the "Helping Hands" scheme during the last year. A huge thank you to Natasha Copp and her team who continue to keep an eye on many in the church and wider community....it has not only encouraged St Mary's volunteers to bake, pray, make phone calls or send a card of encouragement, but has involved other volunteers too. This is something we hope can continue.

During the year there have been so many funerals where mourners have not been able to attend. We hope that, somehow, we can soon find safe ways of helping the clergy to support the bereaved, the lonely and the vulnerable.

Mary Cook

St. Marys Choir

We have continued to sing (safely...max 6 voices) at 9.30am services most weeks, and some members have been able to record hymns and worship songs for the Oxted Team YouTube services. The content of these services have shown great creativity, overcoming technical difficulties and learning to feel confident in recording! Thank you to all who have helped to make these possible. Those who have watched have found them encouraging and deeply spiritual.

Unfortunately the Carol Service had to be cancelled at the last minute due to a resurgence of the pandemic. We pray that we may soon come together as a choir as restrictions lessen and then we must turn to finding a choir director and resuming practices.

Mary Cook

Home Groups

St. Mary's has two, sometimes three, home groups which meet regularly.

Our home group meets in our home on most Wednesday evenings at 8pm until 9.30. Or, when it has been safer to do so, we have met during the day in the garden

We number between 3 and 9 people and usually look at the readings set for the following Sunday, relating them to our daily lives. It's an opportunity for mutually supporting each other in our faith journeys.

We finish with a time of prayer and sometimes sung worship.
Coffee tea and cakes are the order of the day

David and Mary Cook

Our home group has six members and meets every other Wednesday evening at 8pm for about an hour. We met virtually during the pandemic and are planning to continue with this for the time being with occasional face to face social meetings. We meet for bible study, based on the previous Sunday café service readings, and prayer and mutual support.

Paul Lickiss

Parochial Church Council

St. Mary's PCC meet every two months with the agenda being set by the standing committee the week before. St. Mary's and St. Peter's meet together for the first half and then the two churches split into their separate groups. During 2021 meetings were mainly on Zoom but occasionally in person when deemed safe. The PCC agree how much should be donated to charities, the Parish Support Fund and funding of projects to the fabric of the church. PCC meetings include updates on the financial situation, any safeguarding issues, discussions on how to manage services during the pandemic and the ongoing issues with the fabric of the church buildings. PCC meetings are always well attended.

Marian Dalton

Safeguarding

The role of the Parish Safeguarding Officer (PSO) is to work with the clergy, churchwardens, PCC and members of the church community to make sure we create a safe environment for the activities that we undertake with children and vulnerable adults. We follow the guidance provided for us by the Diocesan Safeguarding Officer in 'A Safe Church'. A summary of the safeguarding principles adopted by your PCC can be found on the church porch noticeboard and the noticeboard inside church. These principles were readopted by the PCC in September 2021. I have worked for a number of years with Fay Prater, the PSO from St Peter's, so that together we can consider and support each other with safeguarding planning and any issues. During 2021 it was great to see church activities gradually resume. We have recruited, or are in the process of recruiting, a number of new volunteers following the process agreed by the PCC a few years ago. This still seems to be working well. More recently the PCC were reminded by the House of Bishops of the duty of care we have for safeguarding and the consequences of not doing so. Following on from this we are focussing on retraining for safeguarding awareness.

At any time, if any member of the congregation has a concern, please speak to me, James or David, or Fay the Safeguarding Officer at St Peter's. Even if it isn't clear whether there is a safeguarding issue or not, it is always better to talk it through at an early stage so that a potential issue can be averted or if our safeguarding arrangements aren't covering a particular activity or scenario we can respond. Please contact me by email on safeguardingstmarysoxted@gmail.com or on 07778 539664 (please note that my phone goes straight to voicemail for any unrecognised numbers so do leave a message and I can call you back).

Katharine Nockles

Safeguarding Officer

Flowers

St Mary's has a small team who arrange flowers to beautify our ancient church. Our focus is on creating displays for the key festivals of Easter, Christmas and Harvest though arrangements are created for other occasions too. None of us are formally trained. We have all learned by trial and error over the years and we help and support each other. Every arrangement is different and reflects us as individuals; the common theme is that we enjoy creating something that we hope is enjoyed by others and visually enhances our worship. A few years ago the team was large enough for there to be a rota so that - aside from the more sombre periods of Lent and Advent - there was a pedestal of flowers near the

altar throughout the year. It would be lovely to get back to that again if possible so if anyone would like to come and join the team please do contact me on flowers.stmarysoxted@gmail.com.

Katharine Nockles

Annual Report of the Parochial Church Council of St. Mary the Virgin, Oxted

for the year ended 31 December 2021

St. Mary's Financial Review

	2021	2020
(Decrease) in reserves	£ (69,151)	£ (18,732)
(Deficit) on the Unrestricted Fund	£	£ (24,335)

(32,319)

**(Deficit)/Surplus on the Restricted Fund
before depreciation**

**£ £17,203
(25,232)**

The unrestricted deficit position is worse than the previous year, as COVID-19 continues to impact giving. As a result, the decrease in giving along with minor increases in expenses, as restrictions lifted, resulted in a larger deficit.

St Peter's PCC contributed 30% of the parish office expenses and the curate accommodation.

The Parish Support Fund paid to Southwark Diocese at £63,000 was not uplifted due to the unknown impact of COVID-19 at the time the pledge was made, however, it has been uplifted in 2022.

Total resources expended were up £4,323 on the previous year primarily as a result of restrictions being lifted and church life starting to return to normal. Curate accommodation was a significant cost as St Mary's continued to support the Curate and his family during their extended Curatorship in line with the Diocesan approach. In addition, we supported the Curate attached to the team ministry, which explains the increase in this cost.

The restricted deficit position before depreciation includes £ (84,995) of major church expenditure, which is partially funded by income from the Heritage Trust £30,000, Historic England Grant £25,000 and £7,591 recovery of VAT under the Listed Places of Worship Scheme. It also includes Crossroads legal fees of £ (5,139).

The Oxted Parish Council grant of £500 was used to support churchyard expenditure.

There was a net cash outflow of £ (8,248) in the year with a closing cash balance of £156,609, which includes £50,000 held for the Crossroads acquisition. It is important to note that available cash reserves represent just over 3 years' worth of losses at the current rate.

Looking ahead, the continued decrease in giving, has meant that the original £100,000 which was made available to fund major projects, is being revised and fundraising efforts, along with grant applications will need to be made to aid and support any future planned projects. Thank you again to everyone who has supported and continues to support St Mary's through this difficult and challenging time.

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

James Ashton (Rector)

Austin Copp (Churchwarden)

Parochial Church Council of St. Mary the Virgin, Oxted
Statement of Financial Activities
For the year ended 31 December 2021

		Unrestrict ed Funds	Restrict ed Funds	TOTAL FUNDS	
	<i>Note</i>	£	£	2021	2020
				£	£
Incoming resources					
Voluntary income					
Planned giving		59,531	-	59,531	71,888
Gift aid recoverable		14,683	-	14,683	14,021
Collections and donations		2,450	356	2,806	4,432
		76,664	356	77,020	90,341
Donations legacies and grants	11	3,717	63,141	66,858	13,722
Special Appeals		-	2,000	2,000	322
				145,87	104,38
		80,381	65,497	8	5
Fundraising Events		354	-	354	43
Investment Income		5,024	-	5,024	5,475
PCC Fees		5,084	-	5,084	2,926
St Peters PCC		9,925	-	9,925	10,458
Other		1,059	-	1,059	-
Total incoming resources		101,827	65,497	167,324	123,287
Resources expended					
Church activities:					
Donations to missions & charities	5	8,000	-	8,000	9,600
Parish Support Fund		63,000	-	63,000	63,000
Church groups and evangelism projects		1,334	95	1,429	-
Provision of services		6,490	-	6,490	4,445
Clergy & ministry team expenses		1,545	-	1,545	2,051
Curate accommodation	12	21,315	-	21,315	19,252
Maintenance and minor repairs		4,989	500	5,489	4,853
Light, Heat & Water		1,887	-	1,887	2,580
Insurance		5,018	-	5,018	4,949
Fundraising expenditure		2,153	-	2,153	-
Admin, communication and governance		18,415	-	18,415	19,689
				134,74	130,41
		134,146	595	1	9
Major expenditure					
Church repairs		-	84,995	84,995	-
Crossroads		-	5,139	5,139	-
Churchyard		-	-	-	-
Depreciation of Oxted Community Hall	6	-	11,600	11,600	11,600
Total Resources expended		134,146	102,329	236,475	142,019
Net (Outgoing)/incoming resources		(32,319)	(36,832)	(69,151)	(18,732)
Transfer between funds	10	(21,808)	21,808	-	-

Parochial Church Council of St. Mary the Virgin, Oxted
Statement of Financial Activities
For the year ended 31 December 2021

Net movement in Funds	(54,127)	(15,024)	(69,151)	(18,732)
Balances brought forward 1 January	154,191	448,172	602,363	621,096
Balances carried forward 31 December	<u>100,064</u>	<u>433,148</u>	<u>533,212</u>	<u>602,364</u>

The notes on pages 24 to 25 form part of these accounts

Parochial Church Council of St. Mary the Virgin, Oxted
Notes to the financial statements
For the year ended 31 December 2021

		Unrestrict ed Funds	Restrict ed Funds	TOTAL FUNDS	
	Note	£	£	2021	2020
				£	£
Tangible fixed assets					
	6	-	417,600	417,600	429,200
Current assets					
Debtors	7	13,719	-	13,719	12,820
Short term deposits		-	-	-	55,416
Cash at Solicitors		50,000	-	50,000	-
Cash at bank	8	91,061	15,548	106,609	109,441
		154,780	15,548	170,328	177,677
Current liabilities					
Creditors	9	(54,716)	-	(54,716)	(4,513)
Net current assets		100,064	15,548	115,612	173,164
Total net assets		100,064	433,148	533,212	602,364
Parish funds					
Unrestricted		100,064	-	100,064	154,193
Restricted – Church	10	-	15,548	15,548	18,971
Restricted –Oxted Community Hall	10	-	417,600	417,600	429,200
		100,064	433,148	533,212	602,364

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

James Ashton (Rector)

Iona Cowland (Treasurer)

Parochial Church Council of St. Mary the Virgin, Oxted

Notes to the financial statements

For the year ended 31 December 2021

The notes on pages 24 to 25 form part of these accounts

1 ACCOUNTING POLICIES

Basis of preparation of accounts

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Church Accounting Regulations 2006, together with applicable accounting standards and the FRS 102 (SORP).

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention and include all transactions, assets and liabilities for which the PCC is responsible in law. They do not include the accounts of St. Mary's Oxted Heritage Trust (the Heritage Trust) as this is a separate registered charity.

Funds

Restricted funds represent 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. Any balance remaining unspent at the end of each year must be carried forward as a balance on that fund.

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

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 receivable is accrued. All other income is recognised when it is receivable. All incoming resources are accounted for gross.

Resources expended

Grants and donations are accounted for when paid over, or when awarded if that award creates a binding or constructive obligation on the PCC. The diocesan parish share is accounted for when due. 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 s.10(2)(a) and (c) of the Charities Act 2011.

The Heritage Trust has partially funded the construction costs of Oxted Community Hall, subject to a proportion of such costs being funded by East Surrey Crossroads Care Attendant Scheme Limited (Crossroads), who hold part of the property on a 99 year lease. During 2007, the Heritage Trust transferred the value of the Community Hall to the PCC. The transfer value represents the estimated cost, less contribution from Crossroads. The Community Hall is built on land vested in the Southwark Diocesan Board of Finance and held in trust on behalf of the PCC.

Parochial Church Council of St. Mary the Virgin, Oxted

Notes to the financial statements

For the year ended 31 December 2021

The construction cost of the Community Hall is being depreciated over 50 years at 2% per annum on a straight line basis, apart from the equipment and fittings which are depreciated at 10% per annum on a straight line basis over 10 years.

Movable church furnishings held by the Rector and churchwardens on 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 (at any reasonable time). Expenditure to renew, improve or add to them is written off as an expense in the financial year in which it occurs.

Equipment used within the church premises and parish office is depreciated at 20% per annum on a straight line basis, unless the individual items cost £1,000 or less in which case they are expensed when acquired.

2 RESERVES POLICY

The PCC cash reserves are assessed as low risk and represent 49 weeks of ordinary expenditure.

The PCC is aware of this and the need for continued maintenance of the church building, for which the fundraising has been carried out by St Mary's Oxted Heritage Trust.

3 RELATED PARTIES

The PCC has a close relationship with St. Mary's Oxted Heritage Trust (the Heritage Trust), a registered charity, and Oxted Community Hall Management Limited, a "benefit of the community" Industrial and Provident Society and exempt charity. There are PCC appointees to the governing bodies of both charities.

The objects of the Heritage Trust are broadly the repair and restoration of St. Mary's church and its associated grounds and buildings, and construction of any buildings within the curtilage. The Trust funded the costs of Oxted Community Hall and in 2007 transferred the asset to the PCC at an estimated cost value of £580,000.

Oxted Community Hall Management Limited has leased the majority of the Community Hall from the PCC for a period of 25 years from October 2007 for a ground rent of £5,000 per annum. The company collects the rentals and funds the maintenance of the Community Hall.

4 STAFF COSTS AND PAYMENTS TO PCC MEMBERS

As the parish administrator, Mrs N. Copp, who is a member of the PCC, was paid £6,966 (2020: £6,966) during the year. The administration officer, was paid £4,212 (2020: £4,304). St. Mary's PCC was reimbursed 30% of these costs together with parish office expenses by St. Peter's, Tandridge PCC. The PCC also made ex-gratia payment to the organist and small vergers fees to various church members. The total paid was £2,480 (2020: £2,400).

No payments were made to any member of the PCC (apart from the parish administrator, the office administrator, small vergers fees and expense re-imbursements), persons connected to them or to any other related parties.

Parochial Church Council of St. Mary the Virgin, Oxted
Notes to the financial statements
For the year ended 31 December 2021

5 DONATIONS TO MISSIONS AND CHARITIES

	2021			2020		
	Collectio ns £	PCC £	Donat ed £	Collectio ns £	PCC £	Donat ed £
Overseas						
Mission Africa Jersey	-	2,000	2,000	-	1,900	1,900
The Leprosy Mission	-	2,000	2,000	-	1,900	1,900
Sparks Ministry	-	-	-	-	1,900	1,900
Christian Aid	-	-	-	-	-	-
	-	4,000	4,000	-	5,700	5,700
National & Diocesan						
Their Voice	-	2,000	2,000	-	1,900	1,900
Crosslight Advice	-	2,000	2,000	-	1,900	1,900
Poppy Appeal	-	-	-	-	-	-
	-	4,000	4,000	-	3,800	3,800
Local						
CTOD	-	-	-	-	100	100
	-	-	-	-	100	100
	-	8,000	8,000	-	9,600	9,600

6 FIXED ASSETS (RESTRICTED FUND)

	Freehol d Buildin g £	Equipme nt & fittings £	Total £
Oxted Community Hall			
At 1 January 2021 - Transfer Value (estimated cost)	580,000	20,000	580,000

Parochial Church Council of St. Mary the Virgin, Oxted

Notes to the financial statements

For the year ended 31 December 2021

Additions	-	-	-
At 31 December 2021			580,00
	580,000	20,000	0
Depreciation at 1 January 2021			150,80
	150,800	20,000	0
Charge for the year	11,600	-	11,600
At 31 December 2021			162,40
	162,400	20,000	0
Net book value at 31 December 2021			417,60
	417,600	-	0
Net book value at 31 December 2020			429,20
	429,200	-	0

7 DEBTORS

	2021	2020
	£	£
Unrestricted Fund - Tax recoverable	2,500	7,500
Unrestricted Fund - St. Peter's, Tandridge	3,628	5,320
Restricted Fund - Church Repair - HMRC VAT refund	7,591	-
	<u>13,71</u>	<u></u>
	9	12,820

8 CASH AT BANK

	2021	2020
	£	£
Restricted fund - Youth work	1,149	1,243
Restricted fund - Church repair - HLF	-	596
Restricted fund - Charity collection	808	402
Restricted fund - Church Fabric Fund	13,591	16,730
Unrestricted fund	91,061	90,470
	<u>106,60</u>	<u>109,44</u>
	9	1

9 CREDITORS (UNRESTRICTED FUND)

	2021	2020
	£	£
Oxted Community Hall income received in advance	1,250	1,250
PCC Fees	966	3,263
Crossroads accrual	52,500	-
	<u>54,716</u>	<u>4,513</u>

Parochial Church Council of St. Mary the Virgin, Oxted

Notes to the financial statements

For the year ended 31 December 2021

10 RESTRICTED FUNDS

	Church Repair	Church Fabric Fund	Youth	Communit y Hall	Charities	Total
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Opening Balance	596	16,730	1,243	429,200	402	448,171
Depreciation	-	-	-	(11,600)	-	(11,600)
Incoming resources	63,091	2,000			406	65,497
Resources expended	(85,495)	(5,139)	(94)			(90,728)
From unrestricted fund	21,808					21,808
Closing Balance	-	13,591	1,149	417,600	808	433,148

The restricted fund is topped up from the general fund through a transfer when expenses exceed the restricted fund balance.

11 DONATIONS, LEGACIES AND GRANTS

	2021	2020
	£	£
Unrestricted donations	3,717	1,611
Legacy / Other	50	11,605
Restricted Fund - Heritage Trust donation	30,000	-
Restricted Fund - Historical England Grant	25,000	-
Restricted Fund - Church Repair – HMRC VAT refund	7,591	106
Restricted Fund – Oxted Parish Council Grant	500	400
	<u>66,858</u>	<u>13,722</u>

12 CURATE ACCOMMODATION

The PCC had entered into a lease to provide accommodation for the Curate who was appointed in June 2016. No special appeal was made for the lease rental and as such is not restricted expenditure. St Peter's share of this cost is 30%. The Curatorship was extended beyond the original timeframe of 3 years and the PCC agreed to continue to fund the rental for the Curate in line with the Diocese. In addition to the Curate rental, curate accommodation includes a shared curate cost between all four parishes.

13 CASH FLOW STATEMENT

	2021	2020
	£	£
Net incoming/(outgoing) resources	(69,151)	(18,732)
Add depreciation	11,600	11,600
Movement in working capital	49,303	2,201
Net Cash Flow	(8,248)	(4,931)
Cash and short term deposits as at 1 January 2020	164,857	169,788
Cash and short term deposits as at 31 December 2021	<u>156,609</u>	<u>164,857</u>

Annual Report of the Parochial Church Council of St. Mary the Virgin, Oxted for the year ended 31st December 2021

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF ST MARY THE VIRGIN, OXTED, PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

I report on the accounts for the year ended 31st December 2021 which are set out on pages X to X.

Respective responsibilities of the PCC and Independent Examiner

The members of the PCC consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act) and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to

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

Basis of Independent Examiner's Statement

My examination was carried out in accordance with the General Directions given by the Charity Commission.

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

Independent Examiner's Statement

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

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

Roger Thomas

April 2022

