

THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF ST. MARK SOUTH FARNBOROUGH (0108)

England & Wales · Charity number 1188893

Details

Status Registered

Legal form Other

Registered 2020-04-03

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

Contact

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Activities

Objects: PROMOTING IN THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH THE WHOLE MISSION OF THE CHURCH.

Activities: St Mark's strives to be a focus for Christian worship in South Farnborough and to meet the spiritual needs of the community. The style of worship at St Mark's is liberal catholic our worship is Eucharistic in nature with a solid Anglican identity.

Classification

- **How:** Provides Buildings/facilities/open Space, Other Charitable Activities
- **What:** Religious Activities
- **Who:** Children/young People, Elderly/old People, People With Disabilities, Other Charities Or Voluntary Bodies, The General Public/mankind

Geography

- Hampshire

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2024-12-31	£131,260	£86,587	-	-
2023-12-31	£103,803	£88,663	-	-
2022-12-31	£100,807	£72,732	-	-
2021-12-31	£67,474	£47,186	-	-
2020-12-31	£64,549	£51,436	-	-

Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
The Very Reverend Dianna Gwilliams	Chair	2025-05-07
Angharad Sophia Podger		2020-04-03
CHRISTINA ANN FANE-GLADWIN		2024-04-25
Colin Lagor		2020-04-03
Daryl Rosalind Bates		2020-04-03
Deglan Peter Rowe		2020-04-03
Hilary Rita Bellamy		2022-11-17
James Elder-Ennis		2024-04-24
MARY PETLEY		2025-04-25
MICHAEL DAVID PALMER		2024-04-25
Michael John Smith		2020-04-03
NIKOS PATSALIDES		2025-04-25
Natasha Brown		2025-04-25
PETER JOHNSTON		2026-01-01
REBECCA LOUISE HARTLEY		2024-04-25
SALLY TURNER		2025-04-25

Accounts



ANNUAL CHURCH MEETINGS

Sunday, 27th April 2025

ANNUAL MEETING of PARISHIONERS for the ELECTION of CHURCHWARDENS

in the Church at 12.15

ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING

in the Church at 12.30

Meeting Documents

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The Parish of St Mark South Farnborough

Annual Meeting of Parishioners for the Election of Churchwardens

Sunday 27th April 2025 at 12.15 in the Church

Agenda

1. Opening Prayer
2. Apologies for absence
3. Minutes of the meeting, Sunday 17th of March 2024
4. Election of Churchwardens

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Minutes of the 2024 Annual Meeting of Parishioners for the Election of Churchwardens

Sunday 17th March 2024 after the 10.30 Eucharist in Church

Present: Revd. Phil Roche, (Chairman) and 36 parishioners.

Opening Prayer, it was decided by the Chairman to forgo the opening prayer as all had attended the 10.30 am Eucharist immediately before the meeting.

Apologies for absence were recorded from, Mrs Ann Ient, Mr Michael Evans, and Mrs Sue Evans.

Minutes of the previous meeting

The minutes of the previous meeting held on Sunday the 17th March 2024 had been distributed previously and were approved as a true record of the proceedings.

Proposed by Mrs Daryl Bates, and seconded by Mrs Christina Fane Gladwin with all present in favour.

Before the election of the Church Wardens, the Chairman asked those present at the meeting if they objected to including the votes of people on the Electoral Roll who could not attend in person. He also asked if those present had any objections to accepting “postal votes” from persons on the Electoral Roll. After a short explanation, it was explained that a 2/3 majority of those present was required to pass this motion.

Proposed from the Chair, that St Mark’s Church accept “postal, and proxy” votes for matters arising out of the Meetings to Elect Church Wardens, and matters arising from the Annual Parochial Church Meeting.

Votes for,	29	Votes against	0	Abstentions	1
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Six people attending were not eligible to vote.

This being the result of the vote, it was decided to allow postal and proxy votes for the meetings to elect Church Wardens, and the Annual Parochial Church Meeting starting in 2025.

Election of two Churchwardens

There were three nominations for the position of Churchwarden, there being only two vacancies it was decided to hold a paper vote, and voting papers were distributed.

e nominations were: -

- Mr Deglan Rowe, proposed by Mike Palmer and seconded by David Jennings,
- Mr Michael Palmer, proposed by Colin Lagor and seconded by Paul Collins, and
- Mrs Hilary Bellamy proposed by Mick Smith and seconded by Chris Wright.

The voting papers were counted, and the results are as follows: -

- Mr Deglan Rowe 25 votes
- Mr Mike Palmer 7 votes
- Mrs Hilary Bellamy 22 votes

This being the result of the vote, Mr Deglan Rowe and Mrs Hilary Bellamy were duly elected to serve as Church Warden for the period of one year.

The Chairman thanked Mike Palmer for standing as Church Warden after the death of Mrs Phillipa Nicholas, and being a steadying influence on the Parochial Church Council.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 12.45 pm

The Parish of St Mark South Farnborough

Annual Parochial Church Meeting

**Sunday 27th April 2025 in the Church following immediately
after the meeting to elect Churchwardens**

Agenda

1. Apologies for absence
2. Minutes of the previous meeting Sunday 17th March 2024
3. Election of the Honorary PCC Secretary
4. Election of the Honorary PCC Treasurer
5. Election of Parochial Church Council Members
6. Aldershot Deanery Synod and election of Deanery Synod Representatives
7. The Electoral Roll
 - a) acceptance of the Roll
 - b) appointment of an Electoral Roll Officer
8. Financial Report from the Treasurer
9. Independent Examiner
 - a) Note of thanks
 - b) Appointment of the Independent Examiner
10. Safeguarding
11. Report on the Proceedings of the Parochial Church Council for 2024
12. Report on the Fabric, Goods and Ornaments of the Church
13. Reports from Church Groups
14. Any other business, to *be notified in writing to the Chairman not less than seven*
days before the meeting
15. Closing Prayer

Minutes of the Annual Parochial Church Meeting, The Parish of St Mark, South Farnborough

Sunday the 17th March 2024

Immediately following the meeting to elect the Churchwardens.

Apologies for absence: as for the previous meeting, with the inclusion of David Jennings.

Minutes of the previous meeting

Minutes of the previous meeting held on Sunday the 23rd of April 2023 had been previously distributed and were approved as a true record of the proceedings.

Proposed by Christina Fane Gladwin and seconded by Jaqui Nicol. All present in favour.

Election of the Honorary Secretary

There was one nomination for the post of Honorary PCC Secretary, Mr Colin Lagor nominated by Hilary Bellamy and seconded by Chris Wright.

There being no further nominations from the floor, Mr Colin Lagor was duly elected to serve as Honorary PCC Secretary for one year.

Election of the Honorary Treasurer

There was one nomination for the post of Honorary Treasurer, Mr Mick Smith, nominated by Deglan Rowe and seconded by Hilary Bellamy.

There being no further nominations from the floor, Mr Mick Smith was duly elected to serve as Honorary Treasurer for the period of one year.

Election of four PCC Members

There were three vacancies as a result of members resigning since the APCM last year, and one vacancy from a member whose three-year term is at an end. There were four nominations to fill these vacancies: -

- Mrs Rebecca Hartley, nominated by Chris Wright and seconded by Hilary Bellamy
- Mr Chris Wright, nominated by Colin Lagor and seconded by Daryl Bates
- Mr David Jennings, nominated by Mike Palmer and seconded by Anne Rowe
- Mrs Daryl Bates, nominated by Hilary Bellamy and seconded by Mike Palmer

There being no further nominations from the floor, all four were elected to serve for three years.

Aldershot Deanery Synod report

Is attached as part of the 2024 APCM document pack. Mr James Podger has resigned as a Deanery Synod Representative. This creates one vacancy for the Aldershot Deanery Synod. There were no nominations for this vacancy, so a volunteer will be sought from the “New PCC” to serve until the APCM 2025.

There were no questions to Mrs Gibbon’s report.

The Electoral Roll

a) Composition: Mrs Judith Gibbons reported that there were 63 members on the Electoral Roll at the date of the 2024 APCM, and there were 56 at the close of the 2023 parish year. The breakdown is: 39 members within the Parish, and 24 outside of the Parish.

Next year, 2025, the Electoral Roll is disbanded, and a completely new roll will be established.

b) Appointment of Electoral Roll Officer: Mrs Gibbons agreed to continue as Electoral Roll Officer, but did ask for some help in the coming year. She was proposed by Deglan Rowe and seconded by Jim Ennis. All present in favour.

Finance Report

The Treasurer's report and the 2024 accounts are part of the 2024 APCM document pack.

There were no questions to the report

Independent Examiner

a) Note of thanks: - A note of thanks was sent to the Independent Examiner of the Accounts, Mr Patrick Brown.

b) Appointment of an Independent Examiner: Mr Patrick Brown will be willing to continue as the Independent Examiner for our accounts for one final year, then he will retire, so we will need to start looking to find another Independent Examiner.

Safeguarding

Report is part of the APCM document pack. There were no questions to the report.

Report on the proceedings of the Parochial Church Council

This report is attached as part of the 2024 APCM document pack. There were no questions to the report.

Fabric, Goods and Church Ornaments

The report is attached as part of this APCM pack. The Quinquennial Inspection is due this year on the 17th April. Thanks are due to Hilary Bellamy for arranging to have work done on the fabric of the building. There were no questions to the report.

Reports from Church Groups

Hall.

The Hall Manager's report is attached to this document pack. Daryl reported that she intends to retire as Hall Manager at the 2025 APCM, and the PCC will have to investigate how the hall is managed after her resignation. She pointed out the importance of a properly maintained and managed hall as it brings in between half and two thirds of the total Church income.

Any other Business

The Chairman offered a vote of thanks to Paul Collins who provides the music for all our Worship. There being no further business, the meeting closed with prayers from the Chairman who gave thanks for the building we worship in, and the people who regularly attend.

Time of closing 13.00pm.

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Annual Report of the Parochial Church Council for 2024



Annual Report of the Parochial Church Council for 2024

1 Administrative Information

Information

St Mark's Parish Church is situated on the corner of Reading Road and Alexandra Road, Farnborough, Hampshire. It is part of the Diocese of Guildford, within the Church of England. The Parish has administrative support as and when required. The address for correspondence is: -

St Mark's Church Parish Office
Reading Road
Farnborough
Hants
GU14 6ND

The Parish became a fully registered charity, registration number 1188893, with the Charity Commission on 3rd April 2020.

2 Structure, Governance and Management

The method of appointment of PCC members is as set out in the Church Representation Rules. The PCC would normally operate with sub-committees: Finance, the Fabric/Quinquennial and Hall Management which are chaired by one of the Church Wardens. The Executive Committee would consist of the Church Wardens, the Treasurer and, until 31st October 2024, the Priest-in-Charge. There were financial meetings and to discuss procedure with work on the quinquennial report to review progress.

3. Objectives and Activities

PCC Role

- Work with the Incumbent to promote the Church in the Parish, and its mission and how to improve this.
- Care for the Church and its future and structure.
- Promote links with St Mark's School.
- Ensure that all who wish to contribute to church life have the opportunity to do so.

At the end of October 2024, Rev Phil Roche resigned as Priest-in-Charge, leaving a vacancy. The Council has since been guided by Archdeacon Catharine Mabuza, and Area Dean Gemma Foster.

Colin Lagor, PCC Secretary

4 Electoral Roll

The reported/ recorded number of persons on the Electoral Roll last year was 63 persons. Since that report, one person was added, and two people were removed. The figure at the time of writing THIS report is therefore 62.

Given that a complete revision of the Roll is required this year, before the APCM, and reviewing the outgoing Roll, I fear that there will be quite a reduction in this reported number when the new Roll is published.

Judith Gibbons

5 PCC Membership

The membership from March 2024 to March 2025 was:

Position	From 2024 APCM	At 2025 APCM
Priest-in-charge	Rev Phil Roche (1)	Vacancy
Lay Minister	Mrs Helen Roche	Vacancy
Churchwardens	Mr Deglan Rowe Mrs Hilary Bellamy	Mr Deglan Rowe Mrs Hilary Bellamy
Aldershot Deanery Synod	Mrs Judith Gibbons (2) Vacancy	Vacancy Vacancy
Honorary Treasurer	Mr Michael Smith (3)	After Michael Smith's resignation, Chris Wright was appointed Treasurer but resigned in November 2024. Michael Smith was then reappointed as acting Treasurer.
Honorary Secretary	Mr Colin Lagor	Mr Colin Lagor
Elected Members (Full council = 9 members)	Mrs Daryl Bates (6) Mr Jim Ennis Miss Angharad Nicholas-Podger Mrs Margaret Lapwood (4) Mrs Christina Fane Gladwin Mrs Hilary Bellamy (5) (1) <i>Revd Phil Roche resigned from his post as Priest in Charge October 2024</i> (2) <i>Mrs Judith Gibbons resigned from the PCC in December 2024, thus leaving a second vacancy as Deanery Synod representative</i> (3) <i>Mr Michael Smith resigned as Treasurer in July 2024.</i> (4) <i>Mrs Margaret Lapwood resigned from the PCC in December 2024</i> (5) <i>Mrs Hilary Bellamy was elected as Church Warden at the 2024 APCM</i> (6) <i>Mrs Daryl Bates' term of office was up at the APCM, she was reelected to serve for a further 3 years</i>	Mrs Daryl Bates Mr Jim Ennis Miss Angharad Nicholas-Podger Mrs Christina Fane Gladwin Mrs Rebecca Hartley Mr Chris Wright (*) Mr David Jennings (**) 4 Vacancies (*) <i>Mr Chris Wright was appointed Treasurer in September 2024 but resigned as Treasurer and from the PCC in November 2024</i> (**) <i>Mr David Jennings resigned from the PCC due to relocation in October 2024</i>

6 Review of the year January to December 2024

Until October 2024 our part-time priest, the Rev Phil Roche was in attendance for most of the Sunday services and also of assistance on other days. Rev Phil also made himself available to deal with correspondence as and when it was received.

There were numerous activities during the year and attendances appeared to be improving. The Children's Den was supported by our families and Mary and Angharad assumed responsibility for the children's activities. Phil had already indicated that he intended to leave the Parish in July 2025 with a view to hopefully a new Priest-in-Charge being appointed who could allocate more time in the Parish. The vicarage itself remained let out. Although the ultimate intention is to re-appoint a full-time vicar and take back the vicarage, current finances do not allow for this to happen.

We met with Adam Hieke of Nye Saunders who made the five yearly inspection of the church on 17th April 2024, and we later received his Quinquennial Report. He was pleased to note that much had been done already – in particular the church seems to be water-tight. More detail appears in the Fabric Report,

In late summer as a result of discussions with the diocese Phil decided to resign from his position with effect from 31st October 2024. The Area Dean, the Rev Gemma Foster, became responsible for running PCC meetings and liaising with the two Church Wardens.

As of the end of 2024 it was hoped that a new Priest-in-Charge/vicar could be appointed in the New Year.

Deglan Rowe, Churchwarden

7 Report on the Proceedings of the Parochial Church Council for St Marks' Church South Farnborough 2024-2025.

The Parochial Church Council consists of six 'Ex Officio' members who serve for 1 year only, 2 Church Wardens, the Treasurer, the Secretary, and 2 Deanery Synod members, plus the Priest in Charge who is the Chairman and the Lay Minister.

Revd. Phil Roche resigned as Priest in Charge at the end of October 2024 leaving the post vacant, subsequently Mrs Helen Roche resigned as Licensed Lay Minister. Revd. Gemma Foster (Rector of Cove, and Aldershot Area Dean) is acting as Chairman of the Council until the appointment of a new Priest.

The main body of the Council consists of 9 elected members who serve for 3 years, there were 4 vacancies which were filled at the APCM.

During the past year there has been much change in the make-up of the PCC, Mr Mick Smith resigned as Treasurer and his place as Treasurer was taken temporarily by Mr Chris Wright, who subsequently resigned from the Council. Mrs Judith Gibbons resigned as the only Deanery Synod representative, Mr David Jennings resigned from the Council due to relocation, and Mrs Margaret Lapwood resigned from the Council. This has had a marked effect on the remaining members of the Council.

Mr Mick Smith agreed to return to the post of Treasurer to complete the 2024 Accounts. We have two vacancies for Deanery Synod Representatives and have 4 vacancies on the general Council.

It is important to the running of the Parish that these vacancies are filled at the 2025 APCM.

During the past year, the PCC has met for six ordinary meetings, 2 special meetings and 1 meeting with the Archdeacon of Surrey and the Aldershot Area Dean. In addition to these there have been 2 "Vacancy" meetings.

Subjects discussed included: -

- The Quinquennial Inspection and Report.
- Approving the Schools application to become part of the “Prospect Academy Trust”.
- Discussing St Mark’s Church becoming a member of “Inclusive Church”, and its subsequent joining.
- The need for a Treasurer as Mr Mick Smith intends to stand down at the APCM 2025.
- The need for someone to take over as Hall Manager and Bookings secretary as Mrs Daryl Bates has indicated her intention to retire at the APCM 2025.
- Approving the Accounts before sending for Examination.
- Formation of the new sub committees.
- Approving the Review Report and APCM packs before publication.
- Meeting with the Archdeacon of Surrey and Aldershot Area Dean, following the resignation of Revd Phil Roche.

In addition to the above subjects, they discussed the day-to-day maintenance and running of the Church and Church Hall.

Colin Lagor, PCC Secretary

8 Churchwardens Report for 2024

As stated above, we continued with a Priest-in-Charge, the Rev Phil Roche in situ. The pattern of services was to continue the main 10.30 am service with the 8am service once a month, with breakfast between the two services. We did also organize some 8am services mid-month, to see how well they would be attended and at least one evensong service. The Church was also open on Friday mornings for prayer and Crafty Coffee, which appeared to be gathering support.

The year started with a Games Evening on 27th January. Volunteers assisted with maintenance of the Church Hall and the grounds.

We also saw more members of the congregation able to assist in serving at Communion and occasional preachers, the occasional preachers consisting of David Jennings Jim Ennis, Angharad Nicholas-Podger Deglan Rowe and Daryl. Bates. It was good to see better involvement within the Church in the running of services. Colin and Neo continued to assist at ‘front of house’ and Paul Collins provided the music welcoming us into Church and during the services.

Judith held the usual Pancake Party, which was well attended, and we held an Ash Wednesday evening service in the Church.

On 29th February 2024 we celebrated the life of Gwen Miller who had passed away aged 102. Gwen had been attending St Mark’s since her birth and was a real character who could recount stories of life in England both before the Second World War and after it.

Rev Phil Roche organised a Lent to Ascension Course in the evenings and Daryl Bates chaired the Ascension Course during the day with lunch afterwards.

Easter is always celebrated very well at St Mark’s Church and is indeed known for this elsewhere. Jim Ennis provided a Taize reflection; Phil led the Maundy Thursday service and the Church was also beautifully decorated. Easter Day was celebrated with a Dawn Service and Easter celebrations in the Church, with breakfast.

Church life continued with an Ascension Day service in May and the Flower Festival on 31st May for the week. There was then the Summer Fair in August 2024 and on 6th October we were pleased to welcome the Bishop of Dorking, the Very Reverend Paul Davies, who conducted a Confirmation Service at St Mark's.

As Phil left the Parish on 31st October 2024 we were then left without a priest. We were pleased to receive support from our neighbouring Churches, and in particular, Richard Cobbold, Mark Chester, Steven Mourant, Thea Edwards Mark Rudell, Bruce Nicol and the relatively new Archdeacon of Surrey, Catharine Mabuza.

Towards the end of the year we held an Advent Festival, with the Church decorated with Christmas boxes provided by various sources, including the school. The Cecilia Singers rejoined us for an evening of entertainment.

At Christmas we were pleased to have a Carol Service with Mark Chester. As we had no priest available for Christmas Eve, we decided to not hold a service, but instead we had a very good attendance on Christmas Day morning itself.

It has been good to see how the team has worked together, particularly after 31st October 2024 and particular thanks go to Mick Smith who returned back to resume his role as Treasurer and due to his hard work placing everything in good order for the Finance Report 2024 to be completed. This was no easy task as we had been effectively without a treasurer for a number of months

Deglan Rowe and Hilary Bellamy, Churchwardens

9 Safeguarding report for APCM 2025

At St Mark's, we fully endorse and comply with the principles of "Promoting a Safer Church".

In the past year we have:

- Reviewed and updated our Safeguarding Policy
- Undertaken training for the PCC and Safeguarding Officers
- Reviewed and made the safeguarding page of our website more user friendly with links to necessary and helpful information.
- Effectively managed Safeguarding from the parish, diocese and national alerts.
- Maintained regular contact with the diocesan Safeguarding Advisor.
- Safeguarding as a standing agenda item at PCC meetings.
- Distributed both Church of England and Hampshire County Council Safeguarding Literature.

From April we will be attending Safeguarding workshops online with the diocesan Safeguarding Team.

IF YOU HAVE ANY CONCERNS ABOUT SAFEGUARDING, PLEASE CONTACT US ON 07725261208, OR SPEAK TO THE CHURCHWARDENS OR PCC MEMBER.

Jim Ennis & Shiroma Perera

10 Deanery Synod report

I took over the role of deanery Synod representative late in the year so this will be a short report. There have been three meetings.

The first meeting I attended looked at the change of Rural dean to the Rev. Gemma Foster and reports from the deanery parishes. The second meeting at Tongham focussed on The Green Church initiative which was

interesting. The final meeting I attended with Hilary and Deglan and this focussed on parish Development Plans.

I will be giving up the role following the APCM and handing over the reins to two other willing volunteers.

Jim Ennis Deanery Synod Representative

11 Fabric Report

It has been a very busy and productive year regarding maintenance and repairs to our much-loved Church.

Many of the priority safety issues on the Quinquennial Report have also been addressed, with more work still in process.

I am pleased to say that much of the necessary pointing has been replaced.

Several historic roof leaks have been repaired, and resulting damage to internal paintwork required remedial internal painting, which has been completed.

Both the front and rear Church doors have been stripped and treated.

An electrical upgrade, including boxing in the server, was undertaken and the server has also been repainted.

Some crumbling stonework has been repaired, with further work planned.

A defibrillator has also been installed in the Church entrance.

Various other works, too numerous to mention, or not necessarily listed, have been completed without further costs.

Very importantly, as the Church Hall supplies our main source of income, some works have also been included, keeping the Hall in good repair to be worthy of future hire, i.e.:

New lighting

An electrical update with new circuit boards.

However, more work is required and currently quotes are in hand for new/repair of stage curtains and new a new/repair of the Hall floor.

I can quite honestly say that it has given me great pleasure in being involved in the under-budget completion of this work!

11.1 St Mark's Quinquennial Report 2024

A quinquennial inspection was done on 17th April 2024, the report written April to June 2024, which identified a list of works that must be completed within five years. The most urgent have been prioritised and completed, with other works pending.

An historic item of asbestos was safely removed, transported to Basingstoke and disposed of by specialists. The disposal certificate is available on request.

Crumbling stonework at upper right of the vestry door, and which had started to dislodge, has been made safe. All outstanding stonework is scheduled for repair/remedial work, including the finial on the vicarage side as noted in the report.

The finial above the north side of the church door has been repaired.

Ingress of water in the Northwest corner of the Baptistry deemed to be historical and repainting is scheduled.

Baptistry roof tiles replaced and stonework repaired after attempted theft of lead.

All church guttering has been cleaned and is in good order. An annual inspection and maintenance schedule has been arranged.

Further non-urgent stone work repairs have already been undertaken.

The roof of the coal cellar was deemed to be unsafe. This has been caused by the garden planted on the roof of the cellar with small tree roots compromising the integrity of the roof coupled with retention of water in the soil and plant roots.

This is being addressed with the guidance of the local borough council's structural surveyor.

Church and Church Hall Electrical upgrade with certification. This includes all circuit boards that have now replaced to comply with current regulations.

Hilary Bellamy, Churchwarden

12 Children's Work APCM 2025 Report

Over the past 12 months the children and youth ministry has grown not only in size but also reputation. The work we do on a Sunday morning, ensuring the children are kept in the service while learning about God's work through craft and fun activities has proven to be popular not only among our regular and sporadic attendees but also visiting clergy and the Diocesan leaders with regards to children and youth work.

With the encouragement of Rev Phil Roache and his wife Helen, LLM, I was asked to take on this role and with the help of Mary and support of others including Judith and Becki "The Den" is now firmly a fixture a part of St Mark's and our 10:30 service.

With the logo of St Mark's featuring a lion it seemed only right that the children's area should carry that theme and with Marcus the lion already in place, "The Den" was the name decided for the new children's area. The hope is that in the near future, the area will be spruced up with new floor coverings and furniture with money raised at events and donations given specifically for the work of children's area.

The Lion Trail has been a welcomed addition especially by some of the families who are new to church and also the school who are using it as part of their curriculum this term. This trail is a series of wired lions that are located around the church placed at areas of interest or importance. Each lion begins with the letter "M" and is named after a character from the Bible and comes with a laminated picture explaining the character backstory and why the lion is placed where they are.

The children of "The Den" start their sessions either reading the Gospel or Psalm the craft or activity relates to for the day which enhances the understanding. The activity they complete is shared with congregation at the end of service and they then share a prayer. Topics covered over the last year include Easter, Ascension, Trinity, St Peter and St Paul, Harvest, Noah's Ark, Creationtide, I am statements, Advent, Christmas,

Epiphany, Miracles of Jesus including the feeding of Five Thousand and Calming the Storm and the Sermon on the Mount.

Our work was shared with the local community with the Christmas Eve Crib Service which saw a large attendance from St Mark's School children and other local schools. It was an event that was enjoyed by all and even saw a real-life baby play the Baby Jesus. Planning is already under way as to what we can do this year not only for the major events but also in trying to engage new children, families and volunteers to the work of "The Den".

Angharad Nicholas- Podger, Lead for Children & Youth Ministry

13 St. Mark's APCM Report - Relationship between St. Mark's Parish Church and St. Mark's CE School

St. Mark's Church hosted school services for Easter, Year 6 Leavers and Harvest. The Church was also used as the venue for the Key Stage 2 Show Performance in July 2024 and the School Nativity Performance in December 2024. Pupils from the school once again contributed artwork for the Advent Festival, and the Reception class children visited the church to see all of the wonderful creations in December 2024. Collaborating on these events allows the church to welcome school families on a regular basis, and encourages the children to make links between the school and their local church.

Whilst Rev. Phil was in post, he held a place on the school governing body and also regularly attended at school to lead and support the weekly pattern of Collective Worship. In July 2024, Deglan Rowe resigned as a foundation governor after many years supporting the school and holding a strong link between the school and the church; Deglan was recognised by the Diocese for his dedication in this role. The governing body is still being chaired by Michael Hartley, a member of the St. Mark's Church congregation. Angharad Nicholas-Podger, our children's leader, also spent time in Emerald Class during Advent to share the Church of England's 'Bright and Calm' Advent campaign.

Following a school inspection by Ofsted in May 2024, in which the school received a 'Good' grading, the school also received a visit from the Schools Inspectorate for Anglican and Methodist Schools (SIAMS). The subsequent report highlighted the strength of the relationship between the school and the church, commenting that "considerable investment from leaders and foundation governors has ensured that this relationship is highly valued and productive".

Congregation members contributed to the school's fundraising by baking cakes and treats for the school's weekly T-Set bake sale. The Church Christmas Fair hosted stalls from the St. Mark's Primary PTA in the church; this strengthened the bond between the two groups, and allowed for shared resources, supporting collaboration and fundraising efforts on both sides.

As we look ahead to 2025, the school is going through the process to join the Prospect Academy Trust, allowing the current leadership team from Frimley Junior School to continue sharing their expertise and working with staff and pupils at St. Mark's School. The 'Lion Trail' that has been introduced in the church building will be used for school pupils to explore the church building as part of the KS1 RE unit on places of worship.

Becki Hartley

14 Annex – Reports from Church Groups for 2024

A1 Church Hall Committee

I had hoped that this was to be my last report, but it would seem that God has other ideas!

The Hall continues to flourish. There are always some changes but many of the hirers I have now known for over 13 years. The hall is used by diverse groups of people, starting with the Baby Clinic, toddler

sessions, Rainbows, Brownies and continuing up to the more senior members of the U3A. We provide a space for Community groups such as the Nepalese community and those seeking help in a number of ways.

Running the hall is now a much larger responsibility than when I started. It is necessary to be aware of many more legal requirements. Following an incident in 2024 it was necessary to re-write our terms and conditions of hire.

At the moment, I do my best to be the administrator, general maintenance operative, health and safety expert, groundswoman, and anything else that needs doing.

I should like to thank Colin Lagor for giving us a new microphone which is a great improvement to the sound system. Thanks also to Hedley, Jason and Arthur for help with maintenance and those few who volunteer on Work Days.

The Hall is indebted to Mrs Shanti Gurung (and family) who clean it with such dedication.

I am very thankful to have Hilary's enthusiasm in getting quotes so we can begin to consider what needs to be done in the next year. In particular, we are considering the state of the hall floor and curtains.

I really do hope that I am not still writing a report this time next year.

Daryl Bates

A2 Music

Paul Collins has played the music for all of the 10:30 Eucharist and other services for the reporting period 2024 to 2025. Paul's system is based on a Denon Professional Blu-ray / SD player and a 12 inch television. It uses a large keyboard-amplifier and loudspeaker that is matched to St. Mark's church and is positioned in the Chancel to emulate the sound of the church pipe organ. The system was first used for Eucharist services in 2012. It is basically a computer-based music player. One advantage of using a computer is that any music can be played and there are no unnecessary interruptions during worship. The hymns are chosen by Michael Hartley who also plays the piano for services and directs the St. Mark's pop-up choir for special occasions.



Paul Collins

A3 St Mark's Floral Team

Another "Decorative" year seems to have flown past. Since last year's report was written we have achieved a number of noticeable "positives".

Lent 2024 saw the continuation of my Lenten Tableaux, which I began about 6 years ago. The tableaux proved a little more difficult to achieve in 2024 as there was a request not to use my traditional "sackcloth and ashes" approach. I did manage SOME degree of success however. Decorating for the Easter Services was a wonderful experience, with participation from a super mix of our "flower ladies" AND "novices" of all genders and ages. It was a very positive experience.

End of May, beginning of June saw our first 'Flower Festival' for well over 10 years. It was a beautiful spectacle on the theme of "An English Country Garden", with participation at various levels, and from a

number of flower teams from our fellow Deanery churches. It was a LOT of hard work, but WELL worth it.

During the festival it was thrilling to find many of our participants tackling their projects WITHOUT the use of floral foam (e.g. Oasis). I have been trying this for a couple of years now, and whilst the trend is spreading rapidly in Churches all over the UK, I have not enforced it at St Mark's.

Our "week by week" floral decor relies strongly on a small team of ladies, who very generously offer their time AND equally generously provide the necessary flowers without asking for payment. I cannot thank them enough. We could not make St. Mark's beautiful without these contributions.

Don't forget, that should anyone need a memorial in flowers at any time, they only have to let us know. It is NOT necessary for monetary contributions to be offered, but obviously we would never say "No" to any such.

I hope that we can continue to make St Mark's, florally, a beautiful church.

Judith Gibbons

A4 St Mark's Library

Thanks to all who have made enquiries about the Church Library. I try to display books about upcoming seasons and festivals on the top of the bookshelves.

We have been fortunate to receive some generous additions to the library, firstly from Jim, which is a fascinating book about the hidden treasures in churches and cathedrals across the country entitled. "Steeple Chasing". Paul and Helen Prescott gave us a variety of books which adds to the diversity of the library so we are grateful for those. I also added two books, one by Rev Richard Cole called "Bringing in the Sheaves" describing his experiences as a Priest. And, on a lighter note Derek Nimmo's "Oh Come ON All Ye Faithful" which is hilarious.

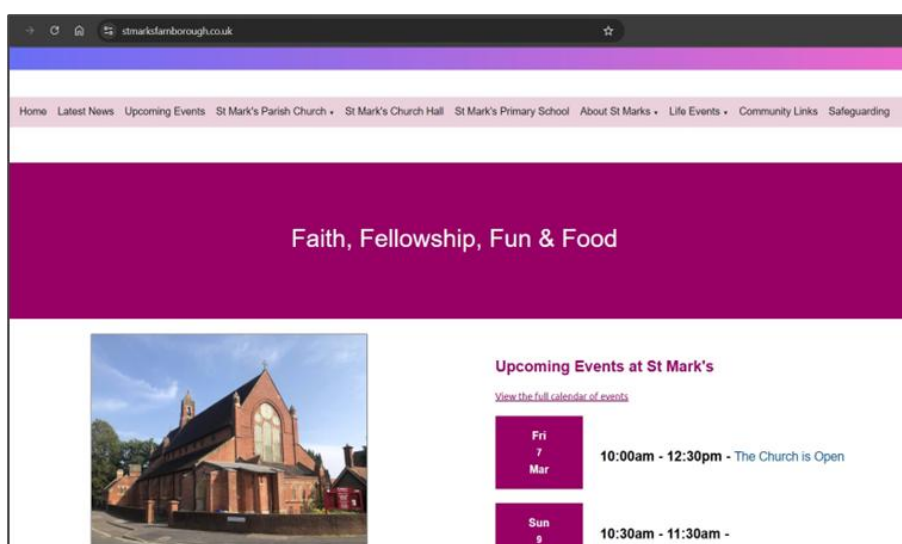
Up to now, since I took over the Church Library, we have not used the 'Loaned Books' Notebook but I think it might be a good idea if we started using it again.

Any suggestions as to how I can improve the library would be very welcome.

Jacqui Nichol

A5 St Mark's Website

<https://www.stmarksfarnborough.co.uk/>



At a glance:

I took over the management of the St Mark's website after the previous website manager left both their position and the church. With over a decade of experience in CMS (Content Management System), website management, and digital content, I volunteered to assist the team by handling updates and adding new content. No formal handover or training was provided, I was granted access on August 28, 2024. As a result, this report focuses solely on the work I've completed since taking over

Immediate changes in the 1st month:

Content Management System First week: Analysis of strengths and weaknesses, test support team, product capabilities, features, etc.

Home Page: Changes, Improvements and Fixes to Content and Design First days: A number of improvements were made to the home page including:

Pictures on homepage updated, including picture of the church (on-site photography, replacing tired old image, with a nice angle, blue sky etc).

Branding, formatting, hyperlink formatting copy all cleaned up, including paraphrased long copy to make it easier to read, scan to read. I restored font sizes to default font sizes to make the text easier to read and ensure consistency across the page. I restored font colours to ensure consistency across the page. Fixed spelling and grammar, and in places I felt relevant, re-wrote and improved some of the descriptive words on the page.

Removed, deleted and then re-built blocks previously built incorrectly on the home page.

Removed blue box borders on each widget all over the home page.

Sitewide: Fixed the main navigation menu The font size was reduced so that it appears on one line. The design is now much cleaner and easier on the eye.

Sitewide: New Features tested and released Enable breadcrumbs, introduced search and Favicon created, adopting the Church of England for consistency.

Sitewide and Top Level Pages: Mobile UX Fixes and Enhancements When accessing the website on a mobile device, some top level pages would not display correctly, or load at all - these were fixed as a priority.

Home Page and Top Level Pages: Removing images where text is more appropriate The site can take a great deal of time to load due to it being image heavy. Some text used in images could not be changed with the text editor. Moving forward, to streamline updates and improve layout and design, I increased the use of copy on the website and reduced the use of extensive images.

Top Level Pages: Spelling, Grammar, Punctuation and Inconsistencies Fixed I caught and fixed spelling, grammar, and punctuation errors on top-level pages. The website has many inconsistencies and errors in the code. I continue to correct these as I go along, page by page, widget by widget, and text by text.

New Functionality Enabled: Links I've enabled 'Links'; you will see the new 'Links' page in the Navigation Menu.

Noteworthy Projects Completed to Date after the 1st Month:

Phase 1 Homepage Redesign Completed I've re-structured and re-organised content and blocks on the home page. The most frequently changing items should move nearer to the top of the page so that the user does not need to scroll down a long way on each visit. - <https://www.stmarksfarnborough.co.uk/>

New Section Created for Latest News I created a new section needed to accommodate the need for news, announcements and updates. Now, to date we have close to 20 pages in this section. It is continuing to grow and is now one of the most popular sections on our website for our visitors. - <https://www.stmarksfarnborough.co.uk/latest-news/>

Sitewide CSS Stylesheet Fixed, Updated and adopted I fixed and implemented the CSS (Cascading Style Sheets) stylesheet. CSS is a file that controls how a website looks. It sets things like colours, fonts, spacing, and layout, separating the design from the content. CSS helps make sure the design is consistent across all pages and easier to update. It also makes websites look better, load faster, and work well on different devices, like phones and computers. Basically, CSS is important because it improves how a site looks and feels for users. Previously the CSS was not adopted or acknowledged across the website.

This work included the roll out of a newly designed, styled Call To Action (CTA) Button style on the site which is in use in a number of pages of the site already.

Events Calendar Fixed, Updated & Improved There were several issues with the Events Calendar which have been fixed, including CSS, layout, formatting etc.- <https://www.stmarksfarnborough.co.uk/calendar/>

St Mark's Church Hall Section Fixed, Updated & Improved-
<https://www.stmarksfarnborough.co.uk/st-marks-hall/>

Life Events Section Fixed, Updated & Improved

1. <https://www.stmarksfarnborough.co.uk/life-events/>
2. <https://www.stmarksfarnborough.co.uk/life-events/baptisms/>
3. <https://www.stmarksfarnborough.co.uk/life-events/weddings/>
4. <https://www.stmarksfarnborough.co.uk/life-events/funerals/>

New Slider Image Gallery added to the Home Page More fresh content, updated regularly, has been included on the home page.

Safeguarding Page Updates Updated, live and in progress.
<https://www.stmarksfarnborough.co.uk/safeguarding/>

Several Support Tickets Raised and Completed

Nikos Patsalides

A6 Social Committee

It is rather difficult to give a full report on this as I was not involved for many months and was not aware that the Committee could be re-instated from November 24 onwards.

The highlight of last year was undoubtedly the Flower Festival in May-June. This was organised beautifully by Judith on the theme of a Cottage Garden.

We also had an excellent Harvest Lunch and an entertaining Tear Fund Quiz. Once again, the Christmas Festival was another example of Judith's creativity both in planning and execution. Her ideas and encouragement are wonderful. We were delighted to share the Christmas Fair with the School and with this and the Cecelia Singer's Concert we were able to increase the attendance at the Festival.

In 2025 we are planning the usual monthly breakfasts as well as a Teddy Bear's Picnic, Jane Austen themed Tea Party, Summer Fair with the School, Harvest Supper and Games Evening.

We thank everyone for their continued support and look forward to all these events.

Daryl Bates

A7 Church Cleaning

In the absence of anyone being officially in charge of this, I have been asked to write a report. During the last year there has been some disruption in the regular cleaning of the Church following the resignation of the previous organiser.

Since then, the Church has been cleaned by a number of people at different times. I can name the following who have all helped: Hilary, Colin and Carole, Peter and Christina, Yvonne, Lynda, Judith, Sally and myself. I apologise if there are others I should have mentioned. All these people have done a great job and the Church always looks clean and well loved.

However, we need someone to take responsibility in the future, in order to prioritise what needs to be done and what purchases need to be made.

Daryl Bates

St Mark's CE Primary School

2024-25



St Mark's CE Primary School have had a busy year full of exciting events linked to the church and local community. On Wednesday 27th March 2024, St Mark's held a very special Pause Day which included our Easter Service. We began the day with reflective activities set up in the hall, focusing on please, thank you and sorry. Each class took turns to enjoy the activities and then spend time in their classrooms focusing on the journeys of the Easter story. Our thanks go to one of our governors, Mrs Kahkonen who joined us for the morning and later at the church for the beautiful service. This year Sapphire Class performed the folktale of the Three Trees supported by Ruby, Emerald and Diamond Class choirs. The children sang beautifully and created a powerful image of God's plan for everyone.



The Year 6 children were invited by the Diocese to attend a special Leavers' Service in Guildford Cathedral. This was a special occasion to mark and reflect upon their time at primary school.

The children participated in 4 reflective prayer activities:

- A thank you moment - for someone that they are thankful for at primary school.
- Please - thinking about something they are worried about, something that they wish to put in God's hands.
- A reflective moment - time to consider something they wish they had done differently, not done at all or an opportunity that they wish that they had taken.
- A wow moment - something that they have enjoyed / are proud of / made them go or feel WOW.

These activities were followed by a service in the beautiful cathedral, in which the children thought about the journey ahead to secondary school. The children even had a train ticket to remind them that Jesus will be with them throughout their journey.



Year 6 also had a fantastic day out at Wintershall, watching the fully immersive production of the "Life of Christ".



In July we were able to return to the church for our school Leavers Service to wish our fantastic Year 6 good luck in the next stage of their education journey.

We also said a sad farewell and huge thank you to our Head teacher for the year, Vicky Ellis. During her time with us, St Mark's was inspected twice, firstly by Ofsted and then followed 2 weeks later by SIAMs. Both inspection reports are available on the school website.

"St Mark's School have developed a highly inclusive and aspirational Christian vision and associated values that have community at their heart."

As the new academic year began, we were delighted to welcome the arrival of a new Leadership team, comprising of Mrs Clare Wright, Mrs Rachel Jones and Mrs Sally Williams from Frimley CE Junior School, ready to lead St Mark's on the next phase of our journey. This also began the process of St Mark's joining the Prospect Trust Academy, which Frimley are one of three schools and colleges. The academisation process is ongoing and we are hopeful to have further updates later this year.

Our focus for our daily worship for the Autumn term reflected on some of Jesus' words in the 'Sermon on the Mount', containing the statements known as the 'Beatitudes' which set out the topsy-turvy manifesto of God's Kingdom. We reflected on how these ideas might help to shape our school community life in the way that we try to treat each other. The 'how-to-be-at(t)itudes' also lined up with significant calendar events during the term, such as Harvest and Remembrance, and even towards Christmas, when we celebrated the topsy-turviness of the story of how God came to earth as a tiny baby through some prophecies, including Mary's own song of worship on hearing the news from Angel Gabriel.

Rev Phil warmly welcomed us for this year's Harvest celebration focused on apples. Each class took a different apple themed part to share with a packed church the joy of apples during harvest. Ruby Class began the service with a gorgeous song all about different types of apples. They sung to the familiar tune of "Twinkle, twinkle little star whilst holding up large apple paintings. Diamond Class told the story of how the Bramley apple got it's name and started the idea

of from something very small great things can grow. Mary Brailsford took the tiny seeds from the apple tree in her garden and from these very small pips the great Bramley apple was born. The story illustrated the importance of small beginnings and the miracle of harvest. The fact that Mary's tiny pip grew has meant fantastic crops of apples have been produced year after year and brought enjoyment to lots and lots of people. Small beginnings can bear much fruit. Emerald Class then told the parable of the mustard seed from Matthew 13, using a little class poem as a reminder of the story:

Jesus said, God's pattern for life is like this.

Once a man sowed a tiny seed. 'So small!'

It grew and grew into a large tree. 'How tall!'

The tree became so large that lots of birds came to nest in its branches. 'For all!'

Sapphire Class added to the celebration of apples by learning two beautiful poems which focused on the gift of apples and the beauty of harvest. The children sang a selection of harvest based hymns and choir performed "What we sow" with confidence. Each class wrote thoughtful prayers to show their understanding of harvest and our theme this year of small beginnings growing into great things.

St Mark's displayed a huge selection of items for the Farnborough Food Bank which joins the donations from the church and went towards supporting families in need across the Farnborough area.



St Mark's held our special Remembrance Service with the theme "We hold the memory of love and hope in our hands." This year each class made a beautiful wreath using their hands as inspiration. The focus for remembrance is the 80th Anniversary of the battles of 1944, the last full year of the Second World War. We talked about D-Day being the codename of the Allied invasion of Europe. On June 6th, 1944, they landed on the beaches of Normandy in France, which helped change the course of the war and brought hope that peace was possible.

We hold the memory of love and hope in our hands

As Christmas drew near we began our celebrations with a Christingle worship in school and a focus on Advent. All the children arrived at school with an orange ready to decorate it with ribbon, sweets and a candle, before lighting these in a special collective worship.



The word Christingle means "Christ's Light". Each element of a Christingle has a special meaning and helps to tell the Christian story:

- *The orange represents the world
- *The red ribbon (or tape) symbolises the love and blood of Christ
- *The sweets and dried fruit represent all of God's creations

*The lit candle represents Jesus's light in the world.

The children sang an uplifting Christingle song and sat in quiet awe of the darkened hall with the candles alight. A very special moment!

Emerald Class were delighted to welcome Angharad Nicholas- Podger, Lead for Children & Youth Ministry, to our class to deliver four sessions based on the Church of England's Advent workshops "Follow the Star". The children thoroughly enjoyed building the nativity scene whilst learning more about aspects of Advent.



We visited the Advent Festival at St Mark's Church to see our Christmas boxes on display. The theme this year was Christmas traditions from around the world. Each class took a different country and researched the various traditions that occur. These ranged from shoes in Spain and spiders in Ukraine, to Advent bags in Germany and a Portuguese nativity in a walnut shell! We really enjoyed spotting all the different countries and learning about their traditions.



The St Mark's Infants, supported by the Junior Choir, performed a brilliant nativity at the church in front of a packed congregation. The children presented this very special story with plenty of joyful songs and of course an added character or two! The final song "There's a party and you're invited" summed up the feeling of St Mark's celebrating the birth of Jesus and this incredible gift to the world.

Our thanks to St Mark's church for allowing us to once take over the church with staging and costumes and to Rev Dianna Gwilliams for a beautiful blessing to close our afternoon.



We also held our now traditional Carols around the campfire in the school playground. It was a joyous celebration of the school, church and local community coming together to enjoy festive snacks, warming drinks and cheery carols. Our thanks to Rev Bruce for joining us to complete the evening with a Christmas blessing.



The New Year brought a focus for Collective Worship on a series of themes based on "Songs from the Heart". At the beginning of a new term and a brand new year, we begun a new series of themes, reflecting on the life and writings of King David, who contributed much of the content of the book of Psalms in the Bible. We used the title 'Songs from the heart', because this is exactly what the Psalms were: heartfelt expressions of joy, sadness, frustration, hope and longing, giving voice to experiences and emotions that pupils of all faiths and none can relate to. Because Easter Day is just before the start of the Summer term, we will be marking Resurrection Day on the first day of the summer term.

In school our Spirituality Team have continued to run JAM Club (Jesus and Me) for the younger children. Each week they choose a different Bible story to explore through craft and drama activities.

Most recently we have begun our preparations for Easter, learning the hymns for our Easter Service. We are very much looking forward to this event which will take place in church, with the invitation extended to our parents, families and the church community. Our term will end with a traditional Pause Day, taking the time for quiet reflection, creative activities and personal prayers. We look forward to sharing more of our school events within the church and with the wider St Mark's community throughout the rest of the school year.

Mrs Nicola Smith
Senior Teacher

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PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL
PARISH OF ST MARK SOUTH FARNBOROUGH (0108)

Financial Statement and Treasurer Report
Year Ending
31st December 2024

PRESENTED
TO THE
PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL
PARISH OF ST MARK'S SOUTH FARNBOROUGH (0108)
27 April 2025

Report of the Independent Examiner for the Year Ending 31 December 2024

ST MARK'S PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

Independent Examiner's Report to the PCC of St Mark's, Farnborough

I report on the accounts for the year ended 31st December 2024.

Respective responsibilities of the Trustees and Independent Examiner

The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The charity's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144 of the Charities Act 2011 (The Charities Act) and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to

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

Basis of Independent Examiner's Statement

My examination was carried out in accordance with the general directions given by the Charity Commission.

An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from the management committee concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a 'true and fair' view, and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

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:

- a. To keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act; and
- b. To prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the Charities Act.

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



Mr Patrick Brown
6 Kingsley Court
Windsor Way
Aldershot
Hants
GU11 1HZ

22nd April 2025

1 - Financial Statement for the Year Ending 31 December 2024

St Mark's has undergone some major changes throughout the year as the priest-in-charge resigned in October. With help from the Diocese St Mark's has managed to have communion services regularly and a service of the word on Sundays where no communion service could be provided.

The Diocese parish share for 2024 started at £2,101.49 per month. This figure was for a parish with no vicarage and a part-time priest-in-charge. The Parish share for 2024 has been paid in full.

Works to deal with some quinquennial items were discussed and a plan and budget for these works was put in place. The work was conducted during 2024 shown as expenditure. Those projects completed came in on budget or slightly under.

The Church Hall is still making up the shortfall in monthly church giving, so church giving needs to increase. As the congregation continues to expand as it has been, this will become less of an issue.

The Church income for 2024 was £71,784.41 with expenditure of £63,598.96, with a restricted income of £573.70.

The Hall income for 2024 was £57,500.00 with expenditure of £22,987.95

The introduction of the Bank Card gifting device has been the latest addition to increasing the income by £2,796.40 (this is included in the £71,748.41 income figure) and continues to add to the general fund.

Once again, as the Treasurer, I would like to thank everyone for their continuing support of St Mark's.

2. 2024- Income

In 2024 the total income increased slightly from £103,803.01 to £131,260.23 in 2024, helped by claiming the outstanding HMRC Gift Aid for the previous four years.

Without the Gift Aid claimed of £26,674.81 it would indicate there was a slight increase in income of £782.41 in 2024.

Planned Giving:

A) Monthly Standing Orders (SO) have seen an increase from £25,155 in 2023 to £28,025.00 in 2024. This is an increase of £2,870.00. A big thank-you to the people who now donate by Standing Order. This regular planned giving gives the finance committee a better idea for planning and budgeting. There is however, a note of warning that the year started at £2,430 per month donation but dropped to £1,750 in December due to some parishioners move away from the parish.

B) Gift Aid envelopes:

The Gift Aid envelope scheme has seen a decrease from £2,575.00 in 2023 to £1,230.00 in 2024, a decrease of £1,345.00. Some of the reduction may be because people have switched to a different form of donating.

C) Gift Aid Blue envelopes:

The blue envelope scheme has seen a decrease from £2,366.00 in 2023 to £1,773.00 in 2024, a decrease of £593.00

D) Open Plate Collection:

The open plate has seen a decrease from £3,697.92 in 2023 to £2,779.59 in 2024, a decrease of £918.33.

The number of people attending services has been slowly increasing but the use of the envelope donations is decreasing. This may be due to people moving to SO giving or donating using the card reader. I would ask if the taxpayers could use the Gift Aid form for the brown or blue envelopes, standing orders and the card reader as your donation is increased by 25% if you are a taxpayer (Please check before signing up for gift aid).

The SO planned giving, yellow envelope, blue envelope, open plate, donations and card reader donations income for 2024 was ~£42,471.58 which is an increase of ~£5,875.26 in 2024.

The introduction of the Bank Card machine (Card Swipe) has added to the income by £2,796.40 since its introduction.

The Church Hall is the biggest contributor of income to general funds. Despite the Hall being practically fully booked, 2024 has seen a small decrease in income from ~£61,000 in 2023 to ~£57,500 in 2024. Without Hall income, life would be vastly different at St Mark's.

Many thanks to Mrs D Bates and her team for their tireless work in invoicing and maintaining the hall that is so vital to St Mark's survival.

2024 Income

	Unrestricted Funds		Restricted		Total	Total
	Church	Hall	Development Fund	General Fund	2024	2023
	£	£	£	£		£
Voluntary Income						
Planned Giving Standing Orders	28,025.00			0.00	28,025.00	25,155.00
Planned Giving Yellow Envelopes	1,230.00				1,230.00	2,575.00
Gift Aid Blue Envelopes	1,773.00				1,773.00	2,366.00
Open Plate Unrestricted Cash	2,779.59				2,779.59	3,697.92
Gift Aidable Donations	801.00				801.00	220.00
Donations	5,066.50				5,066.50	2,582.40
Insurance claim not income				0.00	0.00	
Dev Fund 7625 Acc deposits			375.00		375.00	
SumUP Donations	2,796.49				2,796.49	
HMRC Refunds	26,674.81				26,674.81	
	69,146.39		375.00	0.00	69,521.39	36,596.32
Income from Investments						
Bank interest & compensation	719.44		56.62		776.06	454.05
	719.44		56.62	0.00	776.06	454.05
Income from church activities						
Cakes, coffee, crafts	120.00		0.00		120.00	
Monies to be paid out (Rest collected to be pa	0.00				0.00	
Fund raising Fayres (Any)	1,209.58		1,250.00	329.70	2,789.28	4,587.80
Church Hall Lettings (Income)		57,500.50			57,500.50	60,999.99
Hire of Church	0.00				0.00	200.00
St Mark's PCC Fees	553.00				553.00	963.00
Refund on utilities	0.00				0.00	1.85
	1,882.58	57,500.50	1,250.00	329.70	60,962.78	66,752.64
TOTAL INCOMING RESOURCES	71,748.41	57,500.50	1,681.62	329.70	131,260.23	103,803.01

3 - Expenditure:

The total expenditure for 2024 was £86,586.91. This is a decrease of £2,076.42 from the £88,663.33 figure for 2023.

The parish share for 2024 was £30,617.88 and was completely paid. St Mark's paid the parish share by a monthly standing order of £2,101.49.

The financial situation remains unchanged from previous years; all expenditure has been put on hold and only essential and safety works have been, and will be, carried out to keep the expenditure as low as possible. The works will be carried out over the course of 2024 will be detailed in the fabric report.

The finance committee is closely monitoring the utility bills. The electricity contracts for both the hall and church renewed in 2022 and will need negotiating in September 2026. Currently the church hall electricity cost is 22.34p/kWh and the church 22.59p/kWh with the standing charge 144p/day.

Gas is still on contract with British Gas until August and October 2025. A further one-year contract with British Gas has been put in place, but the cost is at the best price obtainable at 9.32/kWh and standing charge 200p/day. This means that the church and hall heating bills will be two-and-a-half times larger after August and September 2024, further increasing the dependence on the hall income.

A renewed effort is now required for fundraising for the Church building and roof fund. The Quinquennial report lists some work that is needed promptly to maintain the integrity of the building. After April 2024, this list will be added to, placing a further burden on the limited income.

2024 Expenditure

	Unrestricted Funds		Restricted Funds		Total	Total
	Church	Hall	Development Fund General	Phillipa Nicholas	2024	2023
	£	£	£	£	£	
CHURCH ACTIVITIES						
Ministry						
Diocesan Parish Share	30,617.88				30,617.88	32,621.93
Working Expenses	1,213.55				1,213.55	1,171.41
Vicarage Expenses	138.80				138.80	695.80
Visiting Clergy	227.86				227.86	1,036.32
Upkeep of Services	1,294.40				1,294.40	1,499.34
Church					0.00	
Insurance	4,956.76	2,424.63			7,381.39	6,806.40
Utilities	6,421.99				6,421.99	4,216.78
Boiler Maintenance	719.00	127.00			846.00	311.40
Repairs, Maintenance Certifications	9,199.99	576.27			9,776.26	4,555.60
Church & Hall Notice Boards					0.00	5,460.00
Church Music	195.00	1,520.26			1,715.26	326.76
Church Verger / Organist / Flowers W,F,B	312.00				312.00	378.98
Hall					0.00	
Running Costs		8,282.68			8,282.68	6,897.14
Utilities		7,586.64			7,586.64	5,513.75
Hall Sundries		805.67			805.67	1,122.47
Hall Major Expenditure Repair Maint		984.00			984.00	6,195.86
Hall Bad Cheques Refunds & Deposit Returns		680.80			680.80	
Other Parish Expenses					0.00	
Church Charity donations & paid out	609.70				609.70	286.07
Church Management and Administration					0.00	
Church Parish Admin	0.00				0.00	45.00
DBS Chcks	322.64				322.64	329.40
Church Quinquennial Inspections/works	7,369.39				7,369.39	9,192.92
					0.00	
TOTAL RESOURCES EXPENDED	63,598.96	22,987.95	0.00	0.00	86,586.91	88,663.33

4 – 2024 Statement of Assets and Liabilities

<u>Assets</u>	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total 2024	Total 2023
Nat West Bank Balances				
NatWest Bank 2526 Account	113,044.56	687.11	113,731.67	71,429.41
NatWest Bank 7625 Account	6,074.00	11,087.62	17,161.62	15536.62
CCLA Bank Accounts Balances				
C of E CBF No. 2 Account	13,672.52		13,672.52	12983.39
C of E CBF No. 3 Account	601.46		601.46	571.15
C of E CBF Account No.4		1,123.49	1,123.49	1066.87
Total Assets	133,392.54	12,898.22	146,290.76	101,587.44

5 – Movements in Restricted Funds during the year 2024.

	Bal B/fwd	Receipts	Payments	Transferred to General Funds	Loans	Bal C/fwd
NatWest 7625 Account	8,615.23	1,625.00	0.00		0.00	10,240.23
NatWest 7625 Account - Memorial Chapel	587.39					587.39
NatWest 7625 Account - Roof works	260.00					260.00
NatWest 7625 Account - Philippa Nicholas	2,470.00		0.00	-2,470.00	0.00	0.00
Reserved funds held in NW2625 Gen Fund	357.41	329.70				687.11
CBF No.4 004D Restricted	1,066.87	56.62	0.00	0.00	0.00	1,123.49
TOTAL	13,356.90	2,011.32	0.00	-2,470.00	0.00	12,898.22

The NatWest 7625 account is an account with restricted and unrestricted funds, to be used by the PCC for both general and specified (restricted) projects.

At the close of 2024 the NatWest 7625 Account balance was £17,161.62 of which £6,074.00 was unrestricted and £11,087.62 was restricted. The movement in the restricted funds are highlighted below:

- 1) The non-specific restricted fund of £8,615.23 received £1,625.00 during 2024 leaving a balance of £10,240.23.
- 2) In 2024 the remaining balance of the restricted Philippa Nicholas memorial Notice board fund of £2,470.00 was transferred to the general fund.
- 3) The restricted Memorial Chapel fund of £587.39 did not change during 2024.
- 4) The restricted Church Roof Works fund of £260.00 did not change during 2024.

6 Forward to 2025 and future years

As in last year's 'Forward into 2024', St Mark's is still at the point of unsustainability and some major actions will need to be taken to ensure the future of St Mark's

For the year 2024, St Mark's Parish Share was set at £25,217.93 and this has been paid in full. The 2025 parish share has been set at £27,587.04 which equates to a monthly payment of £2,298.92. The parish share for a parish with a full-time priest living in the vicarage would be more than £70,000 a year, this needs an additional church income of ~£3,400.00 per month. This is unachievable with our current income from the church of ~£4,000.00 per month including gift aid. In the current climate of increasing costs, and the Church income is likely to be maintained or fall slightly, but the parish share still needs to be paid as this is the cost of Ministry. Ministry includes the vicar, their housing costs, pension, and support from the Diocese.

In April 2024, Nye Saunders produced a quinquennial inspection report that cost ~£1,400.00. This has highlighted areas of concern which will require extra funds to cover existing issues, and any subsequent problems discovered during works.

A budget of £25,000 plus 10% has been set aside for very urgent work—to make safe the stonework that has deteriorated to such a state as to be dangerous.

The Church Hall is still the saviour of the church, raising a surplus of approximately £35,000 per year which enables the church and hall to sustain themselves.

St Mark's is so grateful for the hard work and dedication of Mrs Daryl Bates, her family and team, in keeping the Hall in good order and the bookings extremely high throughout 2024. There are some major works required for the hall to ensure that it is kept in a desirable condition for the hires. Planned work throughout 2025 will require funding (~£25,000), the account balances and hall income can deal with these bills.

Regarding the weekly/monthly collections and giving, if you have not reviewed the amount, you are giving, please could you consider increasing your donations to help address the shortfall in income against expenditure. The treasurer would ask if it would be possible to change your method of donation to a Standing Order as this gives a reliable and regular income to enable better budgeting.

With an Electoral roll of 63, the potential £70,000 parish share would equate to a donation of approximately £95 per month or £22 per week per person. Increasing the congregation is essential to cover this amount. Please also remember this would not cover the costs of the church insurance (£4,956.76 for 2024), utilities (£6,421.99 for 2024) and repairs (£5,807.48 for 2024) and Quinquennial works (£7,369.39 for 2024), therefore we do need to increase our income independently of the church hall.

St Mark's, since August 2024, is now on an increased tariff for gas, which is just over twice the price prior to August 2024. November through to February 2025 has seen monthly gas bills of £2,100 plus. Dig deep if you wish to keep warm.

7 Bank Account Functions

General funds

NatWest Account ---2625 - this is the account used for the day to day running of the Church and Church Hall.

C of E CBF No.2 account - this is the savings account for general non-restricted funds.

C of E CBF No.3 account – this is a designated account that was designated for music at St Mark's.

Restricted Accounts

NatWest Account ---7625- is an account with restricted and unrestricted funds, to be used by the PCC both general and specified (restricted) projects.

C of E CBF No.4 Account - the fund in this savings account are restricted for music and have the same restrictions as for the NatWest Account

Accounts



ANNUAL CHURCH MEETINGS

Sunday, 17th March 2024

**ANNUAL MEETING of PARISHIONERS for the
ELECTION of CHURCHWARDENS**

in the Church at 12.15

ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING

in the Church at 12.30

Meeting Documents

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The Parish of St Mark South Farnborough

Annual Meeting of Parishioners for the Election of Churchwardens

Sunday 17th March 2024 at 12.15 in the Church

Agenda

1. Opening Prayer
2. Apologies for absence
3. Minutes of the meeting, Sunday 2nd of April 2023
4. Election of Churchwardens

oOo

Minutes of the 2023 Annual Meeting of Parishioners for the Election of Churchwardens

Sunday the 23rd April 2023 after the 10.30 Eucharist in Church

Present: Mr Deglan Rowe, Chairman and Churchwarden and 28 parishioners.

Opening Prayer It was decided by the Chairman Mr Deglan Rowe to forgo the opening prayer as all present had attended the 10.30 am Eucharist immediately before the meeting.

Apologies for absence were recorded from, Mrs Ann Ient, Miss Gwen Miller, Mrs Maria Smith, Mr Michael Evans, and Mrs Sue Evans.

Minutes of the previous meeting

The minutes of the previous meeting held on Sunday the 23rd April 2023 had been distributed previously, and were approved as a true record of the proceedings. Proposed by Mr Mick Smith and seconded by Mrs Hilary Bellamy with all present in favour.

Election of two Churchwardens

There were two nominations for the position of Churchwarden: -

Mr Deglan Rowe, proposed by James Podger and seconded by Mr Michael Palmer, and Mr Michael Palmer, proposed by Mr Colin Lagor and seconded by Mr James Podger.

There being no further nominations for the position of Churchwarden, Mr Deglan Rowe, and Mr Michael Palmer were duly elected as Churchwardens to serve for a period of one year with all present in favour.

The Parish of St Mark South Farnborough

Annual Parochial Church Meeting

**Sunday 17th March 2024 in the Church following immediately
after the meeting to elect Churchwardens**

Agenda

- 1 Apologies for absence
- 2 Minutes of the previous meeting Sunday 23rd April 2023
- 3 Election of the Honorary PCC Secretary
- 4 Election of the Honorary PCC Treasurer
- 5 Election of Parochial Church Council Members
- 6 Aldershot Deanery Synod and election of Deanery Synod Representatives
- 7 The Electoral Roll
 - a) acceptance of the Roll
 - b) appointment of an Electoral Roll Officer
- 8 Financial Report from the Treasurer
- 9 Independent Examiner
 - a) Note of thanks
 - b) Appointment of the Independent Examiner
- 10 Safeguarding
- 11 Report on the Proceedings of the Parochial Church Council for 2023
- 12 Report on the Fabric, Goods and Ornaments of the Church
- 13 Reports from Church Groups
14. Any other business, *to be notified in writing to the Chairman not less than seven days before the meeting.*
15. Closing Prayer

Minutes of the Annual Parochial Church Meeting, The Parish of St Mark, South Farnborough

Sunday the 23rd April 2023

Immediately following the meeting to elect the Churchwardens.

Apologies for absence: as for the previous meeting.

Minutes of the previous meeting

Minutes of the previous meeting held on Sunday the 15th May 2022 had been previously distributed and were approved as a true record of the proceedings.

Proposed by Mr Deglan Rowe and seconded by Mr Jim Ennis. All present in favour.

The Electoral Roll

- a) Mrs Judith Gibbons reported that there were 56 members on the Electoral Roll at the date of the 2023 APCM, and there were 53 at the close of the 2022 parish year. The breakdown is: 30 members within the Parish, and 26 outside of the Parish.

There are two applications pending to join the Roll as soon as the meeting closed.

- b) Appointment of Electoral Roll Officer: Mrs Gibbons agreed to continue as Electoral Roll Officer and was proposed by Mr Deglan Rowe and seconded by Mr Jim Ennis. All present in favour.

The Chairman's Report

Is attached as part of the 2023 APCM document pack. There were no questions to this report.

Report on the proceedings of the Parochial Church Council

This report is attached as part of the 2023 APCM document pack. There were no questions to the report.

Finance Report

The Treasurer's report and the 2023 accounts are part of the 2024 APCM document pack. The Treasurer made the following comments to his report: -

- If an Incumbent does not live in the Vicarage, then our Parish Share will reduce to £26k.
- If the vicarage is not used, then the Diocese would try to rent out the building. Any money collected in rent would go to the Diocese, not the Church.

Independent Examiner

- a) **Note of thanks:** - A note of thanks was sent to the Independent Examiner of the Accounts, Mr Patrick Brown.

b) Appointment of an Independent Examiner: It is hoped that Mr Patrick Brown will be willing to continue as the Independent Examiner for our accounts.

Fabric, Goods and Church Ornaments

The report is attached as part of this pack. There are a number of problems with the structure of the building which are allowing water ingress during heavy rain and strong winds. Thanks are due to Mrs Hilary Bellamy for arranging to have the worst areas repaired.

The Quinquennial Inspection is due next year (2024). There were no questions to the report.

Aldershot Deanery Synod report

Is attached as part of the 2024 APCM document pack. Mrs Judith Gibbons reported that hers, and Mr James Podger's term of office had two years to run, and not one as reported in the 2022 minutes.

There were no questions to the report.

Election of four PCC Members

There are two vacancies carried over from the last APCM, and two vacancies from members whose three-year term is at an end. There were four nominations to fill these vacancies: -

- Mr Peter Fane-Gladwin, nominated by Mrs Daryl Bates and seconded by Mr Colin Lagor
- Mrs Christina Fane-Gladwin, nominated by Mr Mike Palmer and seconded by Ms Daryl Bates
- Ms Angharad Nicholas-Podger, nominated by Mrs Judith Gibbons and seconded by Mr Jim Ennis
- Mr Jim Ennis, nominated by Mrs Jacqui Nicol and seconded by Ms Angharad Nicholas-Podger

Immediately following the meeting, Mrs Jacqui Nicol tendered her resignation from the Council. She apologised for any inconvenience caused by her resignation. The Chairman and the Secretary thanked her for her valuable contribution to the Council.

Mrs Lorraine Crossingham, who had been nominated by Mrs Hilary Bellamy and seconded by Mrs Margaret Lapwood, had indicated that she was willing to stand as a member of the Council if there was a vacancy. As all four vacancies were filled, Mrs Crossingham was co opted to serve on the Council until the 2024 APCM. She subsequently tendered her resignation from the Council on the 28th May 2023.

There being no further nominations from the floor, four were elected to serve for three years, and Mrs Crossingham to serve to the 2024 APCM.

Election of the Honorary Treasurer

There was one nomination for the post of Honorary Treasurer, Mr Mick Smith, nominated by Mr Mike Palmer and seconded by Mr Jim Ennis.

There being no further nominations from the floor, Mr Mick Smith was duly elected to serve as Honorary Treasurer for the period of one year.

Election of the Honorary Secretary

There was one nomination for the post of Honorary PCC Secretary, Mr Colin Lagor nominated by Mr Mike Palmer and seconded by Mr James Podger.

There being no further nominations from the floor, Mr Colin Lagor was duly elected to serve as Honorary PCC Secretary for one year.

Safeguarding

Mr Jim Ennis who took over the role as Safeguarding Officer part way through the year, continues to complete his training.

Any other Business.

Votes of thanks were recorded for:

Mrs Felicity Lewis for continuing to run her small team of Church cleaners.

Mike Palmer proposed a vote of thanks to Mr Mick Smith for his work in developing a new parish website and also to Mrs Anne Rowe for her work in maintaining the current website.

It was very good to have baby Elliot in Church today for the first time, his Baptism is being arranged for the near future.

There being no further business, the meeting closed with all present, saying The Grace together.

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Annual Report of the Parochial Church Council for 2023



Annual Report of the Parochial Church Council for 2023

1 Administrative Information

St Mark's Parish Church is situated on the corner of Reading Road and Alexandra Roads, Farnborough Hampshire. It is part of the Diocese of Guildford, within the Church of England. The Parish has no administrative support or office facilities. The address for correspondence is: -

- St Mark's Church Parish Office,
- Reading Road,
- Farnborough,
- Hants,
- GU14 6ND.

The Parish became a fully registered charity, registration number 1188893, with the Charity Commission on 3rd April 2020.

2 Structure, Governance and Management

The method of appointment of PCC members is as set out in the Church Representation Rules. The PCC operates with three official sub-committees: the Finance, the Fabric/Quinquennial, and the Hall Management sub-committees, which are chaired by a Churchwarden. Each is made up of four other members, with the ability to co-opt other members as necessary. The Executive committee, which is usually chaired by the Vicar, and consists of both Churchwardens, the Treasurer and the Secretary. has not met due to the Interregnum. These groups make recommendations to the main council, where they are debated, and decisions made.

3. Objectives and Activities

PCC Role

- Work with the Vicar to promote the Church in the Parish, and its mission and how to improve this.
- Care for the Church and its future and structure.
- Promote links with St Mark's School.
- Ensure that all who wish to contribute to church life have the opportunity to do so.

In 2023 we started the year with our Parish still without a Vicar and the PCC still running the Parish. We were lucky to have the support of visiting clergy, until in July 2023, Rev Phil Roche joined us as Priest-in-Charge, supported by his wife Helen (LLM). The net effect has caused St Mark's to grow in reputation: 'Welcome to All'.

Deglan Rowe, Churchwarden

4 Electoral Roll

As the Electoral Roll does not close until two weeks before the APCM, this is not a "definite" report.

At the time of writing, the number on the Electoral Roll stands at 63, with seven people joining the roll since the last report and no names being removed.

It is worth noting that Electoral Roll numbers no longer affect us financially as far as Parish Share is concerned, so “the more the merrier” approach is not necessarily to be avoided. Electoral Roll numbers are used to calculate the number of Representatives we have at Deanery Synod.

Worth noting that in 2025 the Roll is cancelled and EVERYBODY will have to re-apply. All members will be contacted individually at the appropriate time.

Judith Gibbons

5 PCC Membership

The membership from April 2023 to March 2024 was:

Position	From 2023 APCM	At 2024 APCM
Priest-in-charge	Rev Phil Roche from July 2023	Rev Phil Roche
Lay Minister	Mrs Helen Roche from September 2023	Mrs Helen Roche
Churchwardens	Mr Deglan Rowe Mr Michael Palmer	Mr Deglan Rowe Mr Michael Palmer
Aldershot Deanery Synod	Mr James Podger (1) Mrs Judith Gibbons	Vacancy Mrs Judith Gibbons
Honorary Treasurer	Mr Michael Smith	Mr Michael Smith
Honorary Secretary	Mr Colin Lagor	Mr Colin Lagor
Elected Members (Full council = 9 members)	Mrs Felicity Lewis (2) Mrs Daryl Bates Mr Jim Ennis Miss Angharad Nicholas-Podger Mrs Hilary Bellamy Mrs Margaret Lapwood Mr Peter Fane-Gladwin (2) Mrs Christina Fane-Gladwin Mrs Jacqui Nicol (2) Mrs Lorraine Crossingham (Co-opted) (3) No vacancies from April 2023. <i>(1) Mr James Podger resigned leaving a Deanery Synod vacancy.</i> <i>(2) Mrs Nicol, and Mrs Lewis resigned in 2023 and Mr Peter Fane-Gladwin stated his intention to stand down at the APCM, giving three elected vacancies at the 2024 APCM.</i> <i>(3) Mrs Lorraine Crossingham was co-opted on to the Council to serve until the 2024 APCM. She tendered her resignation from the Council during the year.</i>	Mrs Daryl Bates Mr Jim Ennis Miss Angharad Nicholas-Podger Mrs Hilary Bellamy Mrs Margaret Lapwood Mrs Christina Fane-Gladwin <i>Plus three vacancies</i> <i>Mrs Daryl Bates term of office ends at the 2024 APCM making a total of four vacancies</i>

6 Review of the year January to December 2023

We started 2023 in a state of some uncertainty. Rev. Gareth Dicks had left the Parish in December 2022. The Vicarage was once again empty, and the Church managed by us. We were able to cover the services with continued support from Stephen Mourant, Keith Bristow from Ash, Bruce Nicole, Andrew Linn and Sarah Norbron from St Peter's, and Phil Roche. Holy communion was available at almost all of our 10.30 am Services, together with the 8 am Services on the first Sunday of each month.

We were fortunate to have Bishop Andrew, with Rev Stephen Mourant, join us for Palm Sunday and take part in our annual play, starting in the Hall and proceeding to the church. It was also wonderful that Gwen Miller (age 103) was able to be with us for the service and congregational photo in the church.

Following discussions with Archdeacon Paul Davies (now Bishop of Dorking), a new strategy was implemented for our future. Following the model of Godalming and other parishes, it was mooted that we might explore the possibility of a part-time priest and Rev Phil Roche was invited to conduct some services accompanied by Helen, his wife. Their visits went well and Phil was interviewed to join us as part-time Priest-in-Charge. On the 18th July 2023 he was inducted by Paul Davies into our Parish. Helen was licensed as our Lay Minister on 10th September 2023.

Since then, we have seen more new faces and better arrangements and constructive activities for the children. The church is generally open on Fridays, when Phil is present, together with the 8 am/10.30 am Services mentioned above. The pattern of Services was to resume with the Communion red book for the 10.30 am Services.

The Diocese let out the vicarage and our Parish Share remained manageable, enabling us to finance work to the church. We had leaks in the roof requiring urgent repairs. The entrance-way and its surrounds were re-pointed, making the brickwork look brand new.

We celebrated the King's Coronation in style, and Christmas was well celebrated with good attendances for our Christmas Services and Advent.

Deglan Rowe, Churchwarden

7 Report of the Proceedings of the Parochial Church Council

The Parochial Church Council (PCC) consists of six Ex Officio Members who serve for one year only, two Churchwardens, the Treasurer, the Secretary, and two Deanery Synod members, plus the Priest-in-Charge and Lay Minister. We are pleased that the Revd Phil Roche was inducted as Priest in charge on the 18th July 2023 for a period of two years and that in September 2023 Helen Roche was licensed as a Lay Minister in this parish.

The main body of the PCC consists of nine elected members who serve for three years. At the APCM, there were four vacancies, two new members were elected, and two members whose 3-year term was at an end, decided to stand again making the total Council members up to nine.

Immediately following the meeting, Mrs Jacqui Nicol tendered her resignation from the Council. She apologised for any inconvenience caused by her resignation. The Chairman and the Secretary thanked her for her valuable contribution to the Council.

Mrs Lorraine Crossingham, who had been nominated by Hilary Bellamy and seconded by Margaret Lapwood, had indicated that she was willing to stand as a member of the Council if there was a vacancy. As all four vacancies were filled, Mrs Crossingham was co-opted to serve on the Council until the 2024 APCM. She subsequently tendered her resignation from the Council on the 28th May 2023.

During the year, Mr James Podger one of our Deanery Synod Representatives. resigned from the Council. It was decided to leave this vacancy until the APCM.

Mrs Felicity Lewis and Mrs Jacqui Nichol resigned from the Council during their time in office, making two vacancies for PCC members. Mrs Daryl Bates 3-year term of office ends at the 2024 APCM and Mr Peter Fane Gladwin has stated his intention to stand down at the APCM. This makes a total of four vacancies for elected members of the Council.

The role of Safeguarding Officer was taken on by Mr Jim Ennis who volunteered to become the Safeguarding Officer as soon as he has completed his training. Mrs Vino Perera has volunteered to help him with this role.

During the past 12 months, the PCC has met for two special meetings, and seven normal meetings. The Archdeacon of Surrey (Paul Davis), and Rev. Jens Mankel (Mission Enabler - Revitalisation) attended one of the normal meetings, and the Archdeacon attended one meeting without Jens.

Parish health meetings with Jens.

The following subjects were discussed: -

- Clergy cover during the Interregnum.
- Formation of sub committees
- The appointment of Rev Phil Roche as Priest in Charge
- The updating of the Vision Statement Document for St Mark's future
- Meeting with the Archdeacon of Surrey and Church Planting Advisor (Jens Mankel)
- Approving the Accounts for the APCM
- Approving the addition of Mrs Helen Roche as part of the St Mark's Ministry Team.
- St Mark's School, the appointment of a new Head teacher, and the School joining the Diocesan Academy Scheme.

Colin Lagor, PCC Secretary

8 Churchwardens Report for 2023

Last year we said goodbye to Rev. Gareth Dicks, albeit we parted on good terms. It was evident that he could not offer what St Marks required, being a broad-based church. At first, what would happen seemed very uncertain, as clearly the Church Plant plan had not worked. Having consulted with the then Archdeacon Paul Davies, Paul promised a different approach. Following the precedent set by Godalming Parish Church, and also some other parishes within the Diocese, it was proposed that we had a part-time priest i.e. one who would still be in paid employment, but available to care of the Parish on Sundays and some additional days as agreed.

Meanwhile we relied upon visiting clergy for our services (late 2022 and into 2023). Stephen Maurant in particular came to our rescue, together with Haydon, Bruce Nicole, Mark Chester, Keith Bristow from Ash, Andrew Linn, Sarah Norbron, and a certain Phil Roche. Stephen Maurant was extremely supportive with the Easter Saturday Confirmation preparations and the St Mark's School Leavers' Service. He has continued to support our school with assemblies etc.

Phil seemed to show particular interest in us and ultimately, he was interviewed and appointed as Priest-in-charge in July 2023.

On Palm Sunday 2023 Bishop Andrew, Bishop of Guildford, honoured us by leading our 1030am service. This was the last service to be attended by our oldest communicant, Gwen Miller. Gwen was baptised in our church and sadly passed away in January 2024 aged 103 years.

We arranged a wonderful Easter celebration with Rev Mark Chester, and his wife, Zilla, again answering our prayers for Easter Day, to rise early for our annual Dawn Service. Mick Smith, arranged the usual small fire outside, which turned out to be a little livelier than anticipated as the stone cracked and caused a minor explosion when we were back in the church. The weather was kind to us, with a beautiful dawn and the colours changing in the East Window as the sun rose, together with the changing light in the other windows of the church. Some 35 people attended the service, followed by Easter Parish Breakfast and other entertainment including an Easter Egg Hunt in the Church Hall. This was followed by the 10.30 am Eucharist with Mark Chester presiding over the same.

In July we had Phil's Service of Induction by Archdeacon Paul, who would later be appointed Bishop of Dorking. Many dignitaries were in attendance, including the Mayor of Rushmoor and most of our neighbouring clergy. Helen Roche joined us as our first Licensed Lay Minister in September. Phil was keen for the congregation to be fully involved by way of offering training. Some members were trained as Communion Assistants, and two, Daryl Bates and Jim Ennis, (joining Deglan) as Occasional Preachers.

The new children's area was improved and supported by Angharad, Helen, Natasha and other volunteers. All Services now involve the children at the start and finish. This was a definite step forward. The church is also now open on Friday mornings for prayer, fellowship and 'Crafty Coffee'.

Later in the year, in typical St Mark's style, we were able to celebrate the coronation of His Majesty, King Charles, with a version of the King in attendance and everyone in their regal attire, together with a wonderful spread, principally organised by Daryl and Carole.

We were pleased to see the year out with a much-improved attendance during Advent and our Christmas services. We look forward to the year ahead.

Deglan Rowe and Mike Palmer, Churchwardens

9 Priest-in-Charge Report July -December 2023

Priest-in-Charge Report- July to Dec 2023

What a wonderful welcome given by, not just the people of St Mark's, but the wider area. St Mark's has shown that it is a really welcoming place. Welcoming not just me and Helen as Licensed Lay Minister, but welcoming all who come to St Mark's, and welcoming new ideas and ways of doing things.

It's been a very busy first six months, and it's been great getting to know everyone and working with the whole congregation and the PCC.

I've been charged with 4 priorities to focus on and these have driven the activities and direction for development within the parish. These are:

1. Provide Leadership & Pastoral Care to St Mark's with a focus on providing worship of a high standard, and opportunities to grow in discipleship
2. Ensure an effective link with St Mark's CofE Primary School, so that the church plays its part in the Christian Distinctiveness of the school
3. Work alongside the Mission Enabler (Revitalisation) in growing stewardship so that the church may be properly resourced for mission and ministry

4. Work with the Area Dean, Deanery Leadership Team, & Archdeacon in discerning the pattern of ministry beyond the interim period

1- Provide Leadership & Pastoral Care to St Mark's with a focus on providing worship of a high standard, and opportunities to grow in discipleship

A number of changes have taken place with the worship offered at St Mark's. This has focussed on establishing worship for the whole family, whilst maintaining the focus on communion.

We have reintroduced the use of the Church of England's Common Worship resources to provide the widest range of liturgical resources available. This has been supported by having Old and New Testament readings in addition to the Gospel. This increases the teaching and preaching opportunities for our preaching team. We've also been able to train and begin to deploy two more people as occasional preachers. This brings our team of occasional preachers to three, in addition to Helen and myself. Jim and Daryl are our latest occasional preachers, alongside Deglan, who are now part of our regular pattern of preaching. Well done and thank you

Alongside these changes in building the ministry team and liturgical resources, there have been a number of changes to the layout of our worship spaces to support and develop how we come together. The main changes have been creating space around the nave altar table by removing the old kneelers, returning to using the high altar and chancel for some services, and returning the memorial chapel to its main function as a chapel.

These changes have enabled us to consolidate our service provision, and introduce new services. Our pattern remains generally the same, but we have been able to adapt this for special days, eg Remembrance, and for new services. In October we held our first 'In Memory' service, and I expect this to become an annual event. This year we've also changed the special services through Advent and Christmas. These changes brought 54% more people to our services during this time compared to 2022.

Including our children and young people within our worship has also transformed things beyond my expectations. By having a clear time for children at the start and end of the service has given new purpose to our worship, and feeling of family that is so important to St Mark's. The relocation of the children's area to the south aisle of the church, carried out by so many willing volunteers, has been key in this development. Investing in new resources has also meant we can improve what is offered for our children and young people. But the instrumental force behind this transformation has been the small team of people who have committed to developing the work with our young people, particularly Helen, Judith, Angharad, and Tash, as well as others, for starting this journey of change. They have brought a new vitality and inspiration to our Sunday mornings. I'd also like to thank Marcus for the joy he's added, as well the unwavering dedication of the team working with the children and who spend time preparing the activities, supporting, praying and chatting with, and listening to our children during our services.

Our young people have also driven a development I was not expecting. I was asked if there was any reason why they could not support the distribution of communion. It is this question from one of our young people that gave rise to a team of ten people, of all ages, who have been trained and licensed to distribute communion. The team are also licensed to take communion to those who cannot make it to a service at St Mark's. Thank you team, for responding to the call, the support that you give in our worship in services, and also thanks on behalf of those who receive communion at home. .

There have also been a whole number of things 'behind the scenes' that have been going on. These include tidying, sorting and removing a whole host of items, paperwork, and things that have been

cluttering the worship spaces, and preventing us from having fellowship together. There have also been a number of improvements in health and safety management, administration, and practical improvements eg creating storage for our flower arrangers and safe storage of cleaning materials.

A big thank you to everyone who has been involved, and have worked so hard to support these changes..

2- Ensure an effective link with St Mark's CofE Primary School, so that the church plays its part in the Christian Distinctiveness of the school

The first step in building a more effective link with our parish school was to join the governing body. I did this in September at the start of the academic year, and it has been a pleasure working alongside the other governors, under the direction of our Chair Michael, to provide strategic support for the school.

I've also met with the Headteacher, who was also new at the start of the academic year and visited the children's classes. I'd like to thank Rev Stephen Maurant who has continued to regularly visit and support the school.

I'm pleased that the school has continued their long established traditions of hosting Harvest and Christmas services at St Mark's. Changes are also afoot at the school, such as the new 'Carols around the Campfire' service that took place in the school playground. It was a great success, and it was really good to meet a number of parents and families at the school. But see the school report for more details

I've also begun to consider how and when a team could be formed to undertake specific activities at the school such as 'Open the Book'. At the end of 2023 this was still a little early to instigate discussions, and of course it will need to be tied in with the School Development Plan. But watch this space.

3- Work alongside the Mission Enabler (Revitalisation) in growing stewardship so that the church may be properly resourced for mission and ministry

St Mark's is a church on a journey. A journey into a new lease of life, joy, sharing the love of God and growth. To help us on this journey we have been working with Jens Mankel, Mission Enabler (Revitalisation), a member of the Guildford Diocese Mission Team.

Jens has provided challenge, direction and helped to form a framework of activities, considerations, discussions, and workshops to support St Mark's on its journey. These have taken place with the PCC, and a wider group of people. We are now 6 months into a 2-year plan that will help us to

- Consider the strengths and areas for development at St Mark's
- Consider how we provide teaching and discipleship for our congregations
- Develop a mission plan
- Develop plans to ensure we can resource the discipleship and growth activities that are in the mission plan

This is a 2-year process, and good progress is being made.

I want to thank Jens for the support he's providing, and also to the PCC and wider group for their commitment and openness to the journey. Both Jens and I have been challenged and learnt a lot from being involved in this process.

One of the outcomes of this process already in place is the introduction of the Welcome Team who provide the initial contact for people at the start and end of our services together. A big thank you to Judith for coordinating this, as well as thanks to all who are part of the team.

4- Work with the Area Dean, Deanery Leadership Team, & Archdeacon in discerning the pattern of ministry beyond the interim period

This is the priority area where the least activity has taken place. So far, in discussion with the Area Dean, we have decided to pause any activity until summer 2024 at the earliest. This is so we can review the progress in the other priority areas, before commencing any formal planning. We need to have a clear picture of the direction of travel for St Mark's alongside seeking to see and hear God's vision for the future.

The PCC will of course have a key role in these discussions and prayers. Please pray for them as we progress through the coming year and deliberations commence.

However, part of the ongoing pattern of ministry at St Mark's is having an established local ministry team. The development of the ministry team is underway, with our occasional preachers, and other teams. In addition to this three members of St Mark's also attended a 'Nudge' event hosted by the Diocesan Mission and Ministry Team, to explore how God is calling them in terms of formal ministry. We will continue to support those who feel called to to be minister's of God, and part of the ministry team at St Mark's.

Thank you

I need to complete this section by publicly expressing my thanks to all those people who support the work of St Mark's. They include the PCC, those who support and take part in our worship, those who help and support with the provision of refreshments, who manage the church hall, and do all those unseen things that keep things running eg managing servicing the boiler, cleaning and shining the church in preparation for worship, provision of refreshments, and a myriad of other activities without which St Mark's would not be the good place it is. And thank you to everyone who comes to share in the worship of God, and the sharing of God's love wherever they go.

On the night I was formally installed as Priest-in-Charge in July 2023, I spoke briefly on three 'f's that sum up St Mark's

Faith

Food

Friendship

These remain true. But I've recently been challenged, and am considering adding a fourth St Mark's 'f'- Fun. Everytime I enter the church, church hall, or school, I see people smiling, a clear indication that people are enjoying themselves and having fun.

So thank you all for a fun first six months.

Rev Phil Roche

10 Safeguarding Children and Vulnerable Adults

Safeguarding of vulnerable adults and children is an important component of the work of St. Marks'. This year we have continued strengthening our safeguarding policies and practice. We are working closely with the Diocesan Safeguarding Lead to ensure that we stay up to date with policy and practice.

We use the Diocesan Safeguarding Dashboard ensure we are compliant. I was appointed as safeguarding lead for the parish in 2023 and I continue the work of Daryl Bates and Deaglan Rowe who previously occupied the role. All those who have a role in the parish have undertaken Safeguarding training and DBS checks.

Safeguarding concerns can be reported to Me, Rev. Phil Roche, Helen Roche, Chruchwardens or any member of the PCC.

Jim Ennis, Safeguarding Lead.

11 Deanery Synod report

Since the APCM held in 2023, there has been quite a few problems with aspects of organisation and only one meeting has been held. Unfortunately, neither of our reps NOR our priest were able to attend. Minutes of the meeting tell us that everyone was delighted to be able to see the rebuilt All Saints Church in Fleet. The business of the meeting did not reveal anything for which we at St Mark's need to take action.

Following the resignation of my co representative, it will be necessary to elect another rep at the APCM to serve for the remaining two years of office.

Judith Gibbons

12 Fabric Report

The work to the Interior of the Church Hall continued so that use of the Hall would be satisfactory and more comfortable and attractive to visitors. New chairs were purchased and the painting of the rooms continued. The Hall thus looks fresher and more welcoming.

We were able to turn our attention to the church itself. With the sterling efforts of Hilary Bellamy and others, we were able to secure good quality contractors to sort out our various leaks in the church vestry roof and the repointing of the brickwork to the porch and surrounding area. The outside has already been transformed back to how it must have been some time ago and all within budget.

The kitchen area has also been improved so it is easier to keep clean and tidy and we look forward to further redecoration within the interior. A new children's area has been opened up on the southern side allowing better access and this is now in full use. Next year we will have the Quinquennial Inspection of the Church to look at the structure and other relevant issues, so the PCC and the wardens will need to prepare for this in April 2024.

Deglan Rowe, Churchwarden

13 Annex – Reports from Church Groups for 2023

A1 Church Hall Committee

The Hall continues to be an essential part of Parish and community life, being heavily booked all week and at weekends. We cater for a huge range of activities for people of all ages from little ones at music and movement sessions up to those more senior who go to the various U3A classes. We provide space for those seeking help in a number of ways and we are used by both Pentecostal churches as well as North Camp Matters Association and the Nepalese community.

During the last year we did not raise prices but will need to do so in 2024. We have installed new Fire Instructions in the rooms and Fire Assembly Points in the grounds. We have installed a Defibrillator in the foyer.

We are eternally grateful to those who volunteer for Work Days and help with emergency work. We could not manage without them.

It is necessary to state that managing the Hall has become an enormous task which the present manager is not prepared to shoulder after April 2025.

Daryl Bates

A2 Music

Paul Collins has played the music for all of the 10:30 Eucharist services for the reporting period 2023/2024. Paul's system is based on a Denon Professional Blu-ray / USB player and a 12-inch television. It uses a large keyboard-amplifier and loudspeaker that is matched to St. Mark's church and is positioned in the Chancel to emulate the sound of the church pipe organ. The system was first used for Eucharist services in 2012. It is basically a computer-based music player. One advantage of using a computer rather than a CD player is that any music is straightforward and fast to find and play, which means that there are no unnecessary interruptions during worship. Other advantages over a CD player are that the correct number of verses can always be played and the Media Player can play other organ music and any music before and after the service and during Communion.



Paul Collins

A3 St Mark's Floral Team

Our team continues, undaunted by the fact that we are not numerous. Since our last report, Marie has handed over the reins but I remain eternally grateful for her continued wonderful arrangements. Very pleasing to report is the fact that a number of ladies, professing to be unable to arrange flowers, none the less have assisted us on numerous occasions, which is allowing us to continue to make St Mark's look beautiful at all times.

Rev. Phil asked if it was possible to have symmetry at the High Altar, and to that end two substantial plinths were made to my specifications. We are all agreed that it is rather lovely that congregation sitting at BOTH sides of the nave aisle can now see flowers.

We remain forever thankful that for the most part we do not struggle to find funds for flowers, with members of the church being extremely generous with their contributions, either when arranging when it is their turn on the rota, or donating for festivals and anniversaries.

At the time of writing this report, lent looms, and I hope that I can maintain the tableaux tradition as has happened over the last two or three years.

Exciting news is that a Flower Festival is planned for this year, to take place over the first weekend in June. The theme will be "An English Country Garden" and more details should be available by the time this report is received at the APCM.

Many many thanks to all who have assisted in any way towards keeping St Mark's 'beautified' this year.

Judith Gibbons

A4 St Mark's Library

There is a great diversity of books in the library ranging from prayer books, lives of the Saints/Apostles and seasonal information to name but a few. Some of the books were suitable for children so I have transferred them to the children's section. I try to display seasonal books on the top of the bookcase. When I first took over, I wanted to place books on the same subject together but unfortunately this isn't possible due to the different sizes of the books and different sizes of the shelves.

I do hope you will browse through the books on offer and indeed borrow them. I'm sure they will provide food for thought. If anyone has any suggestions as to what they would like to include in the library I would welcome them.

Jacqui Nichol

A5 St Mark's Website

Website address: stmarksfbro@outlook.com

Firstly, a big thankyou to Anne Rowe for keeping the website calendar, monthly prayer calendar and weekly scriptures up to date, this requires quite a lot of time to add the information to the site.

In late 2023 there was a major change to the look of the website which required a complete rebuild of the 'Home Page'. Church Edit have introduced 'Design Builder' which is now used to build the 'Header' (Top section), 'Content Page' (Middle section) and 'Footer' (Bottom) of the Home Page. It is hoped that the new format is acceptable. Any constructive criticism should be forward to the website administrators.

The menu has been kept as simple as possible, with the use of Buttons to redirect the user to the section rather than 'Click here' used in the previous version for redirection.

The layout has been developed to best suit the handheld devices such as the smart phone and tablet, as these are possibly the most used way of viewing the website. The colours used are black and white, the font is Arial, and some heading is purple.

There is still a large amount of work required to update the history of St Marks. This is an ongoing process and will appear in the menu as pages are developed and ready to be viewed.

The main aim of the website is to be forward looking. Previously the website was very retrospective and that part of the website is being updated to be more in line with the new format.

Mick Smith

A6 Social Committee

Once again we have had a very busy year in organising events both for the Parish and also for local Charities such as the Food Bank, Phyllis Tuckwell Hospice and MacMillan Cancer Fund.

We continue to hold the monthly Parish breakfast which is very popular, as well as catering for other events. We celebrated the Coronation of King Charles with 'A Feast Fit for a King' which was enjoyed by over 50 people.

Before the arrival of Rev Phil in July we had found ourselves taking on responsibility for organising Lent Groups and other more ecclesiastical events. So, we are now delighted that Phil volunteered to join the Committee and we can discuss the events for Festivals and other occasions with fresh ideas.

Our annual Christmas Festival based around Christmas music was most successful and the next one is already being planned.

We are delighted that so many people take part in all that we organise and look forward to another successful year.

Daryl Bates

St Mark's CE Primary School

2023-24



St Mark's CE Primary School have had a busy year full of exciting events linked to the church and local community. On Wednesday 29th March 2023, we held our annual Pause Day which included our Easter Service at St Mark's Church. During the morning the children visited prayer stations set up the school hall, allowing time for reflection and quiet. In the classrooms each class focused on "witnesses" during the Easter story. A beautiful end to the day was to celebrate in church with our families and the St Mark's congregation. The children retold parts of the Easter story, using songs, poems, actions and bible passage. Yr5/6 wrote a fitting prayer to conclude our service. A huge thank you to Rev Stephen Maurant for coming to spend the day at St Mark's, he helped with our prayer stations, was quizzed by each class with their "big questions" and finally lead our service at the church. It was a very special day for the children to "pause" and reflect on the things which are important to them. Year 1/2 made beautiful Easter Garden's as part of our RE unit. The children invited their families to come a view their creations and explained to them the symbolism of each part. The children spoke confidently about the Easter story and could explain how these gardens helped them understand the death and resurrection of Jesus.



Our Year 6 children were delighted to attend the annual Leavers Service at Guildford Cathedral to celebrate with other schools their time at Primary School. They also had a fantastic day out at Wintershall, watching the fully immersive production of the "Life of Christ".



Three of our Year 6 girls were asked to prepare a "please" prayer as part of the Leaver's Service. They read this with great confidence in front of a packed cathedral.

In July we were able to return to the church for our school Leavers Service to wish our fantastic Year 6 good luck in the next stage of their education journey.

We also said farewell to Mr William Neighbour, our interim Head teacher.

As the new academic year began, we were absolutely delighted to welcome the arrival of Miss Vicky Ellis as our new Headteacher, ready to lead St Mark's on the next phase of our journey.

Our focus for our daily worship reflected on the story of Moses and journeying with him as he led God's people from Egypt and to the Promised Land. At the beginning of a new school year, it is always good to be back together as a community, and so we are used the story of Moses to help us to reflect on some important ideas about being a community together and about God, who looked after them. These stories can be found in the Bible, the Torah and the Qur'an, recognising Moses as a prophet and leader in all three of these Abrahamic traditions. In October we were delighted to be able to hold our Harvest Festival celebration in church. Our service began with the children singing "Who put the colours in the rainbow?" to a full church of families and our local community. As the last line of the hymn reminded us, God made everything. The first thing he made was light. This light can be split into all the colours of the rainbow. When you mix these, you can produce other colours. Colour is one of God's gifts to us. God was like an artist. He was happy with the world, so he painted it with many colours. He wants us to enjoy these colours. Each class celebrated a colour using songs, poems and drama. We said a big thank you to all our families for the generous donations to the Farnborough Food Bank at the Trussell Trust and The Larder at the Good Shepherd Church.



November saw us focus our thoughts on Remembrance Day, where we held our reflective service at school. The whole school came together for our service of remembrance. The children entered the hall, holding a poppy and listened to 'Nimrod' from the 'Enigma Variations' Op 36 by Elgar. We shared a special video which explained the importance of Remembrance Day and talked about the significance of this day for our school community. Year 1/2 read a poem called Poppy. Poppy before each class laid their beautiful wreaths made this year from recycled cups. This followed the Royal British Legion, who had made poppies this year for the first time from recycled materials and no plastic. The Spirituality Team led the school in prayer using the poppies. Year 5/6 read the poignant

poem In Flanders Fields before our 2 minute silence as a mark of respect for all those who have given their lives for us and for those who continue to give to keep us safe. The Last Post was played to signal the end of this reflective time.

Year 3/4 shared these memorable words....

*They shall grow not old, as we that are left grow old:
Age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn.
At the going down of the sun and in the morning
We will remember them.*

In school our Spirituality Team have continued to run JAM Club (Jesus and Me) for the younger children. Each week they choose a different Bible story to explore through craft and drama activities.



As Christmas drew near we began our celebrations with a Christingle worship in school and a focus on Advent. We were blessed again by the kind offer of help from Rev Stephen. He shared a beautiful worship with the children looking at the second candle of Advent and discussed the relevance of peace in our lives.

At the beginning of December the whole school were delighted to visit the Advent Festival at St Mark's Church. This year titled "Ding Dong Merrily". Each class had produced an artist interpretation of a Christmas hymn or carol. Year R looked at O Little Town of Bethlehem, Year 1/2 Hark the Herald Angels Sing,

Year 3/4 One Bright Star and Year 5/6 We Three Kings. We thoroughly enjoyed spotting all the different carols and being part of the special creative celebration. The children were delighted with the personalised letters that each class received from Rev Phil and Marcus the Lion.



St Mark's performed a beautifully sparkly nativity, titled "The Twinkly Nativity" in front of a packed audience in the church. Seven gleaming stars told a very special story and gave the message of God's love at Christmas to everyone. The Infants thoroughly enjoyed learning the songs and bringing the play script to life. They were extremely well supported by the Juniors who sang several toe tapping carols from the choir stalls. Our thanks again to Rev Stephen who shared prayers and blessings for Christmas.

"But the angel said to them, "Don't be afraid! I am here with good news for you, which will bring great joy to all the people. This very day in David's town your Saviour was born—Christ the Lord! And this is what will prove it to you: you will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger."

Luke 2 v10-12

A wonderful end of term community event, and first for St Mark's - carols around the campfire. What a delightful way to end the term in festive spirit together. Rev Stephen and Rev Phil, both joined us for carols, hot chocolate and mince pies.



The New Year brought a focus on a series of themes based on wise words - all of them from the Bible, all of them ancient advice about how to live, but in our modern world, they often sound surprisingly up to date! We link this ancient wisdom to stories from across the world and across cultures in the first half of the term, and then after half term, connect into the life and stories of Jesus in the weeks leading up to Easter.

Most recently we have begun our preparations for Easter, which began with a wonderful worship, led by our Spirituality Team for the beginning of Lent which included real pancakes! The Team set a challenge for the school to design new and tasty pancake toppings during the half term holiday. The children and staff are very much looking forward to our Easter Service which will take place in church, with the invitation extended to our parents, families and the church community. Our term will end with a traditional Pause Day, taking the time for quiet reflection, creative activities and personal prayers.

We look forward to sharing more of our school events within the church and with the wider St Mark's community throughout the rest of the school year.

Mrs Nicola Smith
Senior Teacher

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DIOCESE of GUILDFORD
PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL
PARISH OF ST MARK'S SOUTH FARNBOROUGH (0108)

Financial Statement and Treasurer Report
Year Ending
31st December 2023

PRESENTED
TO THE
PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL
PARISH OF ST MARK'S SOUTH FARNBOROUGH (0108)
29th February 2024

Report of the Independent Examiner for the Year Ending 31 December 2023

ST MARK'S PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

Independent Examiner's Report to the PCC of St Mark's, Farnborough

I report on the accounts for the year ended 31st December 2023.

Respective responsibilities of the Trustees and Independent Examiner

The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The charity's trustees 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 in section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act; and
- state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of Independent Examiner's Statement

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

An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from the management committee concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently is given as to whether the accounts present a 'true and fair' view and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

Independent Examiner's Statement

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

- (1) which gives me cause to believe that in any material respect:
 - the accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the 2011 Act; or
 - the accounts did not accord with the accounting records; or
 - the accounts did not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair' view which is not a part of an independent examination
- (2) I have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to obtain a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached



Mr Patrick Brown
6 Kingsley Court
Windsor Way
Aldershot
Hants
GU11 1HZ

9th March 2024

1 - Financial Statement for the Year Ending 31 December 2023

St Marks has enjoyed a resurgence in the congregation during the year helped by the arrival of our new part-time vicar Phil Roche and his wife Helen, a Licenced Lay Minister LMM.

Standing Orders (SO) increased slightly throughout 2023.

The Diocese parish share for 2023 started at £3,099.59 per month. This figure was for a parish with a vicarage but no permanent vicar. In July the Dioceses let the vicarage to private tenants as the new part-timer vicar did not want to take up residence. This reduced the Parish Share to £2,184.96 per month. The Parish share for 2023 has been paid in full.

Works to deal with some of the outstanding quinquennial items were discussed and a plan and budget for these works was put in place. The work carried out during 2023 shows as expenditure. Those projects completed came in on budget or slightly under.

Income remains an issue. The Church Hall is still providing approximately twice the monthly church giving, and this is the only reason the church can function and remain open.

The church income for 2023 was £42,229.32 with expenditure of £61,065.93, with a restricted income of £573.70 and expenditure of £3,211.57.

The Hall income for 2023 was £60,999.99 with expenditure of £24,365.83.

Once again, as the Treasurer, I would like to thank everyone for their continuing support of St Marks.

2. 2023- Income

In 2023 the total income increased from £100,807.77 in 2022 to £103,803.01

This is a modest increase and was helped by the increase in parishioners' voluntary giving by standing order. The gift aid tax claims for the 2019-20, 2020-21 and 2021-22 tax years are still to be collected.

Planned Giving:

A) Monthly Standing Orders (SO) have seen an increase from £20,280 in 2022 to £25,155 in 2023. This is an increase of £4,875. A big thank you to the people who now donate by Standing Order. This regular planned giving gives the finance committee a better idea for planning and budgeting.

B) Gift Aid envelopes:

The Gift Aid envelope scheme has seen a decrease from £2,810.90 in 2022 to £2,575.00 in 2023, a decrease of £235.90. Some of the reduction may be because of people switching from the brown to blue envelopes or switching to monthly SO giving.

C) Gift Aid Blue envelopes:

The blue envelope scheme has seen a modest increase from £1,534.00 in 2022 to £2,366 in 2023, an increase of £832.00.

D) Open Plate Collection:

The open plate has seen a fall from £3,839.03 in 2022 to £3,697.92 in 2023, a decrease of £141.11. As the number of people attending services has been slowly increasing, this may be due to people moving to SO giving. I would ask if the taxpayers could use the gift aid form for the brown or blue envelopes and standing orders.

The SO planned giving, yellow envelope, blue envelope, open plate, and donations income for 2023 was ~£36,596, an increase of ~£2,600 in 2022. Good as these figures are they are still insufficient to cover the monthly running costs of ministry, insurance, and utilities before any maintenance and repairs are carried out.

The outstanding HMRC Gift Aid claim for the tax year 2019-20 and 2020-21 and 2022-2023 is still to be collected.

The Church Hall is the biggest contributor of income to general funds. Despite the Hall being virtually fully booked, 2023 has seen a small decrease income from ~£63,000 in 2022 to ~£61,000 in 2023. Without Hall income, life would be very different at St Marks.

2023 Income

	Unrestricted Funds		Restricted		Total	Total
	Church	Hall	Development Fund	General Fund	2023	2022
	£	£	£	£		£
Voluntary Income						
Planned Giving Standing Orders	25,155.00				25,155.00	20,280.00
Planned Giving Yellow Envelopes	2,575.00				2,575.00	2,810.90
Gift Aid Blue Envelopes	2,366.00				2,366.00	1,534.00
Open Plate Unrestricted Cash	3,697.92				3,697.92	3,839.03
Gift Aid Donations	220.00				220.00	620.00
Donations	2,041.83		365.00	175.57	2,582.40	4,853.51
Donation Restricted 2526 Philippa Nicholas						
Restricted for New incumbent discretionary fund					0.00	
Grants					0.00	
Votive Candles	0.00				0.00	
Sundry Book Shelf Hall	0.00				0.00	32.00
HMRC Refunds	0.00				0.00	
	36,055.75	0.00	365.00	175.57	36,596.32	33,969.44
Income from Investments						
Bank interest & compensation	420.92		33.13		454.05	183.92
	420.92		33.13	0.00	454.05	183.92
Income from church activities						
Cakes, coffee, crafts	0.00		0.00		0.00	78.55
Monies to be paid out (Rest collected to	0.00				0.00	357.41
Fund raising Fayres (Any)	4,587.80		0.00		4,587.80	1,007.40
Hire of the Church	200.00				200.00	0.00
Church Hall Lettings (Income)		60,999.99			60,999.99	63,068.49
Magazine	0.00				0.00	0.00
St Mark's PCC Fees	963.00				963.00	1,530.25
Refund on utilities	1.85				1.85	612.31
	5,752.65	60,999.99	0.00	0.00	66,752.64	66,654.41
TOTAL INCOMING RESOURCES	42,229.32	60,999.99	398.13	175.57	103,803.01	100,807.77

3 - Expenditure:

The total expenditure for 2023 was £88,663.33. This is an increase of £~£16,000 from the £72,731.93 figure for 2022, due to the quinquennial work carried this year.

The parish share for 2023 was £32,621.93 and was completely paid. St Marks paid the parish share monthly by standing order at rate of £3099.59 for six months then £2,184.96 for six months after the arrival of the priest-in-charge.

The financial situation remains unchanged from previous years; all expenditure has been put on hold and only essential and safety works have been, and will be, carried out to keep the expenditure as low as possible. The works carried out over the course of 2023 will be detailed in the fabric report.

The utility bills are being closely monitored. The electricity contracts for both the hall and church renewed in 2022 and will need negotiating in September 2026. Currently the church hall electricity cost is 22.34p/kWh and the church 22.59p/kWh with the standing charge 144p/day.

Gas is still on contract with British Gas until August and October 2024. A further one-year contract with British Gas has been put in place, but the cost is at the best price obtainable at 9.32/kWh and standing charge 200p/day. This means that the church and hall heating bills will be two-and-a-half times larger after August and September 2024, further increasing the dependence on the hall income.

A renewed effort is now required for fundraising for the Church building and roof fund. The Quinquennial report lists some work that is needed promptly to maintain the integrity of the building. After April 2024, this list will be added to placing a further burden on the limited income.

2023 Expenditure

	Unrestricted Funds		Restricted Funds		Total	Total
	Church £	Hall £	General Fund £	Phillipa Nichols £	2023 £	2022 £
CHURCH ACTIVITIES						
Ministry						
Diocesan Parish Share	32,621.93				32,621.93	37,480.52
Working Expenses	1,171.41				1,171.41	313.00
Vicarage Expenses	695.80				695.80	413.83
Visiting Clergy	1,036.32				1,036.32	1,370.35
Upkeep of Services	1,499.34				1,499.34	1,087.19
Church						
Insurance	4,492.24	2,314.16			6,806.40	6,508.94
Utilities	4,216.78				4,216.78	3,612.25
Boiler Maintenance	206.40	105.00			311.40	1,132.14
Repairs, Maintenance Certifications	3,876.91	678.69			4,555.60	1,267.46
Church & Hall Notice Boards	1,212.00	1,212.00		3,036.00	5,460.00	
Church Music	-	326.76			326.76	1,055.34
Church Verger / Organist / Flowers	378.98				378.98	250.25
Memorial Chapel Project				-	-	
Hall						
Running Costs		6,897.14			6,897.14	6,100.85
Utilities		5,513.75			5,513.75	4,740.26
Hall Sundries		1,122.47			1,122.47	1,109.12
Hall Major Expenditure Repair Maint		6,195.86			6,195.86	6,144.43
Hall Bad Cheques Refunds & Deposit Returns					-	150.00
Other Parish Expenses						
Church Charity paid out	110.50		175.57		286.07	-
Church Management and Administration						
Church Parish Admin	45.00				45.00	16.00
Church Magazine	329.40				329.40	-
Church Quinquennial Inspections/wo	9,192.92				9,192.92	-
TOTAL RESOURCES EXPENDED	61,085.93	24,365.83	175.57	3,036.00	88,663.33	72,731.93

4 – 2023 Statement of Assets and Liabilities

Assets	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £		Total 2023	Total 2022
General Fund:					
NatWest Bank 2526	71,072.00	357.41		71,429.41	60,712.78
C of E CBF No. 2 Account	12,983.39			12,983.39	12,580.21
C of E CBF No. 3 Account	571.15			571.15	553.41
Development Fund accounts:					
NatWest Bank 7625	3,604.00	11,932.62		15,536.62	11,567.62
C of E CBF Account No.4		1,066.87		1,066.87	1,033.74
Total Assets	88,230.54	13,356.90		101,587.44	86,447.76

5 – Movements in Restricted Funds during the year 2023.

	Bal B/fwd	Receipts	Payments	To be Transferred in 2024	Loans	Bal C/fwd
Dev Fund NW 7625 Gen	8,250.23	365.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	8,615.23
Dev Fund NW 7625 Memorial Chapel	587.39					587.39
Dev Fund NW 7625 Roof works	260.00					260.00
Dev Fund NW 7625 Philippa Nicholas	2,470.00		0.00		0.00	2,470.00
Restricted Funds Nicholas In Gen Fund	0.00		-2,470.00	2,470.00		0.00
Restricted funds held In NW2625 Gen Fund	923.41	175.57	-741.57			357.41
CBF No.4 004D Restricted	1,033.74	33.13	0.00	0.00	0.00	1,066.87
TOTAL	13,524.77	573.70	-3,211.57	2,470.00	0.00	13,356.90

Development Fund

The NatWest development fund, a restricted account, can only be used for PCC specified projects.

- 1) Nonspecific Fund: (Restricted within the NatWest ----7625 account) restricted fund of £8,615.23 and receipts of £365.00.
- 2) Philippa Nicholas memorial Notice board (Restricted within the NatWest ----7625 account) of £2,470.00 and zero expenditure, balance of £2470.00.
- 3) Memorial Chapel fund £587.39 and zero expenditure, balance of £587.39.00
- 4) Church Roof Works (Restricted within the NatWest ----7625 account) carry forwards of £260.00 and zero expenditure, balance of £260.00.
- 5) The restricted NatWest -----7625 account balance at 31 December 2023 is the combination of the £8,615.23, £2,470.00, £587.39 and £260 for a total of £11,932.62.

Forward to 2024 and further years

As in last year's 'Forward into 2022', St Marks is still at the point of unsustainability and some major actions will need to be taken to ensure the future of St Marks. The future of St Marks has been given a new boost with the arrival of Phil and Helen Roche.

For the year 2023, St Marks Parish Share was set at £32,621.93 for the year and this has been paid in full. The 2024 parish share has been set at £25,217.93 which equates to a monthly payment of £2,101.49. The parish share for a parish with a full-time priest living in the vicarage would be in-excess of £70,000 a year, or ~£6,000 per month. This is unachievable with our current income from the church which is ~£3,000 per month. In the current climate of increasing costs, the Church income is likely to be maintained or fall slightly, but the parish share still needs to be paid as this is the cost of Ministry. Ministry includes the vicar, his housing cost, pension, and support from the Diocese.

If St Marks is to be able to afford a permanent full-time vicar, the church giving will need to be raised to reach £102,000. With the church income combined with the hall income and expenditure a further £22,000 will need to be raised. This income would need to be maintained for several years if we are to prove to Guildford that St Marks can afford a full time Vicar. Increasing the churches income would reduce our dependence on the church hall income and would release more funds that could be used to increase our outreach works, (i.e. mission)

The potential £70,000 parish share would equate to a donation of approximately £95 per month or £22 per week with an Electoral roll of 63. Increasing the congregation is essential to produce this figure. Please also remember these amounts would not cover the costs of the insurance (£6,806 for 2023), utilities (£4,217 for 2023) and repairs (£7,286 for 2023), therefore we do need to increase our income independently of the church hall.

In April 2024 a quinquennial inspection and report will be produced at a cost of ~£1,400). This will highlight any areas of concern which will require extra funds to cover any new findings in the report plus existing issues, for example the dry rot in the roof. Keeping the temperature at 11°C in the colder months has helped to decrease the rate of decay, but the fact is that a >£400,000 bill for this is still a real possibility and the report may throw up others works which have to be paid for.

The Church Hall is still the saviour of the church, providing twice the average church income and half the expenditure on most months. St Marks is so grateful for the hard work and dedication of Mrs Daryl Bates, her family and team, in keeping the Hall in such good order and the bookings extremely high throughout 2023. There are some remedial works required for the hall to ensure that it is kept in a desirable condition for the hirers. There is planned work throughout 2023-24 that will require funding, but the hall income can deal with these bills.

Regarding the weekly/monthly collections and giving, if you have not reviewed the amount given, please could you consider increasing your donations to help address the shortfall in income against expenditure. The treasurer would ask if it would be possible to change your method of donation to a Standing Order as this gives a reliable and regular income to enable better budgeting.

Bank Account Functions

General funds

- NatWest Account ---2625 - this is the account used for the day to day running of the Church and Church Hall.
- C of E CBF No.2 account - this is the savings account for general non restricted funds.
- C of E CBF No.3 account – this is a designated account that can only be for music at St Marks.

Restricted Accounts

- NatWest Account ---7625- this is a restricted account and can only be used for the maintenance and upkeep for the Infrastructure of the Church, and specified projects.
- C of E CBF No.4 Account - this is a savings account for the development funds, same restrictions as for the NatWest Account

This report was presented to the Parochial Church Council for first review on 29 March 2023.

Compiled by Michael Smith
Treasurer for the PCC of the Ecclesiastic Parish of St Mark South Farnborough

Accounts



ANNUAL CHURCH MEETINGS

Sunday, 17th March 2024

**ANNUAL MEETING of PARISHIONERS for the
ELECTION of CHURCHWARDENS**

in the Church at 12.15

ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING

in the Church at 12.30

Meeting Documents

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The Parish of St Mark South Farnborough

Annual Meeting of Parishioners for the Election of Churchwardens

Sunday 17th March 2024 at 12.15 in the Church

Agenda

1. Opening Prayer
2. Apologies for absence
3. Minutes of the meeting, Sunday 2nd of April 2023
4. Election of Churchwardens

oOo

Minutes of the 2023 Annual Meeting of Parishioners for the Election of Churchwardens

Sunday the 23rd April 2023 after the 10.30 Eucharist in Church

Present: Mr Deglan Rowe, Chairman and Churchwarden and 28 parishioners.

Opening Prayer It was decided by the Chairman Mr Deglan Rowe to forgo the opening prayer as all present had attended the 10.30 am Eucharist immediately before the meeting.

Apologies for absence were recorded from, Mrs Ann Ient, Miss Gwen Miller, Mrs Maria Smith, Mr Michael Evans, and Mrs Sue Evans.

Minutes of the previous meeting

The minutes of the previous meeting held on Sunday the 23rd April 2023 had been distributed previously, and were approved as a true record of the proceedings. Proposed by Mr Mick Smith and seconded by Mrs Hilary Bellamy with all present in favour.

Election of two Churchwardens

There were two nominations for the position of Churchwarden: -

Mr Deglan Rowe, proposed by James Podger and seconded by Mr Michael Palmer, and Mr Michael Palmer, proposed by Mr Colin Lagor and seconded by Mr James Podger.

There being no further nominations for the position of Churchwarden, Mr Deglan Rowe, and Mr Michael Palmer were duly elected as Churchwardens to serve for a period of one year with all present in favour.

The Parish of St Mark South Farnborough

Annual Parochial Church Meeting

**Sunday 17th March 2024 in the Church following immediately
after the meeting to elect Churchwardens**

Agenda

- 1 Apologies for absence
- 2 Minutes of the previous meeting Sunday 23rd April 2023
- 3 Election of the Honorary PCC Secretary
- 4 Election of the Honorary PCC Treasurer
- 5 Election of Parochial Church Council Members
- 6 Aldershot Deanery Synod and election of Deanery Synod Representatives
- 7 The Electoral Roll
 - a) acceptance of the Roll
 - b) appointment of an Electoral Roll Officer
- 8 Financial Report from the Treasurer
- 9 Independent Examiner
 - a) Note of thanks
 - b) Appointment of the Independent Examiner
- 10 Safeguarding
- 11 Report on the Proceedings of the Parochial Church Council for 2023
- 12 Report on the Fabric, Goods and Ornaments of the Church
- 13 Reports from Church Groups
14. Any other business, *to be notified in writing to the Chairman not less than seven days before the meeting.*
15. Closing Prayer

Minutes of the Annual Parochial Church Meeting, The Parish of St Mark, South Farnborough

Sunday the 23rd April 2023

Immediately following the meeting to elect the Churchwardens.

Apologies for absence: as for the previous meeting.

Minutes of the previous meeting

Minutes of the previous meeting held on Sunday the 15th May 2022 had been previously distributed and were approved as a true record of the proceedings.

Proposed by Mr Deglan Rowe and seconded by Mr Jim Ennis. All present in favour.

The Electoral Roll

- a) Mrs Judith Gibbons reported that there were 56 members on the Electoral Roll at the date of the 2023 APCM, and there were 53 at the close of the 2022 parish year. The breakdown is: 30 members within the Parish, and 26 outside of the Parish.

There are two applications pending to join the Roll as soon as the meeting closed.

- b) Appointment of Electoral Roll Officer: Mrs Gibbons agreed to continue as Electoral Roll Officer and was proposed by Mr Deglan Rowe and seconded by Mr Jim Ennis. All present in favour.

The Chairman's Report

Is attached as part of the 2023 APCM document pack. There were no questions to this report.

Report on the proceedings of the Parochial Church Council

This report is attached as part of the 2023 APCM document pack. There were no questions to the report.

Finance Report

The Treasurer's report and the 2023 accounts are part of the 2024 APCM document pack. The Treasurer made the following comments to his report: -

- If an Incumbent does not live in the Vicarage, then our Parish Share will reduce to £26k.
- If the vicarage is not used, then the Diocese would try to rent out the building. Any money collected in rent would go to the Diocese, not the Church.

Independent Examiner

- a) **Note of thanks:** - A note of thanks was sent to the Independent Examiner of the Accounts, Mr Patrick Brown.

b) Appointment of an Independent Examiner: It is hoped that Mr Patrick Brown will be willing to continue as the Independent Examiner for our accounts.

Fabric, Goods and Church Ornaments

The report is attached as part of this pack. There are a number of problems with the structure of the building which are allowing water ingress during heavy rain and strong winds. Thanks are due to Mrs Hilary Bellamy for arranging to have the worst areas repaired.

The Quinquennial Inspection is due next year (2024). There were no questions to the report.

Aldershot Deanery Synod report

Is attached as part of the 2024 APCM document pack. Mrs Judith Gibbons reported that hers, and Mr James Podger's term of office had two years to run, and not one as reported in the 2022 minutes.

There were no questions to the report.

Election of four PCC Members

There are two vacancies carried over from the last APCM, and two vacancies from members whose three-year term is at an end. There were four nominations to fill these vacancies: -

- Mr Peter Fane-Gladwin, nominated by Mrs Daryl Bates and seconded by Mr Colin Lagor
- Mrs Christina Fane-Gladwin, nominated by Mr Mike Palmer and seconded by Ms Daryl Bates
- Ms Angharad Nicholas-Podger, nominated by Mrs Judith Gibbons and seconded by Mr Jim Ennis
- Mr Jim Ennis, nominated by Mrs Jacqui Nicol and seconded by Ms Angharad Nicholas-Podger

Immediately following the meeting, Mrs Jacqui Nicol tendered her resignation from the Council. She apologised for any inconvenience caused by her resignation. The Chairman and the Secretary thanked her for her valuable contribution to the Council.

Mrs Lorraine Crossingham, who had been nominated by Mrs Hilary Bellamy and seconded by Mrs Margaret Lapwood, had indicated that she was willing to stand as a member of the Council if there was a vacancy. As all four vacancies were filled, Mrs Crossingham was co opted to serve on the Council until the 2024 APCM. She subsequently tendered her resignation from the Council on the 28th May 2023.

There being no further nominations from the floor, four were elected to serve for three years, and Mrs Crossingham to serve to the 2024 APCM.

Election of the Honorary Treasurer

There was one nomination for the post of Honorary Treasurer, Mr Mick Smith, nominated by Mr Mike Palmer and seconded by Mr Jim Ennis.

There being no further nominations from the floor, Mr Mick Smith was duly elected to serve as Honorary Treasurer for the period of one year.

Election of the Honorary Secretary

There was one nomination for the post of Honorary PCC Secretary, Mr Colin Lagor nominated by Mr Mike Palmer and seconded by Mr James Podger.

There being no further nominations from the floor, Mr Colin Lagor was duly elected to serve as Honorary PCC Secretary for one year.

Safeguarding

Mr Jim Ennis who took over the role as Safeguarding Officer part way through the year, continues to complete his training.

Any other Business.

Votes of thanks were recorded for:

Mrs Felicity Lewis for continuing to run her small team of Church cleaners.

Mike Palmer proposed a vote of thanks to Mr Mick Smith for his work in developing a new parish website and also to Mrs Anne Rowe for her work in maintaining the current website.

It was very good to have baby Elliot in Church today for the first time, his Baptism is being arranged for the near future.

There being no further business, the meeting closed with all present, saying The Grace together.

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Annual Report of the Parochial Church Council for 2023



Annual Report of the Parochial Church Council for 2023

1 Administrative Information

St Mark's Parish Church is situated on the corner of Reading Road and Alexandra Roads, Farnborough Hampshire. It is part of the Diocese of Guildford, within the Church of England. The Parish has no administrative support or office facilities. The address for correspondence is: -

- St Mark's Church Parish Office,
- Reading Road,
- Farnborough,
- Hants,
- GU14 6ND.

The Parish became a fully registered charity, registration number 1188893, with the Charity Commission on 3rd April 2020.

2 Structure, Governance and Management

The method of appointment of PCC members is as set out in the Church Representation Rules. The PCC operates with three official sub-committees: the Finance, the Fabric/Quinquennial, and the Hall Management sub-committees, which are chaired by a Churchwarden. Each is made up of four other members, with the ability to co-opt other members as necessary. The Executive committee, which is usually chaired by the Vicar, and consists of both Churchwardens, the Treasurer and the Secretary. has not met due to the Interregnum. These groups make recommendations to the main council, where they are debated, and decisions made.

3. Objectives and Activities

PCC Role

- Work with the Vicar to promote the Church in the Parish, and its mission and how to improve this.
- Care for the Church and its future and structure.
- Promote links with St Mark's School.
- Ensure that all who wish to contribute to church life have the opportunity to do so.

In 2023 we started the year with our Parish still without a Vicar and the PCC still running the Parish. We were lucky to have the support of visiting clergy, until in July 2023, Rev Phil Roche joined us as Priest-in-Charge, supported by his wife Helen (LLM). The net effect has caused St Mark's to grow in reputation: 'Welcome to All'.

Deglan Rowe, Churchwarden

4 Electoral Roll

As the Electoral Roll does not close until two weeks before the APCM, this is not a "definite" report.

At the time of writing, the number on the Electoral Roll stands at 63, with seven people joining the roll since the last report and no names being removed.

It is worth noting that Electoral Roll numbers no longer affect us financially as far as Parish Share is concerned, so “the more the merrier” approach is not necessarily to be avoided. Electoral Roll numbers are used to calculate the number of Representatives we have at Deanery Synod.

Worth noting that in 2025 the Roll is cancelled and EVERYBODY will have to re-apply. All members will be contacted individually at the appropriate time.

Judith Gibbons

5 PCC Membership

The membership from April 2023 to March 2024 was:

Position	From 2023 APCM	At 2024 APCM
Priest-in-charge	Rev Phil Roche from July 2023	Rev Phil Roche
Lay Minister	Mrs Helen Roche from September 2023	Mrs Helen Roche
Churchwardens	Mr Deglan Rowe Mr Michael Palmer	Mr Deglan Rowe Mr Michael Palmer
Aldershot Deanery Synod	Mr James Podger (1) Mrs Judith Gibbons	Vacancy Mrs Judith Gibbons
Honorary Treasurer	Mr Michael Smith	Mr Michael Smith
Honorary Secretary	Mr Colin Lagor	Mr Colin Lagor
Elected Members (Full council = 9 members)	Mrs Felicity Lewis (2) Mrs Daryl Bates Mr Jim Ennis Miss Angharad Nicholas-Podger Mrs Hilary Bellamy Mrs Margaret Lapwood Mr Peter Fane-Gladwin (2) Mrs Christina Fane-Gladwin Mrs Jacqui Nicol (2) Mrs Lorraine Crossingham (Co-opted) (3) No vacancies from April 2023. <i>(1) Mr James Podger resigned leaving a Deanery Synod vacancy.</i> <i>(2) Mrs Nicol, and Mrs Lewis resigned in 2023 and Mr Peter Fane-Gladwin stated his intention to stand down at the APCM, giving three elected vacancies at the 2024 APCM.</i> <i>(3) Mrs Lorraine Crossingham was co-opted on to the Council to serve until the 2024 APCM. She tendered her resignation from the Council during the year.</i>	Mrs Daryl Bates Mr Jim Ennis Miss Angharad Nicholas-Podger Mrs Hilary Bellamy Mrs Margaret Lapwood Mrs Christina Fane-Gladwin <i>Plus three vacancies</i> <i>Mrs Daryl Bates term of office ends at the 2024 APCM making a total of four vacancies</i>

6 Review of the year January to December 2023

We started 2023 in a state of some uncertainty. Rev. Gareth Dicks had left the Parish in December 2022. The Vicarage was once again empty, and the Church managed by us. We were able to cover the services with continued support from Stephen Mourant, Keith Bristow from Ash, Bruce Nicole, Andrew Linn and Sarah Norbron from St Peter's, and Phil Roche. Holy communion was available at almost all of our 10.30 am Services, together with the 8 am Services on the first Sunday of each month.

We were fortunate to have Bishop Andrew, with Rev Stephen Mourant, join us for Palm Sunday and take part in our annual play, starting in the Hall and proceeding to the church. It was also wonderful that Gwen Miller (age 103) was able to be with us for the service and congregational photo in the church.

Following discussions with Archdeacon Paul Davies (now Bishop of Dorking), a new strategy was implemented for our future. Following the model of Godalming and other parishes, it was mooted that we might explore the possibility of a part-time priest and Rev Phil Roche was invited to conduct some services accompanied by Helen, his wife. Their visits went well and Phil was interviewed to join us as part-time Priest-in-Charge. On the 18th July 2023 he was inducted by Paul Davies into our Parish. Helen was licensed as our Lay Minister on 10th September 2023.

Since then, we have seen more new faces and better arrangements and constructive activities for the children. The church is generally open on Fridays, when Phil is present, together with the 8 am/10.30 am Services mentioned above. The pattern of Services was to resume with the Communion red book for the 10.30 am Services.

The Diocese let out the vicarage and our Parish Share remained manageable, enabling us to finance work to the church. We had leaks in the roof requiring urgent repairs. The entrance-way and its surrounds were re-pointed, making the brickwork look brand new.

We celebrated the King's Coronation in style, and Christmas was well celebrated with good attendances for our Christmas Services and Advent.

Deglan Rowe, Churchwarden

7 Report of the Proceedings of the Parochial Church Council

The Parochial Church Council (PCC) consists of six Ex Officio Members who serve for one year only, two Churchwardens, the Treasurer, the Secretary, and two Deanery Synod members, plus the Priest-in-Charge and Lay Minister. We are pleased that the Revd Phil Roche was inducted as Priest in charge on the 18th July 2023 for a period of two years and that in September 2023 Helen Roche was licensed as a Lay Minister in this parish.

The main body of the PCC consists of nine elected members who serve for three years. At the APCM, there were four vacancies, two new members were elected, and two members whose 3-year term was at an end, decided to stand again making the total Council members up to nine.

Immediately following the meeting, Mrs Jacqui Nicol tendered her resignation from the Council. She apologised for any inconvenience caused by her resignation. The Chairman and the Secretary thanked her for her valuable contribution to the Council.

Mrs Lorraine Crossingham, who had been nominated by Hilary Bellamy and seconded by Margaret Lapwood, had indicated that she was willing to stand as a member of the Council if there was a vacancy. As all four vacancies were filled, Mrs Crossingham was co-opted to serve on the Council until the 2024 APCM. She subsequently tendered her resignation from the Council on the 28th May 2023.

During the year, Mr James Podger one of our Deanery Synod Representatives. resigned from the Council. It was decided to leave this vacancy until the APCM.

Mrs Felicity Lewis and Mrs Jacqui Nichol resigned from the Council during their time in office, making two vacancies for PCC members. Mrs Daryl Bates 3-year term of office ends at the 2024 APCM and Mr Peter Fane Gladwin has stated his intention to stand down at the APCM. This makes a total of four vacancies for elected members of the Council.

The role of Safeguarding Officer was taken on by Mr Jim Ennis who volunteered to become the Safeguarding Officer as soon as he has completed his training. Mrs Vino Perera has volunteered to help him with this role.

During the past 12 months, the PCC has met for two special meetings, and seven normal meetings. The Archdeacon of Surrey (Paul Davis), and Rev. Jens Mankel (Mission Enabler - Revitalisation) attended one of the normal meetings, and the Archdeacon attended one meeting without Jens.

Parish health meetings with Jens.

The following subjects were discussed: -

- Clergy cover during the Interregnum.
- Formation of sub committees
- The appointment of Rev Phil Roche as Priest in Charge
- The updating of the Vision Statement Document for St Mark's future
- Meeting with the Archdeacon of Surrey and Church Planting Advisor (Jens Mankel)
- Approving the Accounts for the APCM
- Approving the addition of Mrs Helen Roche as part of the St Mark's Ministry Team.
- St Mark's School, the appointment of a new Head teacher, and the School joining the Diocesan Academy Scheme.

Colin Lagor, PCC Secretary

8 Churchwardens Report for 2023

Last year we said goodbye to Rev. Gareth Dicks, albeit we parted on good terms. It was evident that he could not offer what St Marks required, being a broad-based church. At first, what would happen seemed very uncertain, as clearly the Church Plant plan had not worked. Having consulted with the then Archdeacon Paul Davies, Paul promised a different approach. Following the precedent set by Godalming Parish Church, and also some other parishes within the Diocese, it was proposed that we had a part-time priest i.e. one who would still be in paid employment, but available to care of the Parish on Sundays and some additional days as agreed.

Meanwhile we relied upon visiting clergy for our services (late 2022 and into 2023). Stephen Maurant in particular came to our rescue, together with Haydon, Bruce Nicole, Mark Chester, Keith Bristow from Ash, Andrew Linn, Sarah Norbron, and a certain Phil Roche. Stephen Maurant was extremely supportive with the Easter Saturday Confirmation preparations and the St Mark's School Leavers' Service. He has continued to support our school with assemblies etc.

Phil seemed to show particular interest in us and ultimately, he was interviewed and appointed as Priest-in-charge in July 2023.

On Palm Sunday 2023 Bishop Andrew, Bishop of Guildford, honoured us by leading our 1030am service. This was the last service to be attended by our oldest communicant, Gwen Miller. Gwen was baptised in our church and sadly passed away in January 2024 aged 103 years.

We arranged a wonderful Easter celebration with Rev Mark Chester, and his wife, Zilla, again answering our prayers for Easter Day, to rise early for our annual Dawn Service. Mick Smith, arranged the usual small fire outside, which turned out to be a little livelier than anticipated as the stone cracked and caused a minor explosion when we were back in the church. The weather was kind to us, with a beautiful dawn and the colours changing in the East Window as the sun rose, together with the changing light in the other windows of the church. Some 35 people attended the service, followed by Easter Parish Breakfast and other entertainment including an Easter Egg Hunt in the Church Hall. This was followed by the 10.30 am Eucharist with Mark Chester presiding over the same.

In July we had Phil's Service of Induction by Archdeacon Paul, who would later be appointed Bishop of Dorking. Many dignitaries were in attendance, including the Mayor of Rushmoor and most of our neighbouring clergy. Helen Roche joined us as our first Licensed Lay Minister in September. Phil was keen for the congregation to be fully involved by way of offering training. Some members were trained as Communion Assistants, and two, Daryl Bates and Jim Ennis, (joining Deglan) as Occasional Preachers.

The new children's area was improved and supported by Angharad, Helen, Natasha and other volunteers. All Services now involve the children at the start and finish. This was a definite step forward. The church is also now open on Friday mornings for prayer, fellowship and 'Crafty Coffee'.

Later in the year, in typical St Mark's style, we were able to celebrate the coronation of His Majesty, King Charles, with a version of the King in attendance and everyone in their regal attire, together with a wonderful spread, principally organised by Daryl and Carole.

We were pleased to see the year out with a much-improved attendance during Advent and our Christmas services. We look forward to the year ahead.

Deglan Rowe and Mike Palmer, Churchwardens

9 Priest-in-Charge Report July -December 2023

Priest-in-Charge Report- July to Dec 2023

What a wonderful welcome given by, not just the people of St Mark's, but the wider area. St Mark's has shown that it is a really welcoming place. Welcoming not just me and Helen as Licensed Lay Minister, but welcoming all who come to St Mark's, and welcoming new ideas and ways of doing things.

It's been a very busy first six months, and it's been great getting to know everyone and working with the whole congregation and the PCC.

I've been charged with 4 priorities to focus on and these have driven the activities and direction for development within the parish. These are:

1. Provide Leadership & Pastoral Care to St Mark's with a focus on providing worship of a high standard, and opportunities to grow in discipleship
2. Ensure an effective link with St Mark's CofE Primary School, so that the church plays its part in the Christian Distinctiveness of the school
3. Work alongside the Mission Enabler (Revitalisation) in growing stewardship so that the church may be properly resourced for mission and ministry

4. Work with the Area Dean, Deanery Leadership Team, & Archdeacon in discerning the pattern of ministry beyond the interim period

1- Provide Leadership & Pastoral Care to St Mark's with a focus on providing worship of a high standard, and opportunities to grow in discipleship

A number of changes have taken place with the worship offered at St Mark's. This has focussed on establishing worship for the whole family, whilst maintaining the focus on communion.

We have reintroduced the use of the Church of England's Common Worship resources to provide the widest range of liturgical resources available. This has been supported by having Old and New Testament readings in addition to the Gospel. This increases the teaching and preaching opportunities for our preaching team. We've also been able to train and begin to deploy two more people as occasional preachers. This brings our team of occasional preachers to three, in addition to Helen and myself. Jim and Daryl are our latest occasional preachers, alongside Deglan, who are now part of our regular pattern of preaching. Well done and thank you

Alongside these changes in building the ministry team and liturgical resources, there have been a number of changes to the layout of our worship spaces to support and develop how we come together. The main changes have been creating space around the nave altar table by removing the old kneelers, returning to using the high altar and chancel for some services, and returning the memorial chapel to its main function as a chapel.

These changes have enabled us to consolidate our service provision, and introduce new services. Our pattern remains generally the same, but we have been able to adapt this for special days, eg Remembrance, and for new services. In October we held our first 'In Memory' service, and I expect this to become an annual event. This year we've also changed the special services through Advent and Christmas. These changes brought 54% more people to our services during this time compared to 2022.

Including our children and young people within our worship has also transformed things beyond my expectations. By having a clear time for children at the start and end of the service has given new purpose to our worship, and feeling of family that is so important to St Mark's. The relocation of the children's area to the south aisle of the church, carried out by so many willing volunteers, has been key in this development. Investing in new resources has also meant we can improve what is offered for our children and young people. But the instrumental force behind this transformation has been the small team of people who have committed to developing the work with our young people, particularly Helen, Judith, Angharad, and Tash, as well as others, for starting this journey of change. They have brought a new vitality and inspiration to our Sunday mornings. I'd also like to thank Marcus for the joy he's added, as well the unwavering dedication of the team working with the children and who spend time preparing the activities, supporting, praying and chatting with, and listening to our children during our services.

Our young people have also driven a development I was not expecting. I was asked if there was any reason why they could not support the distribution of communion. It is this question from one of our young people that gave rise to a team of ten people, of all ages, who have been trained and licensed to distribute communion. The team are also licensed to take communion to those who cannot make it to a service at St Mark's. Thank you team, for responding to the call, the support that you give in our worship in services, and also thanks on behalf of those who receive communion at home. .

There have also been a whole number of things 'behind the scenes' that have been going on. These include tidying, sorting and removing a whole host of items, paperwork, and things that have been

cluttering the worship spaces, and preventing us from having fellowship together. There have also been a number of improvements in health and safety management, administration, and practical improvements eg creating storage for our flower arrangers and safe storage of cleaning materials.

A big thank you to everyone who has been involved, and have worked so hard to support these changes..

2- Ensure an effective link with St Mark's CofE Primary School, so that the church plays its part in the Christian Distinctiveness of the school

The first step in building a more effective link with our parish school was to join the governing body. I did this in September at the start of the academic year, and it has been a pleasure working alongside the other governors, under the direction of our Chair Michael, to provide strategic support for the school.

I've also met with the Headteacher, who was also new at the start of the academic year and visited the children's classes. I'd like to thank Rev Stephen Maurant who has continued to regularly visit and support the school.

I'm pleased that the school has continued their long established traditions of hosting Harvest and Christmas services at St Mark's. Changes are also afoot at the school, such as the new 'Carols around the Campfire' service that took place in the school playground. It was a great success, and it was really good to meet a number of parents and families at the school. But see the school report for more details

I've also begun to consider how and when a team could be formed to undertake specific activities at the school such as 'Open the Book'. At the end of 2023 this was still a little early to instigate discussions, and of course it will need to be tied in with the School Development Plan. But watch this space.

3- Work alongside the Mission Enabler (Revitalisation) in growing stewardship so that the church may be properly resourced for mission and ministry

St Mark's is a church on a journey. A journey into a new lease of life, joy, sharing the love of God and growth. To help us on this journey we have been working with Jens Mankel, Mission Enabler (Revitalisation), a member of the Guildford Diocese Mission Team.

Jens has provided challenge, direction and helped to form a framework of activities, considerations, discussions, and workshops to support St Mark's on its journey. These have taken place with the PCC, and a wider group of people. We are now 6 months into a 2-year plan that will help us to

- Consider the strengths and areas for development at St Mark's
- Consider how we provide teaching and discipleship for our congregations
- Develop a mission plan
- Develop plans to ensure we can resource the discipleship and growth activities that are in the mission plan

This is a 2-year process, and good progress is being made.

I want to thank Jens for the support he's providing, and also to the PCC and wider group for their commitment and openness to the journey. Both Jens and I have been challenged and learnt a lot from being involved in this process.

One of the outcomes of this process already in place is the introduction of the Welcome Team who provide the initial contact for people at the start and end of our services together. A big thank you to Judith for coordinating this, as well as thanks to all who are part of the team.

4- Work with the Area Dean, Deanery Leadership Team, & Archdeacon in discerning the pattern of ministry beyond the interim period

This is the priority area where the least activity has taken place. So far, in discussion with the Area Dean, we have decided to pause any activity until summer 2024 at the earliest. This is so we can review the progress in the other priority areas, before commencing any formal planning. We need to have a clear picture of the direction of travel for St Mark's alongside seeking to see and hear God's vision for the future.

The PCC will of course have a key role in these discussions and prayers. Please pray for them as we progress through the coming year and deliberations commence.

However, part of the ongoing pattern of ministry at St Mark's is having an established local ministry team. The development of the ministry team is underway, with our occasional preachers, and other teams. In addition to this three members of St Mark's also attended a 'Nudge' event hosted by the Diocesan Mission and Ministry Team, to explore how God is calling them in terms of formal ministry. We will continue to support those who feel called to to be minister's of God, and part of the ministry team at St Mark's.

Thank you

I need to complete this section by publicly expressing my thanks to all those people who support the work of St Mark's. They include the PCC, those who support and take part in our worship, those who help and support with the provision of refreshments, who manage the church hall, and do all those unseen things that keep things running eg managing servicing the boiler, cleaning and shining the church in preparation for worship, provision of refreshments, and a myriad of other activities without which St Mark's would not be the good place it is. And thank you to everyone who comes to share in the worship of God, and the sharing of God's love wherever they go.

On the night I was formally installed as Priest-in-Charge in July 2023, I spoke briefly on three 'f's that sum up St Mark's

Faith

Food

Friendship

These remain true. But I've recently been challenged, and am considering adding a fourth St Mark's 'f'- Fun. Everytime I enter the church, church hall, or school, I see people smiling, a clear indication that people are enjoying themselves and having fun.

So thank you all for a fun first six months.

Rev Phil Roche

10 Safeguarding Children and Vulnerable Adults

Safeguarding of vulnerable adults and children is an important component of the work of St. Marks'. This year we have continued strengthening our safeguarding policies and practice. We are working closely with the Diocesan Safeguarding Lead to ensure that we stay up to date with policy and practice.

We use the Diocesan Safeguarding Dashboard ensure we are compliant. I was appointed as safeguarding lead for the parish in 2023 and I continue the work of Daryl Bates and Deaglan Rowe who previously occupied the role. All those who have a role in the parish have undertaken Safeguarding training and DBS checks.

Safeguarding concerns can be reported to Me, Rev. Phil Roche, Helen Roche, Chruchwardens or any member of the PCC.

Jim Ennis, Safeguarding Lead.

11 Deanery Synod report

Since the APCM held in 2023, there has been quite a few problems with aspects of organisation and only one meeting has been held. Unfortunately, neither of our reps NOR our priest were able to attend. Minutes of the meeting tell us that everyone was delighted to be able to see the rebuilt All Saints Church in Fleet. The business of the meeting did not reveal anything for which we at St Mark's need to take action.

Following the resignation of my co representative, it will be necessary to elect another rep at the APCM to serve for the remaining two years of office.

Judith Gibbons

12 Fabric Report

The work to the Interior of the Church Hall continued so that use of the Hall would be satisfactory and more comfortable and attractive to visitors. New chairs were purchased and the painting of the rooms continued. The Hall thus looks fresher and more welcoming.

We were able to turn our attention to the church itself. With the sterling efforts of Hilary Bellamy and others, we were able to secure good quality contractors to sort out our various leaks in the church vestry roof and the repointing of the brickwork to the porch and surrounding area. The outside has already been transformed back to how it must have been some time ago and all within budget.

The kitchen area has also been improved so it is easier to keep clean and tidy and we look forward to further redecoration within the interior. A new children's area has been opened up on the southern side allowing better access and this is now in full use. Next year we will have the Quinquennial Inspection of the Church to look at the structure and other relevant issues, so the PCC and the wardens will need to prepare for this in April 2024.

Deglan Rowe, Churchwarden

13 Annex – Reports from Church Groups for 2023

A1 Church Hall Committee

The Hall continues to be an essential part of Parish and community life, being heavily booked all week and at weekends. We cater for a huge range of activities for people of all ages from little ones at music and movement sessions up to those more senior who go to the various U3A classes. We provide space for those seeking help in a number of ways and we are used by both Pentecostal churches as well as North Camp Matters Association and the Nepalese community.

During the last year we did not raise prices but will need to do so in 2024. We have installed new Fire Instructions in the rooms and Fire Assembly Points in the grounds. We have installed a Defibrillator in the foyer.

We are eternally grateful to those who volunteer for Work Days and help with emergency work. We could not manage without them.

It is necessary to state that managing the Hall has become an enormous task which the present manager is not prepared to shoulder after April 2025.

Daryl Bates

A2 Music

Paul Collins has played the music for all of the 10:30 Eucharist services for the reporting period 2023/2024. Paul's system is based on a Denon Professional Blu-ray / USB player and a 12-inch television. It uses a large keyboard-amplifier and loudspeaker that is matched to St. Mark's church and is positioned in the Chancel to emulate the sound of the church pipe organ. The system was first used for Eucharist services in 2012. It is basically a computer-based music player. One advantage of using a computer rather than a CD player is that any music is straightforward and fast to find and play, which means that there are no unnecessary interruptions during worship. Other advantages over a CD player are that the correct number of verses can always be played and the Media Player can play other organ music and any music before and after the service and during Communion.



Paul Collins

A3 St Mark's Floral Team

Our team continues, undaunted by the fact that we are not numerous. Since our last report, Marie has handed over the reins but I remain eternally grateful for her continued wonderful arrangements. Very pleasing to report is the fact that a number of ladies, professing to be unable to arrange flowers, none the less have assisted us on numerous occasions, which is allowing us to continue to make St Mark's look beautiful at all times.

Rev. Phil asked if it was possible to have symmetry at the High Altar, and to that end two substantial plinths were made to my specifications. We are all agreed that it is rather lovely that congregation sitting at BOTH sides of the nave aisle can now see flowers.

We remain forever thankful that for the most part we do not struggle to find funds for flowers, with members of the church being extremely generous with their contributions, either when arranging when it is their turn on the rota, or donating for festivals and anniversaries.

At the time of writing this report, lent looms, and I hope that I can maintain the tableaux tradition as has happened over the last two or three years.

Exciting news is that a Flower Festival is planned for this year, to take place over the first weekend in June. The theme will be "An English Country Garden" and more details should be available by the time this report is received at the APCM.

Many many thanks to all who have assisted in any way towards keeping St Mark's 'beautified' this year.

Judith Gibbons

A4 St Mark's Library

There is a great diversity of books in the library ranging from prayer books, lives of the Saints/Apostles and seasonal information to name but a few. Some of the books were suitable for children so I have transferred them to the children's section. I try to display seasonal books on the top of the bookcase. When I first took over, I wanted to place books on the same subject together but unfortunately this isn't possible due to the different sizes of the books and different sizes of the shelves.

I do hope you will browse through the books on offer and indeed borrow them. I'm sure they will provide food for thought. If anyone has any suggestions as to what they would like to include in the library I would welcome them.

Jacqui Nichol

A5 St Mark's Website

Website address: stmarksfbro@outlook.com

Firstly, a big thankyou to Anne Rowe for keeping the website calendar, monthly prayer calendar and weekly scriptures up to date, this requires quite a lot of time to add the information to the site.

In late 2023 there was a major change to the look of the website which required a complete rebuild of the 'Home Page'. Church Edit have introduced 'Design Builder' which is now used to build the 'Header' (Top section), 'Content Page' (Middle section) and 'Footer' (Bottom) of the Home Page. It is hoped that the new format is acceptable. Any constructive criticism should be forward to the website administrators.

The menu has been kept as simple as possible, with the use of Buttons to redirect the user to the section rather than 'Click here' used in the previous version for redirection.

The layout has been developed to best suit the handheld devices such as the smart phone and tablet, as these are possibly the most used way of viewing the website. The colours used are black and white, the font is Arial, and some heading is purple.

There is still a large amount of work required to update the history of St Marks. This is an ongoing process and will appear in the menu as pages are developed and ready to be viewed.

The main aim of the website is to be forward looking. Previously the website was very retrospective and that part of the website is being updated to be more in line with the new format.

Mick Smith

A6 Social Committee

Once again we have had a very busy year in organising events both for the Parish and also for local Charities such as the Food Bank, Phyllis Tuckwell Hospice and MacMillan Cancer Fund.

We continue to hold the monthly Parish breakfast which is very popular, as well as catering for other events. We celebrated the Coronation of King Charles with 'A Feast Fit for a King' which was enjoyed by over 50 people.

Before the arrival of Rev Phil in July we had found ourselves taking on responsibility for organising Lent Groups and other more ecclesiastical events. So, we are now delighted that Phil volunteered to join the Committee and we can discuss the events for Festivals and other occasions with fresh ideas.

Our annual Christmas Festival based around Christmas music was most successful and the next one is already being planned.

We are delighted that so many people take part in all that we organise and look forward to another successful year.

Daryl Bates

St Mark's CE Primary School

2023-24



St Mark's CE Primary School have had a busy year full of exciting events linked to the church and local community. On Wednesday 29th March 2023, we held our annual Pause Day which included our Easter Service at St Mark's Church. During the morning the children visited prayer stations set up the school hall, allowing time for reflection and quiet. In the classrooms each class focused on "witnesses" during the Easter story. A beautiful end to the day was to celebrate in church with our families and the St Mark's congregation. The children retold parts of the Easter story, using songs, poems, actions and bible passage. Yr5/6 wrote a fitting prayer to conclude our service. A huge thank you to Rev Stephen Maurant for coming to spend the day at St Mark's, he helped with our prayer stations, was quizzed by each class with their "big questions" and finally lead our service at the church. It was a very special day for the children to "pause" and reflect on the things which are important to them. Year 1/2 made beautiful Easter Garden's as part of our RE unit. The children invited their families to come a view their creations and explained to them the symbolism of each part. The children spoke confidently about the Easter story and could explain how these gardens helped them understand the death and resurrection of Jesus.



Our Year 6 children were delighted to attend the annual Leavers Service at Guildford Cathedral to celebrate with other schools their time at Primary School. They also had a fantastic day out at Wintershall, watching the fully immersive production of the "Life of Christ".



Three of our Year 6 girls were asked to prepare a "please" prayer as part of the Leaver's Service. They read this with great confidence in front of a packed cathedral.

In July we were able to return to the church for our school Leavers Service to wish our fantastic Year 6 good luck in the next stage of their education journey.

We also said farewell to Mr William Neighbour, our interim Head teacher.

As the new academic year began, we were absolutely delighted to welcome the arrival of Miss Vicky Ellis as our new Headteacher, ready to lead St Mark's on the next phase of our journey.

Our focus for our daily worship reflected on the story of Moses and journeying with him as he led God's people from Egypt and to the Promised Land. At the beginning of a new school year, it is always good to be back together as a community, and so we are used the story of Moses to help us to reflect on some important ideas about being a community together and about God, who looked after them. These stories can be found in the Bible, the Torah and the Qur'an, recognising Moses as a prophet and leader in all three of these Abrahamic traditions. In October we were delighted to be able to hold our Harvest Festival celebration in church. Our service began with the children singing "Who put the colours in the rainbow?" to a full church of families and our local community. As the last line of the hymn reminded us, God made everything. The first thing he made was light. This light can be split into all the colours of the rainbow. When you mix these, you can produce other colours. Colour is one of God's gifts to us. God was like an artist. He was happy with the world, so he painted it with many colours. He wants us to enjoy these colours. Each class celebrated a colour using songs, poems and drama. We said a big thank you to all our families for the generous donations to the Farnborough Food Bank at the Trussell Trust and The Larder at the Good Shepherd Church.



November saw us focus our thoughts on Remembrance Day, where we held our reflective service at school. The whole school came together for our service of remembrance. The children entered the hall, holding a poppy and listened to 'Nimrod' from the 'Enigma Variations' Op 36 by Elgar. We shared a special video which explained the importance of Remembrance Day and talked about the significance of this day for our school community. Year 1/2 read a poem called Poppy. Poppy before each class laid their beautiful wreaths made this year from recycled cups. This followed the Royal British Legion, who had made poppies this year for the first time from recycled materials and no plastic. The Spirituality Team led the school in prayer using the poppies. Year 5/6 read the poignant

poem In Flanders Fields before our 2 minute silence as a mark of respect for all those who have given their lives for us and for those who continue to give to keep us safe. The Last Post was played to signal the end of this reflective time.

Year 3/4 shared these memorable words....

*They shall grow not old, as we that are left grow old:
Age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn.
At the going down of the sun and in the morning
We will remember them.*

In school our Spirituality Team have continued to run JAM Club (Jesus and Me) for the younger children. Each week they choose a different Bible story to explore through craft and drama activities.



As Christmas drew near we began our celebrations with a Christingle worship in school and a focus on Advent. We were blessed again by the kind offer of help from Rev Stephen. He shared a beautiful worship with the children looking at the second candle of Advent and discussed the relevance of peace in our lives.

At the beginning of December the whole school were delighted to visit the Advent Festival at St Mark's Church. This year titled "Ding Dong Merrily". Each class had produced an artist interpretation of a Christmas hymn or carol. Year R looked at O Little Town of Bethlehem, Year 1/2 Hark the Herald Angels Sing,

Year 3/4 One Bright Star and Year 5/6 We Three Kings. We thoroughly enjoyed spotting all the different carols and being part of the special creative celebration. The children were delighted with the personalised letters that each class received from Rev Phil and Marcus the Lion.



St Mark's performed a beautifully sparkly nativity, titled "The Twinkly Nativity" in front of a packed audience in the church. Seven gleaming stars told a very special story and gave the message of God's love at Christmas to everyone. The Infants thoroughly enjoyed learning the songs and bringing the play script to life. They were extremely well supported by the Juniors who sang several toe tapping carols from the choir stalls. Our thanks again to Rev Stephen who shared prayers and blessings for Christmas.

"But the angel said to them, "Don't be afraid! I am here with good news for you, which will bring great joy to all the people. This very day in David's town your Saviour was born—Christ the Lord! And this is what will prove it to you: you will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger."

Luke 2 v10-12

A wonderful end of term community event, and first for St Mark's - carols around the campfire. What a delightful way to end the term in festive spirit together. Rev Stephen and Rev Phil, both joined us for carols, hot chocolate and mince pies.



The New Year brought a focus on a series of themes based on wise words - all of them from the Bible, all of them ancient advice about how to live, but in our modern world, they often sound surprisingly up to date! We link this ancient wisdom to stories from across the world and across cultures in the first half of the term, and then after half term, connect into the life and stories of Jesus in the weeks leading up to Easter.

Most recently we have begun our preparations for Easter, which began with a wonderful worship, led by our Spirituality Team for the beginning of Lent which included real pancakes! The Team set a challenge for the school to design new and tasty pancake toppings during the half term holiday. The children and staff are very much looking forward to our Easter Service which will take place in church, with the invitation extended to our parents, families and the church community. Our term will end with a traditional Pause Day, taking the time for quiet reflection, creative activities and personal prayers.

We look forward to sharing more of our school events within the church and with the wider St Mark's community throughout the rest of the school year.

Mrs Nicola Smith
Senior Teacher

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DIOCESE of GUILDFORD
PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL
PARISH OF ST MARK'S SOUTH FARNBOROUGH (0108)

Financial Statement and Treasurer Report
Year Ending
31st December 2023

PRESENTED
TO THE
PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL
PARISH OF ST MARK'S SOUTH FARNBOROUGH (0108)
29th February 2024

Report of the Independent Examiner for the Year Ending 31 December 2023

ST MARK'S PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

Independent Examiner's Report to the PCC of St Mark's, Farnborough

I report on the accounts for the year ended 31st December 2023.

Respective responsibilities of the Trustees and Independent Examiner

The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The charity's trustees 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 in section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act; and
- state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of Independent Examiner's Statement

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

An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from the management committee concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently is given as to whether the accounts present a 'true and fair' view and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

Independent Examiner's Statement

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

- (1) which gives me cause to believe that in any material respect:
 - the accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the 2011 Act; or
 - the accounts did not accord with the accounting records; or
 - the accounts did not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair' view which is not a part of an independent examination
- (2) I have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to obtain a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached



Mr Patrick Brown
6 Kingsley Court
Windsor Way
Aldershot
Hants
GU11 1HZ

9th March 2024

1 - Financial Statement for the Year Ending 31 December 2023

St Marks has enjoyed a resurgence in the congregation during the year helped by the arrival of our new part-time vicar Phil Roche and his wife Helen, a Licenced Lay Minister LMM.

Standing Orders (SO) increased slightly throughout 2023.

The Diocese parish share for 2023 started at £3,099.59 per month. This figure was for a parish with a vicarage but no permanent vicar. In July the Dioceses let the vicarage to private tenants as the new part-timer vicar did not want to take up residence. This reduced the Parish Share to £2,184.96 per month. The Parish share for 2023 has been paid in full.

Works to deal with some of the outstanding quinquennial items were discussed and a plan and budget for these works was put in place. The work carried out during 2023 shows as expenditure. Those projects completed came in on budget or slightly under.

Income remains an issue. The Church Hall is still providing approximately twice the monthly church giving, and this is the only reason the church can function and remain open.

The church income for 2023 was £42,229.32 with expenditure of £61,065.93, with a restricted income of £573.70 and expenditure of £3,211.57.

The Hall income for 2023 was £60,999.99 with expenditure of £24,365.83.

Once again, as the Treasurer, I would like to thank everyone for their continuing support of St Marks.

2. 2023- Income

In 2023 the total income increased from £100,807.77 in 2022 to £103,803.01

This is a modest increase and was helped by the increase in parishioners' voluntary giving by standing order. The gift aid tax claims for the 2019-20, 2020-21 and 2021-22 tax years are still to be collected.

Planned Giving:

A) Monthly Standing Orders (SO) have seen an increase from £20,280 in 2022 to £25,155 in 2023. This is an increase of £4,875. A big thank you to the people who now donate by Standing Order. This regular planned giving gives the finance committee a better idea for planning and budgeting.

B) Gift Aid envelopes:

The Gift Aid envelope scheme has seen a decrease from £2,810.90 in 2022 to £2,575.00 in 2023, a decrease of £235.90. Some of the reduction may be because of people switching from the brown to blue envelopes or switching to monthly SO giving.

C) Gift Aid Blue envelopes:

The blue envelope scheme has seen a modest increase from £1,534.00 in 2022 to £2,366 in 2023, an increase of £832.00.

D) Open Plate Collection:

The open plate has seen a fall from £3,839.03 in 2022 to £3,697.92 in 2023, a decrease of £141.11. As the number of people attending services has been slowly increasing, this may be due to people moving to SO giving. I would ask if the taxpayers could use the gift aid form for the brown or blue envelopes and standing orders.

The SO planned giving, yellow envelope, blue envelope, open plate, and donations income for 2023 was ~£36,596, an increase of ~£2,600 in 2022. Good as these figures are they are still insufficient to cover the monthly running costs of ministry, insurance, and utilities before any maintenance and repairs are carried out.

The outstanding HMRC Gift Aid claim for the tax year 2019-20 and 2020-21 and 2022-2023 is still to be collected.

The Church Hall is the biggest contributor of income to general funds. Despite the Hall being virtually fully booked, 2023 has seen a small decrease income from ~£63,000 in 2022 to ~£61,000 in 2023. Without Hall income, life would be very different at St Marks.

2023 Income

	Unrestricted Funds		Restricted		Total	Total
	Church	Hall	Development Fund	General Fund	2023	2022
	£	£	£	£		£
Voluntary Income						
Planned Giving Standing Orders	25,155.00				25,155.00	20,280.00
Planned Giving Yellow Envelopes	2,575.00				2,575.00	2,810.90
Gift Aid Blue Envelopes	2,366.00				2,366.00	1,534.00
Open Plate Unrestricted Cash	3,697.92				3,697.92	3,839.03
Gift Aid Donations	220.00				220.00	620.00
Donations	2,041.83		365.00	175.57	2,582.40	4,853.51
Donation Restricted 2526 Philippa Nicholas						
Restricted for New incumbent discretionary fund					0.00	
Grants					0.00	
Votive Candles	0.00				0.00	
Sundry Book Shelf Hall	0.00				0.00	32.00
HMRC Refunds	0.00				0.00	
	36,055.75	0.00	365.00	175.57	36,596.32	33,969.44
Income from Investments						
Bank interest & compensation	420.92		33.13		454.05	183.92
	420.92		33.13	0.00	454.05	183.92
Income from church activities						
Cakes, coffee, crafts	0.00		0.00		0.00	78.55
Monies to be paid out (Rest collected to	0.00				0.00	357.41
Fund raising Fayres (Any)	4,587.80		0.00		4,587.80	1,007.40
Hire of the Church	200.00				200.00	0.00
Church Hall Lettings (Income)		60,999.99			60,999.99	63,068.49
Magazine	0.00				0.00	0.00
St Mark's PCC Fees	963.00				963.00	1,530.25
Refund on utilities	1.85				1.85	612.31
	5,752.65	60,999.99	0.00	0.00	66,752.64	66,654.41
TOTAL INCOMING RESOURCES	42,229.32	60,999.99	398.13	175.57	103,803.01	100,807.77

3 - Expenditure:

The total expenditure for 2023 was £88,663.33. This is an increase of £~£16,000 from the £72,731.93 figure for 2022, due to the quinquennial work carried this year.

The parish share for 2023 was £32,621.93 and was completely paid. St Marks paid the parish share monthly by standing order at rate of £3099.59 for six months then £2,184.96 for six months after the arrival of the priest-in-charge.

The financial situation remains unchanged from previous years; all expenditure has been put on hold and only essential and safety works have been, and will be, carried out to keep the expenditure as low as possible. The works carried out over the course of 2023 will be detailed in the fabric report.

The utility bills are being closely monitored. The electricity contracts for both the hall and church renewed in 2022 and will need negotiating in September 2026. Currently the church hall electricity cost is 22.34p/kWh and the church 22.59p/kWh with the standing charge 144p/day.

Gas is still on contract with British Gas until August and October 2024. A further one-year contract with British Gas has been put in place, but the cost is at the best price obtainable at 9.32/kWh and standing charge 200p/day. This means that the church and hall heating bills will be two-and-a-half times larger after August and September 2024, further increasing the dependence on the hall income.

A renewed effort is now required for fundraising for the Church building and roof fund. The Quinquennial report lists some work that is needed promptly to maintain the integrity of the building. After April 2024, this list will be added to placing a further burden on the limited income.

2023 Expenditure

	Unrestricted Funds		Restricted Funds		Total	Total
	Church £	Hall £	General Fund £	Phillipa Nichols £	2023 £	2022 £
CHURCH ACTIVITIES						
Ministry						
Diocesan Parish Share	32,621.93				32,621.93	37,480.52
Working Expenses	1,171.41				1,171.41	313.00
Vicarage Expenses	695.80				695.80	413.83
Visiting Clergy	1,036.32				1,036.32	1,370.35
Upkeep of Services	1,499.34				1,499.34	1,087.19
Church						
Insurance	4,492.24	2,314.16			6,806.40	6,508.94
Utilities	4,216.78				4,216.78	3,612.25
Boiler Maintenance	206.40	105.00			311.40	1,132.14
Repairs, Maintenance Certifications	3,876.91	678.69			4,555.60	1,267.46
Church & Hall Notice Boards	1,212.00	1,212.00		3,036.00	5,460.00	
Church Music	-	326.76			326.76	1,055.34
Church Verger / Organist / Flowers	378.98				378.98	250.25
Memorial Chapel Project				-	-	
Hall						
Running Costs		6,897.14			6,897.14	6,100.85
Utilities		5,513.75			5,513.75	4,740.26
Hall Sundries		1,122.47			1,122.47	1,109.12
Hall Major Expenditure Repair Maint		6,195.86			6,195.86	6,144.43
Hall Bad Cheques Refunds & Deposit Returns					-	150.00
Other Parish Expenses						
Church Charity paid out	110.50		175.57		286.07	-
Church Management and Administration						
Church Parish Admin	45.00				45.00	16.00
Church Magazine	329.40				329.40	-
Church Quinquennial Inspections/wo	9,192.92				9,192.92	-
TOTAL RESOURCES EXPENDED	61,085.93	24,365.83	175.57	3,036.00	88,663.33	72,731.93

4 – 2023 Statement of Assets and Liabilities

Assets	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £		Total 2023	Total 2022
General Fund:					
NatWest Bank 2526	71,072.00	357.41		71,429.41	60,712.78
C of E CBF No. 2 Account	12,983.39			12,983.39	12,580.21
C of E CBF No. 3 Account	571.15			571.15	553.41
Development Fund accounts:					
NatWest Bank 7625	3,604.00	11,932.62		15,536.62	11,567.62
C of E CBF Account No.4		1,066.87		1,066.87	1,033.74
Total Assets	88,230.54	13,356.90		101,587.44	86,447.76

5 – Movements in Restricted Funds during the year 2023.

	Bal B/fwd	Receipts	Payments	To be Transferred in 2024	Loans	Bal C/fwd
Dev Fund NW 7625 Gen	8,250.23	365.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	8,615.23
Dev Fund NW 7625 Memorial Chapel	587.39					587.39
Dev Fund NW 7625 Roof works	260.00					260.00
Dev Fund NW 7625 Philippa Nicholas	2,470.00		0.00		0.00	2,470.00
Restricted Funds Nicholas In Gen Fund	0.00		-2,470.00	2,470.00		0.00
Restricted funds held In NW2625 Gen Fund	923.41	175.57	-741.57			357.41
CBF No.4 004D Restricted	1,033.74	33.13	0.00	0.00	0.00	1,066.87
TOTAL	13,524.77	573.70	-3,211.57	2,470.00	0.00	13,356.90

Development Fund

The NatWest development fund, a restricted account, can only be used for PCC specified projects.

- 1) Nonspecific Fund: (Restricted within the NatWest ----7625 account) restricted fund of £8,615.23 and receipts of £365.00.
- 2) Philippa Nicholas memorial Notice board (Restricted within the NatWest ----7625 account) of £2,470.00 and zero expenditure, balance of £2470.00.
- 3) Memorial Chapel fund £587.39 and zero expenditure, balance of £587.39.00
- 4) Church Roof Works (Restricted within the NatWest ----7625 account) carry forwards of £260.00 and zero expenditure, balance of £260.00.
- 5) The restricted NatWest -----7625 account balance at 31 December 2023 is the combination of the £8,615.23, £2,470.00, £587.39 and £260 for a total of £11,932.62.

Forward to 2024 and further years

As in last year's 'Forward into 2022', St Marks is still at the point of unsustainability and some major actions will need to be taken to ensure the future of St Marks. The future of St Marks has been given a new boost with the arrival of Phil and Helen Roche.

For the year 2023, St Marks Parish Share was set at £32,621.93 for the year and this has been paid in full. The 2024 parish share has been set at £25,217.93 which equates to a monthly payment of £2,101.49. The parish share for a parish with a full-time priest living in the vicarage would be in-excess of £70,000 a year, or ~£6,000 per month. This is unachievable with our current income from the church which is ~£3,000 per month. In the current climate of increasing costs, the Church income is likely to be maintained or fall slightly, but the parish share still needs to be paid as this is the cost of Ministry. Ministry includes the vicar, his housing cost, pension, and support from the Diocese.

If St Marks is to be able to afford a permanent full-time vicar, the church giving will need to be raised to reach £102,000. With the church income combined with the hall income and expenditure a further £22,000 will need to be raised. This income would need to be maintained for several years if we are to prove to Guildford that St Marks can afford a full time Vicar. Increasing the churches income would reduce our dependence on the church hall income and would release more funds that could be used to increase our outreach works, (i.e. mission)

The potential £70,000 parish share would equate to a donation of approximately £95 per month or £22 per week with an Electoral roll of 63. Increasing the congregation is essential to produce this figure. Please also remember these amounts would not cover the costs of the insurance (£6,806 for 2023), utilities (£4,217 for 2023) and repairs (£7,286 for 2023), therefore we do need to increase our income independently of the church hall.

In April 2024 a quinquennial inspection and report will be produced at a cost of ~£1,400). This will highlight any areas of concern which will require extra funds to cover any new findings in the report plus existing issues, for example the dry rot in the roof. Keeping the temperature at 11°C in the colder months has helped to decrease the rate of decay, but the fact is that a >£400,000 bill for this is still a real possibility and the report may throw up others works which have to be paid for.

The Church Hall is still the saviour of the church, providing twice the average church income and half the expenditure on most months. St Marks is so grateful for the hard work and dedication of Mrs Daryl Bates, her family and team, in keeping the Hall in such good order and the bookings extremely high throughout 2023. There are some remedial works required for the hall to ensure that it is kept in a desirable condition for the hirers. There is planned work throughout 2023-24 that will require funding, but the hall income can deal with these bills.

Regarding the weekly/monthly collections and giving, if you have not reviewed the amount given, please could you consider increasing your donations to help address the shortfall in income against expenditure. The treasurer would ask if it would be possible to change your method of donation to a Standing Order as this gives a reliable and regular income to enable better budgeting.

Bank Account Functions

General funds

- NatWest Account ---2625 - this is the account used for the day to day running of the Church and Church Hall.
- C of E CBF No.2 account - this is the savings account for general non restricted funds.
- C of E CBF No.3 account – this is a designated account that can only be for music at St Marks.

Restricted Accounts

- NatWest Account ---7625- this is a restricted account and can only be used for the maintenance and upkeep for the Infrastructure of the Church, and specified projects.
- C of E CBF No.4 Account - this is a savings account for the development funds, same restrictions as for the NatWest Account

This report was presented to the Parochial Church Council for first review on 29 March 2023.

Compiled by Michael Smith
Treasurer for the PCC of the Ecclesiastic Parish of St Mark South Farnborough

Accounts

St. Mark



ANNUAL CHURCH MEETINGS

Sunday, 15th May 2022

ANNUAL MEETING of PARISHIONERS for the ELECTION of CHURCHWARDENS

in the Church at 11.45

ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING

in the Church at 12.00

Meeting Documents

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The Parish of St Mark South Farnborough

Annual Meeting of Parishioners for the Election of Churchwardens

Sunday 15th May 2022 at 11.45 in the Church

Agenda

1. Opening Prayer
2. Apologies for absence
3. Minutes of the meeting, Sunday 16th of May 2021
4. Election of Churchwardens

oOo

Minutes of the 2021 Annual Meeting of Parishioners for the Election of Churchwardens

Sunday the 16th of May 2021 after the 10.30 Eucharist in Church

Present: - Mr Deglan Rowe, Churchwarden and Chairman, and 23 parishioners.

Apologies for absence were recorded from, Mrs Ann Ient, Mrs Felicity Milne, Miss Gwen Miller, Mrs Eileen Confrey, Mr James Podger, Mrs Maria Smith, and Mr Michael Smith.

Minutes of the previous meeting

The minutes of the previous meeting held on Sunday the 25th of October 2020 had been distributed previously, and were approved as a true record of the proceedings. Proposed by Mr Michael Evans and seconded by Mrs Judith Gibbons with 22 for and 1 abstention.

Election of two Churchwardens

There were two nominations for the position of Churchwarden: -

Mr Deglan Rowe and Mr Michael Palmer

There being no further nominations for the position of Churchwarden, Mr Deglan Rowe, and Mr Michael Palmer were duly elected as Churchwardens to serve for a period of one year with all present in favour.

The meeting closed at 11.58.

The Parish of St Mark South Farnborough

Annual Parochial Church Meeting

**Sunday 15th May 2022 in the Church following immediately
after the meeting to elect Churchwardens**

Agenda

1. Apologies for absence
2. Minutes of the previous meeting Sunday 16th of May 2021
3. The Electoral Roll
 - a) acceptance of the Roll
 - b) appointment of an Electoral Roll Officer
4. The Chairmans Report
5. Report on the Proceedings of the Parochial Church Council 2021
6. Financial Report from the Treasurer
7. Independent Examiner
 - a) Note of thanks
 - b) Appointment of the Independent Examiner
8. Report on the Fabric, Goods and Ornaments of the Church
9. Reports from Church Groups
10. Aldershot Deanery Synod:
 - a) Report on 2021 proceedings
 - b) Election of two Deanery Synod Representatives (who are ex-officio members of the PCC and serve for 3 years)
11. Election of Parochial Church Council Members
12. Election of the Honorary PCC Treasurer
13. Election of the Honorary PCC Secretary
14. Safeguarding
15. Any other business, *to be notified in writing to the Chairman not less than seven days before the meeting*
16. Closing Prayer

Note: Following a change to the Church Representation Rules in January 2020, sidespersons are no longer appointed by the APCM. Instead, they are appointed by the PCC.

oOo

Minutes of the Annual Parochial Church Meeting The Parish of St Mark, South Farnborough

Sunday the 16th May 2021

Apologies for absence: as for the previous meeting.

Minutes of the previous meeting

Minutes of the previous meeting held on the 25th of October 2020 had been previously distributed and were approved as a true record of the proceedings.

Proposed by Mr Michael Evans and seconded by Mr Michael Palmer. All present in favour.

The Electoral Roll

a) Mrs Judith Gibbons reported that there were 49 members on the Electoral Roll. This represents a decrease of 1. The breakdown is: -29 members within the Parish, and 20 outside of the Parish.

b) **Appointment of the Electoral Roll Officer:** Mrs Gibbons agreed to continue as Electoral Roll Officer, and was proposed by Mrs Marie Collins and seconded by Mrs Daryl Bates. All present in favour.

The Chairmans Report

Deglan did make mention of special thanks to Rev Haydon Wilcox, Rev Martin James, and all the clergy and Lay People who had come from St Peter's to aid us in celebrating the Eucharist, Sunday by Sunday, when Covid 19 allowed.

There were no questions.

Report on the proceedings of the Parochial Church Council

The Report is attached as part of this APCM Pack.

There were no questions.

Finance Report

The Treasurer's Report and the Accounts for 2021 are attached to this pack.

The Treasurer made the following comments to his report: -

- Income was down for the first 2 months of the year due to Covid 19 restrictions, in that the Church and Hall were not able to be used.
- We will not be reinstating the passing of the offertory plate and it will remain at the back of Church.
- There has been an increase of the use of envelope scheme.
- We have not paid any of this year's Parish Share, and we still owe £20k from last year

- From October, there will be a reduction in the Parish Share due to the Interregnum.

Independent Examiner

- Note of thanks:** - a note of thanks was sent to the Independent Examiner of the Accounts, Mr Patrick Brown.
- Appointment of an Independent Examiner:** it is hoped that Mr Patrick Brown will be willing to continue as the Independent Examiner for our accounts.

Fabric Goods and Church Ornaments: The report is included in the PCC Annual Report for 2021.

The dry rot problem seems to be getting better due to having the Church heating set at a constant temperature. There were no questions.

Aldershot Deanery Synod report: The report is included in the PCC Annual Report for 2021
There were no questions.

Election of four PCC Members

There were three vacancies carried over from the 2020 APCM. With Mr Michael Palmer being accepted as Churchwarden there are now four vacancies. There was only one nomination to fill these vacancies: -

Mrs Angela Gilbert

There being no further nominations from the floor, Mrs Angela Gilbert was elected to serve for three years.

This again leaves three vacancies which were not filled. During our time of Interregnum it is important that all posts on the PCC are filled so that there can be varied discussion on important Church matters.

Election of the Honorary Treasurer

There were no nominations on the form which had been posted on the Church door for this position.

Mr Michael Smith was nominated from the floor,

There being no further nominations, Mr Michael Smith was duly elected as Honorary Treasurer to serve as an Ex-Officio member of the Council for one year.

Election of Honorary PCC Secretary

There was one nomination for this post,

Mr Colin Lagor

There being no further nominations from the floor, Mr Colin Lagor was duly elected to the office of Honorary PCC Secretary, to serve as an Ex-Officio member of the Council for one year.

Safeguarding: We are currently without a Safeguarding Officer, due to the death of Mrs Philippa Nicholas. All members of the PCC need to complete the 1st stage of training online, and send the results to Mrs Daryl Bates, who has agreed to take on the role.

Any other Business:

Mr Colin Lagor offered a vote of thanks to Mr Deglan Rowe for continuing as the lone Churchwarden over the past year, and ensuring that we have clergy for each Sunday we have been able to be open. Mr Colin Lagor also paid tribute to a stalwart of St Marks who we had lost last year, Fr Ian Hedges, who had served the Church and Parish for 31years before retiring in October 2020.

The meeting closed at 12.36pm with The Grace.

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St. Mark



Annual Report of the Parochial Church Council for 2021



Annual Report of the Parochial Church Council for 2021

1 Administrative Information

St Mark's Parish Church is situated on the corner of Reading Road and Alexandra Roads, Farnborough Hampshire. It is part of the Diocese of Guildford, within the Church of England. The Parish has no administrative support or office facilities. The address for correspondence is c/o The Vicarage, 1 St Mark's Close, Farnborough, Hampshire, GU14 6PP

The Parish is no longer a charity exempted from registration with the Charity Commission and became a fully registered charity on 3rd April 2020.

2 Structure, Governance and Management

The method of appointment of PCC members is as set out in the Church Representation Rules. The PCC operates with two official sub committees: the Finance, and the Hall Management, both of which are chaired by a Churchwarden, and each made up of four other members, with the ability of co-opting other members as necessary. The Executive committee, which is usually chaired by the Vicar, and consists of both Churchwardens, the Treasurer and the Secretary. has not met due to the Interregnum. These groups make recommendations to the main council, where they are debated, and decisions made

3 Objectives and Activities

The PCC normally has the responsibility of cooperating with the vicar to promote within the parish the whole mission of the church. It also has maintenance responsibilities for the church and the church hall. It has a responsibility to promote and maintain pastoral links with St Mark's Church of England (Aided) Primary School, Queens Road, Farnborough. In the absence of a vicar the PCC works with the Church Wardens to carry out these objectives.

All resources in 2021 were severely stretched with limited income from the church hall most of the year, due to lockdown and various restrictions on operating the church. Progress was made with the successful appointment of the Reverend Gareth Dicks as Associate Minister at St Peter's and vicar designate of St Marks, with the intention that he would eventually bring new people to join with us in the latter part of 2021, or 2022. He would then be licensed as our new vicar and we would continue the revival of the church.

Deglan Rowe, Churchwarden

4 Electoral Roll

At the closure date of the Electoral Roll for the 2021 parish year there are 48 persons listed. Two persons were removed and one was added.

It is interesting to note that the number of Roll members who live outside the parish is increasing! We have in fact an almost exact division, with 25 people living in the parish and 23 living outside. At the moment this is more as a result of house moves, than 'new' members, but it will be interesting to see how this changes when our new vicar is in situ with his grafted/planted group from St Peter's.

Judith Gibbons

5 PCC Membership

The membership for 2021 – 2022 is:

Position	To April 2021	From April 2021
Vicar	Vacancy	Vacancy
Churchwardens	Mr Deglan Rowe Vacancy	Mr Deglan Rowe Mr Michael Palmer
Aldershot Deanery Synod	Mr James Podger Mrs Judith Gibbons	Mr James Podger Mrs Judith Gibbons
Honorary Treasurer	Mr Michael Smith	Mr Michael Smith
Honorary Secretary	Mr Colin Lagor	Mr Colin Lagor
Elected Members (Full council = 9 members)	Mrs Felicity Lewis Mr Michael Palmer Mrs Daryl Bates Mr Jim Ennis Miss Angharad Nicholas-Podger Mrs Vino Perera <i>During the year, Mrs Angela Gilbert was co-opted onto the Council to serve until the next APCM in April 2021</i>	Mrs Felicity Lewis Mrs Daryl Bates Mr Jim Ennis Miss Angharad Nicholas-Podger Mrs Vino Perera Mrs Angela Gilbert <i>During the year, Mrs Jaqui Nicol was co-opted onto the Council to serve until the next APCM in April 2022.</i>

6 Review of the year to December 2021

The start of the process began with the recruitment of a new vicar for St Mark's. Daryl Bates and Deglan Rowe, represented St Mark's, together with Bishop Andrew and Archdeacon Paul Davies, also the Rector Libby Etherington and Catherine Fewings from St Peter's. Interviews were held with three candidates who attended in person. Gareth Dicks, who had previously been a curate at St Christopher's in Cove, and latterly working in Essex, was selected. Before he joined, a team from St Mark's together with volunteers from St Peter's, worked to redecorate the vicarage and the Diocese upgraded the kitchen and other rooms as appropriate.

Gareth was licensed to join St Peter's, Farnborough, as an Associate Minister – with a view to bringing new people to St Mark's. They would enhance the congregation, which itself would lead to growth. The Diocese recognised that in a parish of 10,000 residents it was important that there was a properly functioning church.

In the meantime, services continued under Covid guidelines and support from the clergy at St Peter's and various speakers. We also had the support of Martin James and Haydon Wilcox. We were able to continue the Eucharist services each week, when regulations allowed. Church attendance was steady, and we started to see new people from the parish and beyond join us. The front desk in the foyer was complete with hand gels and masks available, in accordance with Covid guidelines. We hope that you are able to offer a friendly greeting and to get to know old friends and newcomers.

We did not continue with Zoom services as we were able to offer attendance in person. We lacked the technology to work offering services online, but we made up for this by being in a church which was open as much as the law allowed.

In November, we saw the re-introduction of our 8 am Sunday Service on a once-a-month basis. This was due to the availability of Haydon Wilcox. We noticed that more people were attending. Income from the church hall also improved.

We were able to run the church Harvest Festival to benefit the Food Bank locally. This was run in conjunction with St Mark's School. Remembrance Day and Christmas activities went ahead as usual, including a very successful Christingle, with the children holding up candles lighting up the church. The Midnight Mass was reasonably well attended. We had a definite feeling at the end of 2021 that things were steadily improving as demonstrated by the attendance at the 1030 service. As the table shows, average adult attendance at the 1030 service has improved by about 50% over that before the pandemic.

Period	Average adults
April-June	36
July- September	36
October-December	39
January-March 20th	38

Deglan Rowe, Churchwarden

7 Report of the Proceedings of the Parochial Church Council

The Parochial Church Council (PCC) consists of six Ex Officio Members who serve for one year only, two Churchwardens, The Treasurer, the Secretary, and two Deanery Synod members, plus the Vicar, (currently we have a vacancy). In the absence of a Vicar, one of the Churchwardens is appointed as Chairman of the Council.

The main body of the PCC consists of nine (9) elected members who serve for three years. One member was elected as Churchwarden, leaving four vacancies to fill. One member, Mrs Angela Gilbert, was elected at the APCM leaving three vacancies. Mrs Jaqui Nicol was co-opted onto the PCC to serve until the next APCM in 2022.

During the past 12 months, the PCC has met for one Zoom meeting, two special meetings, and seven normal meetings. The Archdeacon of Surrey (Paul Davis), Jens Mankel (Church Planting and Fresh Expressions Advisor), and Richard Lloyd, (who had led a Plant to St Mary's East Molesley) also attended the normal meetings. Rev Gareth Dicks, Associate Minister at St Peter's Church and Vicar Designate for St Mark's Church attended the meetings in January, February and March 2022.

The following subjects were discussed:

- Clergy cover during the Interregnum
- The PCCs response to Covid 19 Pandemic restrictions including opening of the Church Building, and the Church Hall.
- Formation of sub committees
- The formation of a Vision Statement Document for St Mark's future
- The selection of Rev Gareth Dicks as Vicar Designate
- Meetings with the Archdeacon of Surrey and Church Planting Advisor (Jens Mankel)
- Meetings with the Rev Gareth Dicks
- Approving the Accounts for the APCM

- Changing signatories on the Church Banking Accounts
- Approving the appointment of Rev Gareth Dicks as Vicar of St Mark's Church
- Co-opting Mrs Jaqui Nicol onto the PCC to serve until the APCM 2022

In addition to the above subjects, the PCC discussed the day to day running of the Church and Church Hall.

Colin Lagor, PCC Secretary

8 Fabric Report

Due to Covid restrictions it was still not possible to take any action in regard to the Quinquennial Report (2019). We did not notice any deterioration in the building, save that in heavy storms we continued to have some water ingress and we need to be aware that leaks in the roof need to be repaired. The Churchwardens need to consider the terrier and to update Health and Safety in 2022.

Deglan Rowe, Churchwarden

9 Churchwardens Report for 2021

As was recorded in last year's Report, we had a deficit of £20,000 at the end of 2020. In the year 2021, with the church hall closed for much of the year and reduced contributions from parishioners due to restrictions in being able to attend church, the deficit became more substantial. We were still expected to pay the full parish share, up until the end of October, when 12 months had passed since Father Ian Hedges retired.

We were, however, able to keep the church open at 10:30 am every Sunday, following government regulations. Moving away from prayer only, we had the support of clergy from St Peter's, Mark Chester, Haydon Wilcox and the Reverend Martin James.

Whilst the vicarage was empty, we needed to inspect it regularly for insurance purposes and to check that it was in order. We collected the post, carried out a visual inspection and assisted in keeping the grounds tidy. The responsibility passed to Gareth, once he had moved in during July. Despite living next door to our church, Church of England rules dictated that Gareth was not able to participate in our services and activities. Thankfully this was relaxed at the end of 2021 and Gareth has visited us on a number of occasions, as well as taking part in positive meetings with the PCC. These were also attended by the Rev Jens Mankel, the Diocesan officer responsible for Church Planting and Fresh Expressions.

Deglan Rowe, Churchwarden

10 Safeguarding Children and Vulnerable Adults

During the last year the whole PCC has completed the Basic Safeguarding Course. Deglan Rowe and I have also completed the Safeguarding Foundation Course and are now working on the Leadership Training Course. From this it is apparent that we still have a great deal to implement in order to comply with the Diocesan Safeguarding Policy. Owing to Covid and the absence of full-time clergy this is just about excusable but as we progress and develop in the future it is not. It is therefore imperative that we have not just a Safeguarding Officer but a Safeguarding Team. For this we need to recruit people who can be trained and have a desire to do this important work. I only ever viewed myself as a stop gap appointment.

Daryl Bates

11 Children and Youth Work

We don't have many children that come every week, so I never know how many are coming. I try to have a sheet in the children's area that relates to the gospel. There are some new toys and books there and I am trying to put stuff for the older children at one end so that they can take as they pass, and younger children's things near the pews so mums and dads can keep an eye on them. We have two children that have asked if they can be confirmed into the church. I have been asked if we will be starting the serving team back up soon as some children want to get more involved.

Felicity Lewis

12 Deanery Synod report 2021

Whilst it might seem somewhat strange to have the dates for two years Deanery Synod in this report, it will bring us right up to date as far as I can report. I would not normally expect to produce such a long report, but some of the matters arising from this ARE going to have to be taken into account, by St Mark's EVENTUALLY, so I do not want people thinking that "We never heard about that". I am sure our Vicar designate will find much of this flooding into his 'to do' file, in the not too distant future.

In February 2021 the meeting was another held via Zoom. We were asked to discuss what we had missed from being unable to worship in church during Covid restrictions. We were introduced to "Living in Love and Faith", a recommended five week course investigating "relationship, family and marriage" but with quite an emphasis on inclusivity of all aspects of modern day relationships.

The minutes tell us that someone called JAMES POTTAGER was going to welcome Synod to St Mark's in June when we would hopefully hear about the relationship between St Peter's and St Mark's. That meeting disappeared into the ether however because in June we met again via Zoom.

At this meeting we were introduced to the ARCHBISHOP'S MISSION, his planned visit to the Diocese in September 2021.

A large amount of information was also imparted (via numerous Power Point style screens,) about wide reaching planned changes in the Church of England.

The first was about steps being taken to eliminate racism from all appointments, across the full range from top to bottom. One sentence stands out; - "**In appointments, all parish reps will be required to do unconscious bias training**".

Then we were introduced to "The emerging Church of England", a review of how the C of E might look after Covid. Four main areas of this "research" are planned:

- THE RECOVERY GROUP led by the Bishop of London responding to and interpreting changing advice on church buildings and worship
- VISION AND STRATEGY led by the Archbishop of York looking at how Dioceses can best use time, resources and abilities.
- GOVERNANCE led by the Bishop of Leeds to look at recommendations for possible changes to improve functioning.
- TRANSFORMING EFFECTIVENESS led by the Bishop of St Edmundsbury and Ipswich to focus on the practical ways to organise the church to get things done.

The best example that was given in all these projected changes/improvements was about the ridiculousness of the need, at present, for Faculties for 'little things'. This is apparently going to have a serious investigation.

The October 2021 meeting started off with a small amount of feedback following the Archbishop's Mission to Guildford Diocese, all of which was reasonably positive. More information was imparted about how the "Living in Love and Faith" courses would be organised.

The "Parish Needs Programme" was introduced. This will take 2 years to pass through all of Guildford Diocese's deaneries. It is aimed at making parishes look at Parish priorities, Vision and Mission, but it seems that this is NOT an obligatory programme, but is hoping to help everyone move forward after the chaos of the last two years.

There was then a session of information and group discussion about how to reconnect our churches with children, young people and families.

NB...I was NOT at this October meeting so cannot relay any more detailed information.

Early in 2022_a "Living in Love and Faith" course WAS organised for the Deanery (2 options in fact) and all parishes were invited to find willing participants. Given the current "state of flux" in which we find ourselves here at St Mark's, I decided that, for now, this was not a priority. The PCC agreed as did our Vicar designate. The opportunity will reappear at some time, I am sure, when we may be more prepared to embark.

The latest meeting of Deanery Synod took place whilst I was in the North East at my mother's funeral. Neither James nor I was therefore able to attend. To date I do not have minutes to relay the info from that meeting.

Judith Gibbons and James Podger

13 Annex – Reports from Church Groups for 2021

A1 Church Cleaning

Cleaning is going on but not as well as we would like as there are so few of us. As we get used to it, we are slowly getting better.

Felicity Lewis

A2 Church Hall Committee

From April to September 2021 there was only limited use of the Church Hall due to Covid. However, since then it has been fully used by the local community to such an extent that we can no longer cater for one-off events. Instead, we now have 29 regular hirers encompassing all ages, different ethnicities, learning, leisure and self-help. This means that even the smaller rooms are very fully booked.

The Committee is aware that there are some important projects to carry out in order to maintain and upgrade the hall. We are just starting to prioritise these and get quotations.

As always, we are very grateful to our cleaner and those who help with maintenance both inside and outside the hall.

Daryl Bates

A3 Communication (Magazine)

We may not have had a magazine for over a year now because of covid, but we would love to start it up again but may be slightly different every 3 months.

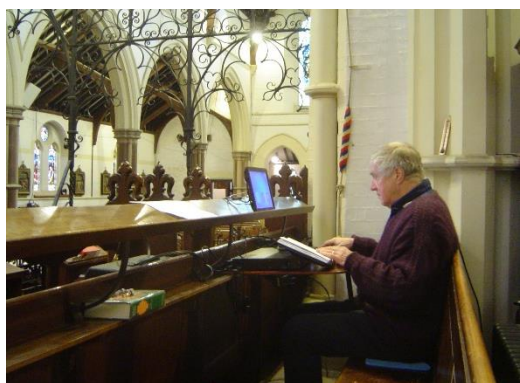
Our Facebook group is full of chat and several of us put things up regularly. We even had some live streams for our jigsaw event.

We have not been great at getting posters out to the shops recently but we do get most things out on Facebook local groups and pages. We are still finding it hard to get on other websites.

Felicity Lewis

A4 Music Report

The St. Mark's organ simulator started to be used again at the 10.30 am Sung Eucharist in August 2021 (when singing was once more allowed in church during the Corona Virus Pandemic). Prior to that Colin Lagor played hymns with singing through the church audio system from his laptop computer.



The organ simulator is used for accompanying hymns at the Sung Eucharist and providing incidental organ music. It is nearly 10 years since it was introduced and it greatly enhances worship. The organ simulator is a media centre with a large public address loudspeaker that can play any computer-based music. The sound is very much like live organ music. The flexibility of the system allows music other than organ music to be played.

There were no special services during 2021 due to the pandemic, but the organ simulator is also used for weddings and funerals and allows families to request music of their choice.

Paul Collins

A5 St Mark's Fellowship

The Fellowship did not meet in 2021.

A6 St Mark's Floral Team

It has been a somewhat quieter year than usual, although we have enjoyed a nearer normal year when it comes to decorating the church. Judith kept us going through the summer with artificial flowers, which is a great help and looks lovely.

Easter "Happened" in 2021, so the church was decorated with the help of the usual team, Daryl Bates, Judith Gibbons, Carole Lagor, Felicity Lewis and Jacqui Nicol.

In early August Rose Holborn was kind enough to share some flowers with us from a family wedding.

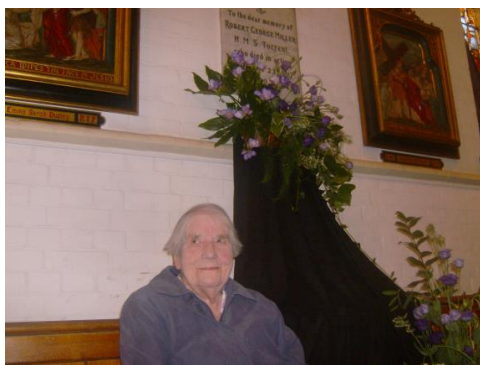


Come Advent and the flowers went and Judith's Alternative Christmas Tree Festival started with an astonishing number of different trees that filled the church. Many people contributed.

When Christmas arrived the church again looked its best with lots of greenery and beautiful floral arrangements.

We then had a couple of months where Jacqui Nicol provided the Madonna flowers.

Lent arrived at the beginning of March and now the church is again bare and we look forward to a riotous Easter, by which time we hope a few new people may join the team and enjoy giving God the glory in flowers.



As always, I want to thank the people who not only arrange their flowers, but also pay for them as a gift to the church. I also want to thank those who so faithfully donate to the flower fund at festivals and for special occasions. Miss Gwendolen Miller must have a mention here because she is very faithful in remembering her uncle at all the festivals. There is a plaque/stone memorial in his memory. He went down with his ship 20 years old on 23rd December 1917. Do try and find it.

Marie Collins

A7 St Mark's Library

The library is still open and I have been trying to change the books on the top shelf. We have had some new books too. I hope that somebody may want to help at some point.

Felicity Lewis

A8 Website Update

The website continues to be updated with the latest preaching rota (until the beginning of May 2022), news, social events, sermons and reading. It will, along with all websites run by 'Church Edit', need to be totally revamped by December 2022. Gareth Dicks may have plans to use a different website provider, however, once he is in office.

Anne Rowe

A9 Social Committee

Despite Covid regulations the Committee has sort ways to continue the social life of the Parish with events held outside the Church such as a Family Fun Day, with zip wire teddies, and the MacMillan Coffee Morning.

With the easing of restrictions, we were able to have our annual October Tea Party and have the church open for Remembrance. We held a fantastic Alternative Christmas Tree Festival followed by a Frost Fair and Carol Concert.

It has been wonderful to restart the monthly breakfasts and numbers for this continue to grow.

Plans are in place for Easter, the Queen's Platinum Jubilee and the next Christmas Festival.

The Committee work well together with enthusiasm and too many great ideas (8,000 piece jigsaws) and appreciate all the support given for each event.

Daryl Bates

St Mark's CE Primary School

2021-22



St Mark's CE Primary School began the academic year with renewed hope that the Covid-19 pandemic would provide less disruption to school life than in the previous 18 months. Whilst some restrictions remained in place, the children were able to enjoy full access to school and embraced their new learning with great enthusiasm.

In October we were delighted to be able to hold our Harvest Festival celebration in church. The children hosted a wonderful service of thanks to God for the food we are provided with. A huge collection for the Farnborough Bank was generously donated by our wonderful families and joined the collection from the church.

November saw us focus our thoughts on Remembrance Day, where we held our reflective service at school. This year each class looked at a different coloured poppy and shared its significance. A beautiful creation of coloured poppies was displayed whilst the children performed thoughtful poems, prayers and readings.

Our annual whole school BIG Day Out took us to the stunning Wintershall Estate in Bramley. The weather was incredible and the children had the most magical day walking the story of the Nativity. It was brought to life with wonderful actors, donkeys, sheep and of course the opportunity to be in the glorious countryside.

As Christmas drew near unfortunately the Covid-19 virus began once again to cause disruption, with many members of our St Mark's community becoming poorly. It meant that changes needed to happen to our Christmas celebrations but still we forged ahead. The Infant Nativity was performed and filmed in school with the children showing they could adapt their acting skills, even with the last minute change in location. They told the story of Baa Baa Bethlehem which included some very catchy songs whilst retaining the most important message of the birth of Jesus.



The New Year brought a focus on the Lord's Prayer for our daily worship. Each class looked at a toolkit to help Christians in prayer. Jesus himself prayed in many different places, about many different things, and when he gave his friends this model, Jesus wanted them to know that talking to God - praying - should be a part of their everyday lives too. Jesus showed his disciples that they could talk to God anywhere, and at any time, about anything. Jesus gave some good ideas to help anyone to pray in the Lord's Prayer. Each class then used this to help them write their own thoughtful prayer.

In February we welcomed back the actors from Wintershall again, this time to perform at school. The actors shared the story of Pontius Pilate and the Feeding of the Five Thousand. The children asked thought provoking questions and shared their ideas with actors.

Most recently we have begun our preparations for Easter, starting by completing 40 Acts of Kindness throughout Lent. In addition to this, our minds have very much been drawn to sharing prayers of peace and keeping the people of Ukraine in our daily thoughts. The children and staff are very much looking forward to our Easter Service which will take place in church, with the invitation extended to our parents and families for the first time since before the pandemic began. Our term will end with a traditional Pause Day, taking the time for quiet reflection, creative activities and personal prayers.

This Easter also sees the departure of our wonderful Headteacher, Mrs Annabel Stocchetti, her leadership over the last seven years has continued to ensure that the children of St Mark's receive many fantastic educational opportunities. This has proved extremely challenging during the last two years due to the pandemic however her determination to ensure provision through online learning and places in school for children of key workers was exceptional. The staff and children will all miss her greatly. The governing body are working hard to recruit a new Headteacher and hope to have them in place for September.

We look forward to many more opportunities to be in church and starting to build new links with Reverend Gareth Dicks when he begins his role as Vicar of St Mark's later this year.

Mrs Nicola Smith
Senior Teacher



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DIOCESE of GUILDFORD
PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL
PARISH OF ST MARKS SOUTH FARNBOROUGH (0108)

Financial Statement and Treasurer Report
Year Ending
31st December 2021

PRESENTED
TO THE
PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL
PARISH OF ST MARKS SOUTH FARNBOROUGH (0108)
26 April 2022

1 – Report of the Independent Examiner for the Year Ended 31 December 2021

ST MARK'S PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

Independent Examiner's Report to the PCC of St Mark's, Farnborough

I report on the accounts for the year ended 31st December 2021.

Respective responsibilities of the Trustees and Independent Examiner

The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The charity's trustees 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 in section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act; and
- state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of Independent Examiner's Statement

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

An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from the management committee concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently is given as to whether the accounts present a 'true and fair' view and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

Independent Examiner's Statement

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

- (1) which gives me cause to believe that in any material respect:
 - the accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the 2011 Act; or
 - the accounts did not accord with the accounting records; or
 - the accounts did not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair' view which is not a part of an independent examination
- (2) I have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to obtain a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached



Mr Patrick Brown
Cherrydale
Springfield Road
Camberley
GU15 1AE

2nd May 2022

2 - Financial Statement for the Year Ending 31 December 2021

Once again St Marks has faced the challenge of dealing with no permanent vicar and Covid-19 in its many mutations, but, by the grace of God, St Mark's has managed to survive.

We are grateful for the support of St Peters over this period in providing a priest when required. That has enabled St Mark's to have a Eucharistic 10:30am service on Sundays throughout the year. Haydon Wilcox and Martin James need a mention as they have been able to provide cover as and when required. A grateful thanks to all the priests for enabling Eucharistic worship at St Mark's throughout the year.

Having the Church open for service has seen the return of weekly income via the envelope and open plate, however the amounts have been somewhat erratic but the collections are increasing.

Standing Orders (SO) have remained constant throughout 2021. This is a good thing as it does give the treasurer some idea for budgeting, and the treasurer would ask any regular givers using the envelope or open plate to consider moving to a Standing Order donation, it would greatly help with budgeting.

The start of 2021 saw the gradual re-opening of the Church Hall, and over the year the income has nearly returned to the pre pandemic levels. The success of the Church Hall income is in no small part due to the herculean efforts of Mrs Daryl Bates, her family and her other supporters.

The Diocese has set the parish share for 2022 at £59,811, the parish share continues to be the biggest single out going and is the payment to the Diocese of Guildford for the cost of ministry at St Mark's.

Once again, as the Treasurer; I would like to thank everyone for their continuing support of St Mark's and, with the grace of God, our success.

3. 2021 - Income

The total income increased from £64,549.50 in 2020 to £67,474.13 in 2021.

This modest increase was helped by the increase in parishioner's voluntary giving by standing order together with an increase of ~£16,800 with the re-opening of the Church Hall. The 2020 income figure was increased by ~£14,800 from the 2018-19 and 2019-20 gift aid claim. The gift aid tax claims for the 2019-20 and 2020-21 tax years are still to be collected.

Planned Giving:

A) Monthly Standing Orders (SO) have seen an increase from £16,065.25 in 2020 to £18,380.00 in 2021. This is an increase of £2,314.75. A big thank you to the people who now donate by Standing Order. This regular planned giving gives the finance committee a better idea for planning and budgeting. Once again, I would ask people to consider donating by SO if possible, enabling better planning and budgeting.

B) Gift Aid Yellow/Brown envelopes:

The Gift Aid envelope scheme has seen a decrease from £3,223.20 in 2020 to £2,367.90 in 2021, a decrease of £855.30. These figures are still the result of Covid-19 restrictions as the reduced number and style of Church services has had a direct effect on attendance. Some of the reduction is as a result of switching from the brown to blue envelopes and switching to monthly SO giving

C) Gift Aid Blue envelopes:

The blue envelope scheme has seen a modest increase from £2,027.00 in 2020 to £2,486.50 in 2021, an increase of £459.50.

D) Open Plate Collection:

The open plate has seen an increase from £3,404.50 in 2020 to £5,445.6 in 2021, an increase of £2,041.10. As the number of people attending services has been slowly increasing, it is good to see the weekly retiring collections increasing, but I would ask if the tax payers could use the gift aid form and the brown or blue envelopes, or possibly switch to a SO method of donating.

The SO planned giving, yellow envelope, blue envelope, open plate and donations income for 2021 was ~£30,000 and ~£28,000 in 2020 which is ~£2,000 increase on 2020. Good as these figures are they are still insufficient to cover the monthly running costs of ministry, insurance and utilities.

The Church Hall is the biggest contributor of income to the general funds increasing from £~£19,000 in 2020 to ~£35,800 in 2021.

The increase in hall income is due in no small part to the herculean efforts of Mrs Daryl Bates and her band of selfless people who maintain and keep the Church Hall virtually fully booked.

Nevertheless, without the continued commitment from this small group of people, life would be very different at St Marks.

The outstanding HMRC Gift Aid claim for the tax year 2019-20 and 2020-21 has still to be collected and will go towards any short fall in the 2022 Parish Share.

2021 Income

2021 Income

	Unrestricted Funds		Restricted			Total	Total
	Church	Hall	General Fund 2526	Development Fund General 7625	Memorial Chapel Project 7625	2021	2020
	£	£	£	£	£		£
Voluntary Income							
Planned Giving Standing Orders	18,380.00					18,380.00	16,065.25
Planned Giving Yellow Envelopes	2,367.90					2,367.90	3,223.20
Gift Aid Blue Envelopes	2,486.50					2,486.50	2,027.00
Open Plate	4,899.60		546.00			5,445.60	3,404.50
Donations	500.00			820.00		1,320.00	1,265.00
Donations Restricted to 2625						0.00	2,220.00
HMRC Refunds	0.00					0.00	14,802.98
	28,634.00	0.00	546.00	820.00	0.00	30,000.00	43,007.93
Income from Investments							
Bank interest & compensation	6.74			0.54		7.28	59.10
	6.74	0.00	0.00	0.54	0.00	7.28	59.10
Income from church activities							
Cakes, coffee, crafts							16.79
Charities (Rest collected to be paid)	0.00					0.00	0.00
Spring Summer Autumn etc. Fayre	1,227.28					1,227.28	1,290.85
Church Hall Lettings	0.00	35,796.31				35,796.31	19,082.83
St Mark's PCC Fees	378.00					378.00	1,092.00
Refund on utilities	65.26					65.26	0.00
	1,670.54	35,796.31	0.00	0.00	0.00	37,466.85	21,482.47
TOTAL INCOMING RESOURCES	30,311.28	35,796.31	546.00	820.54	0.00	67,474.13	64,549.50

4 - Expenditure:

The total expenditure for 2021 was £47,185.63. This is a decrease of £4,250.79 from the £51,436.42 figure for 2020, due mainly to the reduced amount paid towards the parish share.

St Marks has been unable to completely pay its parish share for the years 2020 and 2021 and there is an outstanding balance of £20,000.00 from 2020 and £31,311.74 for 2021 making a total outstanding parish share of £51,311.74.

St Mark's will continue to pay the parish share quarterly at the 2021 figure of £3,400 per month, and if funds permit extra will be sent in December 2022.

The financial situation remains unchanged from previous years, all expenditure has been put on hold and only essential and safety works have been and will be carried out to keep the expenditure as low as possible. There is work to be carried out to make the east and west ends of the church water tight. Work is need to repair leaks over the vestry and font and other places at the west end where lead is missing.

The utility bills are being closely monitored. The electricity contracts for the hall and church will renew in June and July 2022. This was negotiated prior to the energy crisis so there will be no massive increase in electricity prices. The gas for the hall and church could not be re-negotiated prior to the crisis but the good news is they are valid until June and October 2024. So I think the utilities will be OK for the time being.

A renewed effort is now required for fundraising for the Church building and roof fund. The Quinquennial report lists some work that is needed fairly promptly to maintain the integrity of the building.

2021 Expenditure

2021 Resources Expended

	Unrestricted Funds		Restricted Funds		Total	Total
	Church £	Hall £	Developm ent Fund General £	Memorial Chapel Project £	2021 £	2020 £
CHURCH ACTIVITIES						
Ministry						
Diocesan Parish Share	20,000.00				20,000.00	25,121.00
Working Expenses	276.68				276.68	196.90
Vicarage Expenses	1,136.25				1,136.25	846.89
Visiting Clergy	837.54				837.54	141.90
Upkeep of Services	297.12				297.12	644.55
Church						
Insurance	4,388.75	2,061.00			6,449.75	6,159.24
Utilities	4,333.14				4,333.14	4,828.91
Boiler Maintenance	288.00	0.00			288.00	137.00
Repairs, Maintenance Certifications	422.79	745.09			1,167.88	1,121.17
Church Music	65.00	990.34			1,055.34	990.34
Verger / Organist	151.00				151.00	270.00
Hall						
Running Costs		5,089.07			5,089.07	5,483.52
Utilities		5,118.61			5,118.61	4,532.47
Hall Sundries		616.65			616.65	722.53
Hall Major Expenditure Repair Maint		368.60			368.60	140.00
Bad Cheques Refunds & Deposit Returns		0.00			0.00	100.00
Other Parish Expenses						
Church Management and Administration						
TOTAL RESOURCES EXPENDED	32,196.27	14,989.36			47,185.63	51,436.42

5 - 2021 Statement of Assets and Liabilities

<u>Assets</u>	<u>Unrestricted Funds</u> £	<u>Restricted Funds</u> £	<u>Total</u> <u>2021</u>	<u>Total</u> <u>2020</u>
General Fund:				
NatWest Bank 2526	35,488.37	2,766.00	38,254.37	18,793.15
C of E CBF No. 2 Account	12,416.90		12,416.90	12,410.44
C of E CBF No. 3 Account	546.22		546.22	545.94
Development Fund accounts:				
NatWest Bank 7625		6,134.11	6,134.11	5,314.11
C of E CBF Account No.4		1,020.32	1,020.32	1,019.78
Total Assets	48,451.49	9,920.43	58,371.92	38,083.42

6 – Movements in Restricted Funds during the year 2021.

	Bal B/fw d	Receipts	Payments	Transfers / Movements	Bal C/fw d
Dev Fund NW 7625 Gen	4,466.72	820.00	0.00	(270.00)	5,016.72
Dev Fund NW 7625 Memorial Chapel	587.39	0.00	0.00		587.39
Dev Fund NW 7625 Roof works	260.00	0.00	0.00		260.00
Dev Fund NW 7625 Philippa Nicholas Memorial	0.00			270.00	270.00
Reserved funds held in NW2526 Gen Fund	2,220.00	546.00			2,766.00
CBF No.4 004D Restricted	1,019.78	0.54			1,020.32
TOTAL	8,553.89	1,366.54	0.00	0.00	9,920.43

Reserved Funds

£2,200.00 reserved fund in the 2526 account is a memorial fund for Mrs Philippa Nicholas

£270.00 restricted fund in the 7625 accounts is part of a memorial fund for Mrs Philippa Nicholas

Liabilities

Development Fund

The NatWest development fund, a restricted account, can only be used for PCC specified projects.

- 1) Nonspecific Fund: (Restricted within the NatWest ----7625 account) restricted fund of £4,466.72 and receipts of £820.00.
The £270 restricted figure incorrectly added to the nonspecific fund but has been correctly allocated to the Philippa Nicholas Memorial.
- 2) Church Roof Works (Restricted within the NatWest ----7625 account) carry forwards of £260.00 and zero expenditure, balance of £260.00
- 3) The restricted NatWest -----7625 account balance at 31 December 2021 is the combination of the £5,016.72, £587.39, £260.00 and £270 for a total of £6,134.11

Forward to 2022 and further years

As in last year's 'Forward into 2021', St Marks is still at the point of unsustainability and some major actions will need to be taken to ensure the future of St Marks'. Hope is on the horizon as the new incumbent Gareth Dicks will arrive in May 2022. Gareth is passionate that his mission is to see St Mark's flourish and become a successful and vibrant parish once again.

As in previous years, St Marks will be facing a potential £220,000 to £420,000 sum to deal with the issues of the dry rot and roof repairs, along with the work required by the 2019 Quinquennial inspection. These issues will not go away without the application of significant sums of money to address the issues in the Quinquennial report.

For the 2022 Parish Share the Diocese has set a figure for St Mark's at £59,811.00, and this does not include the outstanding parish share of £51,311.74 from 2020-21 (this figure was provided by the DBF). Once again it will be difficult for St Mark's to meet this 2022 figure, as it would require a monthly payment of £4,984.25 just to pay the 2022 parish share, payments would need to increase to ~£10,000.00 per month to clear the debit in 2022 and currently this is impossible.

In the current climate of increasing costs the Church income is likely to drop but the parish share needs to be paid as this the cost of Ministry.

Ministry includes the vicar, his housing cost, pension and support from the Diocese. And the £59,811 parish share figure equates to a donation of approximately £30.00 per person per week with a regular congregation of 38. Increasing the congregation is essential to reduce this figure.

Please also remember this £30 figure does not cover the costs of the insurance (£4,388.75 for 2021), utilities (£4,333.14 for 2021) and repairs (£711.00 for 2021). It is not possible for everyone to donate this sum but there are some who donate over and above this figure and as the treasurer I thank everyone for this.

Extra funds will be required with the need for some urgent roof works at the both the east and west ends of the Church where the lead was stolen from the roof and the water ingress is destroying the fabric of the building.

On the subject of the weekly/monthly collections and giving, the treasurer would ask if it would be possible to change your method of donation to a Standing Order as this gives a reliable and regular income to enable better budgeting.

The Church Hall is still the saviour of the parish and thanks to Daryl and her family the booking extremely good for the coming year. There are some remedial works required for the hall to ensure that is kept in a desirable condition for the hirers. There is planned work throughout 2022 that will require funding, but the hall income is capable of dealing with these bills, but at the cost of income that can be transferred to the running of the church.

Bank Account Functions

General funds

NatWest Account ---2625 - this is the account used for the day to day running of the Church and Church Hall.

C of E CBF No.2 account - this is the savings account for general non restricted funds.

C of E CBF No.3 account – this is a designated account that can only be for music at St Marks.

Restricted Accounts

NatWest Account ---7625- this is a restricted account and can only be used for the maintenance and upkeep for the Infrastructure of the Church, and specified projects

C of E CBF No.4 Account - this is a savings account for the development funds, same restrictions as for the NatWest Account

Compiled by Michael Smith

Treasurer for the PCC of the Ecclesiastic Parish of St Mark South Farnborough

Registered Charity Number 1188893

Accounts

St. Mark



ANNUAL CHURCH MEETINGS

Sunday, 16th May 2021

ANNUAL MEETING of PARISHIONERS for the ELECTION of CHURCHWARDENS

in the Church at 11.45

ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING

in the Church at 12.00

Meeting Documents

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The Parish of St Mark South Farnborough

Annual Meeting of Parishioners for the Election of Churchwardens

Sunday 16th May 2021 at 11.45 in the Church

Agenda

1. Opening Prayer
2. Apologies for absence
3. Minutes of the meeting, Sunday 25th October 2020
4. Election of Churchwardens

oOo

Minutes of the 2020 Annual Meeting of Parishioners for the Election of Churchwardens

Sunday the 25th October 2020 after the 10.30 Eucharist in Church

Present: The Venerable Archdeacon of Surrey Paul Davis (Chairman) and 26 Parishioners.

The Chairman opened the meeting at 11.40 am, following the 10.30 am Eucharist.

Apologies for absence were recorded from James Podger, Anne Ient, Rosemary Lloyd, Barbara Jones, Paul Collins, Margaret Lee, Diane Bedford.

Minutes of the previous meeting

Minutes of the APCM held on Sunday the 28th of April 2019 were approved as a true record.
Proposed by Deglan Rowe and seconded by Felicity Milne. All present in favour.

Election of Two Churchwardens: There was one nomination for the position of Churchwarden:

Deglan Rowe, proposed by Felicity Milne and seconded by Daryl Bates

There being no other nominations from the floor, Deglan Rowe was duly elected as Churchwarden, to serve for a period of one year.

Colin Lagor offered to serve as an assistant to Mr Rowe until April 2021. He was supported in this by Judith Gibbons, all present were in favour.

The meeting closed at 11.45am.

The Parish of St Mark South Farnborough

Annual Parochial Church Meeting

**Sunday 16^h May 2021 in the Church following immediately
after the meeting to elect Churchwardens**

Agenda

1. Apologies for absence
2. Minutes of the meeting, Sunday 25th October 2020
3. The Electoral Roll: a) Acceptance of the new 2020 Roll
 b) Appointment of the Electoral Roll Officer
4. Chairman's Review
5. Report on the proceedings of the Parochial Church Council, 2020
6. Financial Report from the Treasurer
7. Independent Examiner: a) Note of Thanks
 b) Appointment of the Independent Examiner
8. Report on the Fabric, Goods and Ornaments of the Church
9. Reports from Church Groups
10. Aldershot Deanery Synod: a) Report on 2020 proceedings
 b) Election of two Deanery Synod
 Representatives (who are ex-officio members of the
 PCC and serve for 3 years)
11. Election of Parochial Church Council Members
12. Election of Hon. PCC Treasurer
13. Election of Hon. PCC Secretary
14. Safeguarding
15. Any Other Business, *to be notified in writing to the Chairman not less
 than seven days before the Meeting*
16. Closing Prayer

Note: Following a change to the Church Representation Rules in January 2020, sidespersons are no longer appointed by the APCM. Instead, they are appointed by the PCC.

oOo

Minutes of the Annual Parochial Church Meeting The Parish of St Mark, South Farnborough

Sunday the 25th October 2020

Directly following the meeting to elect Churchwardens

Apologies for absence: as for the above meeting.

Minutes of the previous meeting

Minutes of the APCM held on Sunday the 28th of April 2019 were approved as a true record.

Proposed by Daryl Bates, seconded by Felicity Milne. All present in favour.

The Electoral Roll

a) The revised roll is of 50: two additions.

b) **Appointment of the Electoral Roll Officer:** As Mrs Maria Smith is retiring as Electoral Roll Officer, nominations were taken from the floor.

Mrs Judith Gibbons was proposed from the Chair and was duly elected to the Office, all present in favour.

The Chairman thanked Mrs Maria Smith for the many years she had served in keeping the roll up to date.

The Chairman's Review: Because of the retirement of Fr Ian Hedges, there was no report.

The Archdeacon took this time to personally thank Fr Ian for his 31 years of dedicated service to the Parish of St Mark, and he added the thanks of the Diocese and Bishop.

Report on the proceedings of the Parochial Church Council (PCC): the report is included in the PCC Annual Report for 2020.

Finance Report:

Comments: - The Finance Report will not make good reading this year, which is due to the Corona Virus Pandemic.

Thanks to more people's generosity in paying by Standing Order, we have a guaranteed income, even though we were not able to open the Church Building, or hire out the Church hall.

We will not be able to pay the Share in full, but the Diocese are aware of our situation. We need to be mindful of the need for working capital when sending money to the Diocese.

As usual, the Church Hall has been keeping us afloat, but the situation has changed as we are not able to hire it out during the pandemic and Lock down.

Independent Examiner.

a) Note of Thanks: a note of thanks was sent to the Independent Examiner of the Church Accounts, Mr Patrick Brown.

b) Appointment of an Independent Examiner: it was indicated that Mr Patrick Brown was happy to continue as the Independent Examiner for our Accounts.

Fabric, Goods, and Ornament: the report is included in the PCC Annual Report for 2020.

Fr Ian said, before his retirement, that the state of the roof still needed to be addressed. It has been a major part of the Quinquennial report for a number of years, and it is still outstanding. The new Incumbent will have to address the Quinquennial Report and prioritise work to be done with help from the Architect. The dry rot seems to be going.

Reports from Church Groups: the reports are included in the PCC Annual Report for 2020

The Chairman added his thanks to the authors of the various reports.

Aldershot Deanery Synod: the report is included in the PCC Annual Report for 2020

This year both representatives have finished their three years in office, so there were two vacancies. There had been two nominations for these posts:

Judith Gibbons and James Podger

There being no further nominations from the floor, both were duly elected to serve for three years.

Election of six PCC members:

There were only three nominations from the floor for the six vacancies, they were: -

Miss Angharad Nicholas-Podger

Mrs Vino Pereira

Mr Jim Ennis

There being no further nominations, all three were duly elected to serve for a period of three years.

Deglan Rowe said that as we were unable to fill the remaining three vacancies then it was all the more important for Council members to attend as many meetings as possible, all of which would most likely be done via Zoom.

Election of Honorary Treasurer:

There were no nominations on the form which had been posted on the Church Noticeboard, so the Chairman asked if there were any nominations from the floor.

Mike Smith was nominated from the floor, proposed by Eileen Confrey and seconded by Maria Smith.

There being no further nominations, Mike Smith was duly elected as Honorary Treasurer to serve for a period of one year.

Election of Honorary PCC Secretary:

There was one nomination for the position of Honorary PCC Secretary.

Colin Lagor, proposed by Carole Lagor and seconded by Daryl Bates.

There being no other nominations, he was duly elected as Honorary PCC Secretary to serve for a period of one year.

Safeguarding: Owing to the death of Mrs Philippa Nicholas, we were left without a Safeguarding Officer. Mrs Daryl Bates offered to take on the responsibility, as she has to deal with safeguarding issues on hiring out the Church Hall. The Chairman thanked her and said that it was especially important to pass on information.

Sidesmen:

There being a shortage of personnel able to carry out the duties of sidesmen, no list was available to publish. A note of thanks was offered to Mrs Anne Rowe, Mrs Daryl Bates, and Mrs Carole Lagor for ensuring that contact details are recorded for all who enter the Church for Sunday Worship, to adhere to Covid regulations.

Any other business:

Items for inclusion in this section should have been submitted in writing seven days prior to the meeting. No items had been received at the time of the meeting, and the Chairman asked if there were any questions from the floor.

Felicity Milne thanked all who provide lifts to Church to those not otherwise able to attend.

Deglan Rowe hoped that the new Incumbent would carry on the tradition of close links with the Church Aided School. The Archdeacon said that the Church and the school should be at the heart of a Parish.

The Archdeacon addressed the congregation as to what happens next after the retirement of Fr Ian. The most frequent question was “when are we going to get our new Vicar”?

He said that the Diocese would like to move quickly on new appointments, although it would not happen overnight. We would need to think strategically, replacing Fr Ian with a like for like would only speed up the decline in numbers at St Mark’s. The congregation needs to grow, and the new person would have to have the right approach to bring in the “missing generations”.

The Diocese is committed to keeping the Parish of St Mark open and would like to see it grow in faith and numbers. He concluded by thanking all present for all that has been over the past year, and for all that is to come in the future.

There being no further business, meeting closed with The Grace at 12.16 pm.

St. Mark



Annual Report of the Parochial Church Council for 2020



Annual Report of the Parochial Church Council for 2020

1 Administrative Information

St. Mark's Parish Church is situated on the corner of Reading and Alexandra Roads, Farnborough, Hampshire. It is part of the Diocese of Guildford, within the Church of England. The parish has no administrative support or office facility. The correspondence address is, therefore: c/o The Vicarage, 1 St. Marks Close, Farnborough, Hampshire, GU14 6PP.

The Parish is no longer a charity exempted from registration with the Charity Commission and became a fully registered charity on 3rd April 2020.

2 Structure, Governance and Management

The method of appointment of PCC members is as set out in the Church Representation Rules. The PCC operates two official committees: Finance, and Hall Management, both chaired by a Churchwarden, and each made up of four other members, with the ability to co-opt others as necessary. There is also an Executive chaired by the Vicar, and attended by the Churchwardens, Treasurer and Secretary, which meets occasionally. These three groups make recommendation to the main Council, where debate is encouraged, and decisions made.

3 Objectives and Activities

The PCC has the responsibility of co-operating with the Vicar to promote within the Parish the whole mission of the Church. It also has maintenance responsibilities for the Church and the Hall. It has a responsibility to promote and maintain pastoral links with St Mark's Church of England (Aided) Primary School, Queens Road, Farnborough. In the absence of the Vicar the PCC should work with the Churchwarden(s) to carry out these objectives.

Our capital is limited, and we have no vicar after over 30 years in situ. The challenge for the next period is to work with St Peter's Church and appoint a new Associate Minister who will bring a group of people to join us at St Mark. That person will eventually become our new vicar and live in the vicarage. They will need to respect the wishes of the existing Parishioners at St Mark. This will be an interesting journey for all concerned. We must also welcome everyone into our church – one family, one God. There is a huge potential for the future which the PCC and parish should embrace.

Deglan Rowe, Churchwarden

4 Electoral Roll

The number recorded in October 2020 was 50, this being an increase of two from the previous roll. The revised Electoral Roll, as of 31st December 2020, consisted of 49 persons, four persons having been removed and three added. It is interesting to note that almost half of our Roll members live outside the Parish boundaries.

5 PCC Membership

PCC Membership was as follows for 2020:

	To October 2020	From October 2020
Vicar	The Revd. Ian C. Hedges	Vacancy
Churchwardens	Mr. Deglan Rowe Ms. Philippa Nicholas	Mr. Deglan Rowe Vacancy
Aldershot Deanery Synod	Mr. James Podger Mrs. Judith Gibbons	Mr. James Podger Mrs. Judith Gibbons
Treasurer	Mr. Michael Smith	Mr. Michael Smith
Secretary	Mr. Colin Lagor	Mr. Colin Lagor
Elected Members (Full Council = 9)	Mrs. Felicity Lewis Mr. Michael Palmer Mrs. Daryl Bates Mrs. Maria Smith (with 5 vacancies)	Miss Angharad Nicholas-Podger Mrs. Felicity Lewis Mr. Michael Palmer Mrs. Daryl Bates Mr Jim Ennis Mrs Vino Perera (with 3 vacancies) <i>During 2021, Mrs Angela Gilbert was co-opted onto the Council, to serve until the next APCM.</i>

6 Review of the Year January – December 2020

The start of the year commenced with the funeral of Churchwarden Philippa Nicholas, who had supported St Mark's throughout her life and had worked hard to assist Father Ian Hedges, the PCC, congregation, and fellow Churchwarden, Deglan Rowe. Little did we realise that the year would be so very different from any other year.

In January, the COVID Pandemic was not upon us and we were all conducting business as normal. Services continued with Father Ian in place and the Church Hall well supported by many local groups and societies. In terms of the future, we knew that there was a plan to work with St Peter's Church, but joint services seemed to not be on the agenda. Father Ian's future as Vicar of our Church appeared to be on the same footing as last year, with no immediate plans for retirement.

Then in March, we were faced with full Lockdown and the closure of the Church, and services suspended, with private prayer in lieu. The Church Hall activities had come to a halt and our main source of income disappeared. We were, however, able to benefit from Gift Aid payments due from previous years, and some grant money via the diocese. These payments helped reduce the burden.

The Church ventured into new activities with Father Ian as Zoom services were available to those in our e-mail community. Technologically, we were not as sophisticated as some churches, but communication could continue, and we were able to keep the Church open with screening off and social distancing. It was certainly very different, and we could no longer sing hymns, but the church did remain open throughout Lockdown. We saw Matthew Swires-Hennessy, from St Peter's Church, move away, and the dream of a better link between the two closest Anglican Churches became less certain. However, plans were afoot.

Father Ian felt that the loss of his home church for the elderly due to COVID restrictions, and his desire to care for all his flock against the benefit of a change of direction (for the church) by the appointment of a replacement, swung him towards taking retirement in October 2020. With his retirement, the Venerable Paul Davies, Archdeacon of Surrey, attended church for our delayed APCM in October, and plans with St Peter's Church for a joint appointment of a replacement were put forward to the PCC and to the congregation. These were met with enthusiasm and gratitude that the Church would definitely not be closing.

In terms of services, once we were out of restricted private prayer regime the Eucharistic services resumed with the help of members of the St Peter's clergy, Father Martin James and our old friend, Father Haydon Wilcox. We had a routine with the 8.00 am and 10.30 am services still combined and the numbers attending were reasonable. We also saw the socially distanced celebration outside Gwen Millar's flat for her 100th Birthday. We were able to hold a Remembrance Day service in November and sing the National Anthem (at an appropriate distance) by the War Memorial. We held a Carol Service outside the church, with mulled wine and mince pies. We also held a successful outside Christmas Fair.

Unfortunately, the attendance of families declined as we were unable to offer any activities in church for the children. The school children from St Mark's School could not come to the church, indeed for a number of months the school itself was closed and the children were largely working remotely. To our credit, unlike many other churches, we did not shut our doors and only rely on the internet. We did, however, still have the support of a core. They attended regularly and we can look forward to better times in 2021.

Deglan Rowe, Churchwarden

7 Report of the Proceedings of the Parochial Church Council

The Parochial Church Council consists of six Ex Officio members who serve for one year only, two Churchwardens, the Treasurer, the Secretary, and two Deanery Synod members, plus the Vicar who is the Chairman.

The main body of the Council consists of nine elected members who serve for three years. One member retired from the Council after serving their 3-year term, which meant that we had 6 vacancies to fill.-Three new members were added at the APCM, leaving three vacancies.-Mrs Angela Gilbert was co-opted in 2021 to serve until the APCM 2021

During the past six months, the PCC has met for three Zoom meetings, and the Churchwarden and Colin Lagor (assisting the Churchwarden) for three special Zoom meetings with the Archdeacon of Surrey, Paul Davis. Subjects discussed included:

- The retirement of Fr Ian Hedges as Incumbent of this Parish
- Clergy cover for Sundays when "Covid 19" regulations allowed the opening of the building
- Approving the accounts before sending for examination
- Formation of the new sub committees
- The appointment of Daryl Bates as Safeguarding Officer
- Approving the Review Report and APCM packs before publication
- Application for Charitable Status
- Payment of the 2020/2021 Parish Share
- The appointment of School Governors
- Giving the Treasurer access to Internet Banking
- Meetings with the Archdeacon of Surrey regarding forming a link with St Peter's Church Farnborough, in advertising for an Assistant Rector/Minister for St Peter's Church who will become Vicar Designate to St Mark's Church in 2022
- The PCC's response to the "Covid 19" Pandemic and its effect on the opening of the Church building and the Church Hall, including social distancing in both buildings
- Services for Holy Week and Easter
- Co-opting Mrs Angela Gilbert to serve on the PCC until the 2021 APCM.

In addition to the above subjects, the PCC discussed the day-to-day maintenance and running of the Church and Church Hall.

Colin Lagor, PCC Secretary

8 Fabric Report

Due to the pandemic, it was not possible to take any action relating to the Quinquennial Report (2019). We did maintain the heating on at least its minimum setting to prevent any further deterioration in the building. It was noticeable that there was little sign of the dry rot. With only one Churchwarden, it has been difficult to keep up with the terrier, or to update Health and Safety. The Churchwardens should consider such matters in 2021.

Deglan Rowe, Churchwarden

9 Churchwardens Report for 2020

Elsewhere, comments will be made on the finances. COVID presented a huge challenge to St Mark's, but due to careful stewardship by our Treasurer, Mick Smith, we managed to pay a large part of our Parish dues for 2020, bar £20,000. It seems likely that 2021 will present a bigger challenge and the Diocese has been warned already. We must keep some reserves for any emergencies. Notwithstanding the loss of the Vicar, the outstanding Parish share for 2020 is still payable over the following 12 months. This is a consideration for 2021.

We were only able to offer basic services and to attend to the needs of parishioners as best we could. We managed to secure clergy for our combined service held at 10.30 to continue the weekly Eucharist. This was possible with the support of Colin Lagor helping the visiting clergy to understand our routines and providing the music. With the Vicar leaving, we assumed some responsibility for the Vicarage itself and had to liaise with the Diocese on maintenance issues.

Deglan Rowe, Churchwarden

10 Safeguarding Children and Vulnerable Adults

Training for this role is about to happen. As the Church has not been fully open there is nothing else to report.

Daryl Bates

11 Deanery Synod report 2020

Only one meeting of the Synod was held during the year, and it was done electronically via the ubiquitous ZOOM system. Considering the number of parishes in the Deanery, and therefore the number of representatives (Laity and Clergy) that there could be, the attendance was fairly small, with about 16 or so if memory serves correctly. BOTH of St. Mark's lay representatives were present, though Father Ian had, by then, retired, so was obviously not present. The meeting focussed mainly on how parishes had survived during the Pandemic; what methods had been used to stay in contact and look after the spiritual health of the congregations. Considering how 'non-technical' we are at St. Mark compared to other parishes, I was extremely proud to be able to report that we HAD met for worship on Zoom. It was also good to be able to report that we were one of the first churches to open up again for private prayer, quickly followed by being able to have a Eucharist. It seemed that parishes with smaller buildings had difficulty working out one-way systems, and larger congregations needed to have place allocation systems organised. We were very lucky. At the time of writing this report, minutes of the 2020 meeting have not yet been circulated, and I believe that there are some Deanery events/happenings which need to be considered for 2021. HOWEVER, not everyone has a loud voice, and some of the information forwarded about these was not fully understood, so I need to wait to find out what lies ahead as well as learning when 2021 meetings will take place.

Judith Gibbons and James Podger

12 Annex – Reports from Church Groups for 2020

A1 Church Cleaning

After 35 years of my cleaning, this came to an abrupt end with the arrival of the pandemic and the closing of churches. Since then, I have been grateful to those people who have done the occasional sweeping or other cleaning jobs. Particularly the working parties who have done this job before big occasions such as Christmas and Easter. This has ensured that it gets done from time to time and never allowed to get too bad. My thanks to you all.

Felicity Milne

Church Cleaning Episode 2

Following on from Felicity's report, it just needs saying that everything is being done to ensure that the possibility of "disease transmission" is kept to the minimum.

The fact that the church is only open to the public one day a week ensures that any 'Covid' is cleared from the building during the week's gap. When we were allowed to open after the first lockdown, we followed Church of England guidelines for church cleaning, removing various objects which it was thought could transmit the virus. (Some of this has more recently reckoned not to have been so necessary!) Fresh air plays a big part in 'cleaning' so we try to keep doors open as often as possible, but antibacterial sprays and wipes are also very useful. Steam cleaners, long handled dusters, and a well-known brand of floor mop with anti-bac pads have also proved invaluable. We have discovered, whilst cleaning the pews, that a number of them require some TLC, too many fingers gathered splinters during the process. Another 'major clean' was undertaken during the preparations for Christmas. Sprays and wipes are available at all times when the church is open.

Although it doesn't happen every week, at the moment, we also ensure that the brass is polished when it is needed.

There are members of the team who also sneak in periodically and do little bits to keep things tickety boo! This obviously needs a team of willing volunteers, and we have been very lucky. No point in naming names, we would miss somebody, but suffice it to say a big 'Thank you' is necessary to quite a few.

The team

A2 Church Hall Committee

For obvious reason this has been a very quiet year. I have attempted to deal with the ongoing changes following Government Guidelines sent at different times depending on the current Covid regulations. To that end a full Covid risk assessment was carried out, hand sanitisers installed and clear signage on wall and floors put in place.

It goes without saying that the hall income has been drastically reduced during this year.

Daryl Bates

A3 Communication (Magazine)

Production of any sort of magazine during 2020 was of course impossible. However, it seems that more and more of our congregation is able to access electronic information and therefore we advertised/published what we needed to via our website or email. HOWEVER, we were fully aware of those who do not link electronically and ensured that a paper copy of everything was always available, and where possible delivered to those who needed this form of communication.

During 2020 I believe that we managed to 'blunder' on very few occasions.

Judith Gibbons

A4 Music Report

Since 2012 and until just before the start of Lockdown in March 2020, Paul Collins' organ simulator was used at the 10.30 am Sung Eucharist for accompanying hymns, playing Jennette Wickes' music setting of the Eucharist and playing appropriate music before and after each service. On many occasions it was also used for playing at weddings and funerals including the Requiem's for Philippa Nicholas and Father Brian Bessant. During Lockdown, Colin Lagor provided music from a laptop computer playing through the church audio system. Once Lockdown is over, I will gladly continue to play for services in St. Mark's if the PCC so wishes.

Paul Collins

A5 St Mark's Fellowship

Our year started with our usual meetings in February and March. Unfortunately, the pandemic then arrived and we have been unable to meet since. I am hopeful that we may be able to start again once restrictions are lifted.

Felicity Milne

A6 St Mark's Floral Team



Barbara Jones' flowers

A very short report this year. After Philippa Nicholas' funeral we had Father Brian's funeral and Lent. We missed out on Easter and Judith's wonderful Lent creations. Then we had lockdown 1, only we did not know it was to be the first of three, so we had a closed church into the summer. We did have a few flowers when we opened up again until the November lockdown and then Advent. We all enjoyed doing the flowers for Christmas. 4th of January Lockdown 3 started and Barbara Jones' funeral was on the 7th January and then we were into Lent again.

As always, I want to thank the people who not only arrange their flowers, but also pay for them as a gift to the church. I also want to thank those who so faithfully donate to the flower fund at festivals and for special occasions. Barbara was one of those.

Marie Collins

A7 St Mark's Website Update

Father Ian looked after the website right up to the moment he left. He wrote up details about our Zoom Services and how we managed to keep open. After he left, Father Ian provided invaluable support to the Churchwarden. We moved over from 'BT' to the 'Outlook' account and the Churchwarden took time to contact those on the mailing list.

We decided towards the end of 2020, to make changes to the website and updates are still ongoing. The Churchwarden looked at reviews and has made sure it was clear that the church is open. Next year major changes will be made to revamp the website so it is more relevant, including developments on the new appointment which hopefully will take place next year.

Deglan Rowe, Churchwarden

A8 Social Committee

Attempts to continue our busy round of social events have been seriously curtailed but we have done our best to make sure that we have shown the presence of St Mark's to the general public whenever possible. We held a cake and coffee Morning for the MacMillan Cancer Appeal in September and followed this by a very successful "Frost Fair" in December. We have learned the importance of using the church garden at the west end for these events as it is such a visible presence to the community in North Camp.

Daryl Bates
07/05/2021

A9 St Mark's C of E Primary School



St Mark's Primary school continues to be a highly sought after school with an excellent reputation in the local town of North Camp. The last year has been a turbulent one due to the COVID-19 pandemic, and the team have worked tirelessly, not only ensure that the children had access to high quality learning, but also to ensure that the children remained engaged. The last year has taken its toll on staff and I have never been more proud to work alongside a team of highly skilled, dedicated staff who support, live and breathe the strong ethos that the school resonates through its Christian Values.

We have been particularly proud of the daily collective worship 'podcasts' which we recorded for the children at home or at school during both lockdowns. We know from statistics on our website and feedback from parents, that these were extremely well received. In addition, we set challenges for the children to broaden the spirituality aspect of some of the worships and share what they had done on the school BLOG. These challenges enabled children to share spiritual reflections.

Despite not being able to visit the church, due to COVID-19, and the last whole school event in church taking place in December 2019, the school have worked hard to ensure that key events that would normally have taken place in church, have continued to take a high profile in school. The team have considered innovative ways to engage the pupils in worship and reflection.

In October 2020, we said a sad goodbye to Father Ian. This was a huge loss to the school as, coupled with the pandemic, we 'lost' our key link to the church. We have worked closely with Helen Smith at St Peter's church since Father Ian's retirement who has supported the school with a range of recorded collective worships, thematic to the events in school, and taking the lead in our virtual Easter service this year.

In October, we held a virtual Harvest Festival and in November we created a stunning outdoor remembrance tree linked to the names on the wall in the chapel at St Mark's church. In December, the infant department recorded a traditional Nativity, with the Junior children narrating. We also held our annual 'Pause Day' on the last day of the Spring Term and ended the term with our internal, virtual Easter Service.

During our latest Virtual Hampshire partnership review this year the inspector reported:

"Senior leaders have a clear view of the school's strengths and are aware of potential vulnerabilities, with clear plans of action in place to address any identified priorities. Strategic planning is a particular strength. Leaders have built on the strong relationships that exist within the school community and have ensured that good communication is prioritised. Decision making related to the pandemic has taken account of the school's context and has been responsive to circumstances throughout. Careful planning and forethought have meant that the school can deal with ever changing demands...Parents are extremely positive about the strong leadership and clear communication at the school throughout the pandemic."

We are very excited about the prospect of a new Vicar at St Mark's and the new and fresh ideas that he will bring and look forward to working closely with him.

We are really looking forward to the time when we can all step back into the church together!

Annabel Stocchetti, Headteacher





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Diocese of Guildford
Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish
of St Mark South Farnborough (0108)

Financial Statement and Treasurer's Report
Year Ending
31st December 2020

Presented to the
Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish
of St Mark South Farnborough (0108)

17 April 2021

1 Report of the Independent Examiner for the Year Ended 31st December 2020

ST MARK'S PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

Independent Examiner's Report to the PCC of St Mark's, Farnborough

I report on the accounts for the year ended 31st December 2020.

Respective responsibilities of the Trustees and Independent Examiner

The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The charity's trustees 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 in section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act; and
- state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of Independent Examiner's Statement

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

An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from the management committee concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently is given as to whether the accounts present a 'true and fair' view and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

Independent Examiner's Statement

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

- (1) which gives me cause to believe that in any material respect:
 - the accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the 2011 Act; or
 - the accounts did not accord with the accounting records; or
 - the accounts did not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair' view which is not a part of an independent examination
- (2) I have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to obtain a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached



Mr Patrick Brown
18 Foxhurst Road
Ash Vale
GU12 5DY

21st April 2021

2 - Financial Statement for the Year Ending 31 December 2020

This year has seen some challenges for the Treasurer - more so than 2019.

The Covid-19 pandemic has, as with so many charities and businesses, seriously affected our Parish worship throughout the year; especially St Mark's traditional Easter and Christmas programmes, coupled with the major effect on Church Hall letting. This has greatly affected income.

March 2020 saw the Church Hall income considerably reduced. This directly affected the available funds to pay the Parish Share. The PCC had already decided at the end of 2019 to reduce the monthly payments to an amount the Parish could afford. As a consequence of the pandemic and to improve the cash flow, the monthly £4,580.00 Parish Share payment was halted altogether to keep some funds in our account.

At the start of 2020 the Finance Committee produced a forecast (which the PCC agreed), to reduce payments towards the Parish Share to £3,400.00 for the twelve payments monthly in 2020. This would help the general fund cash flow. A thirteenth payment would be made to the Diocese of Guildford in December 2020 to cover the outstanding debt of £14,171.04 funds allowing.

In March 2020 the global pandemic dashed what hopes St Marks had of paying the full Parish Share and the PCC found itself in the difficult position of having little or no income to meet the Parish Share as the monthly income barely covered the monthly running costs of the Church and Hall.

The 2020 income against expenditure was about £637.00 short per month. This depleted the surplus of £16K at the start of 2020 to approximately £8K at the end of 2020. 2020 saw a further decrease in income which led to a shortfall in income of about £910.00 per month.

The Gift Aid claim of approximately £14,800.00 for 2019-20 was a welcome addition to the funds, enabling St Marks to decrease the Parish Share debt to £20,000.00.

The continuing efforts to increase the size of the congregation have again met with varying success and produced some superb 'one off' events. However this has done little to improve the financial situation.

St Mark's Church remains reliant on a dedicated core, who continue to work tirelessly to keep the Parish in the black.

The outstanding debit of £3k for the restoration of the Memorial Chapel has been paid to the Benefactor, keeping the promise to clear the outstanding amount in early 2020.

The Parish is now registered with the Charities Commission, registration number 1188893. The registration was required because of the magnificent fund-raising activities in 2019 for the Memorial Chapel restoration which pushed our income over the £100,000.00 limit. It was hoped that the income would once again reach and exceed such figure as there is much work required to the Church building.

Once again as the Treasurer I would like to thank everyone for the support given to the continuation of the Parish and with your continued support, and the grace of God, our continuing success.

3. 2020 - Income

The total income fell from £90,419.73 in 2019 to £65,549.50 at the end of 2020.

This is a decrease in income of £24,870.23 and is directly attributable to the reduced income from Planned Giving and the letting of the Church Hall. The total decrease would have been greater than £40,000.00, but for claiming the outstanding gift aid for 2017-18 and 2018-19 in the sum of £14,802.98 claimed from HMRC in Gift Aid. For the 2020-21 tax year, the claim will only be approximately £3,800.00.

Planned Giving using weekly:-

A) Monthly Standing Orders (SO) have seen an increase from £11,965.00 in 2019 to £16,065.25 for 2020. This is an increase of £4,000.25 - a big thank you to the people who now give by Standing Order as regular giving enables planning as to when the bills can be paid.

B) Gift Aid envelopes:

The Gift Aid envelope scheme has seen a large decrease from £7,705.01 in 2019 to £3,223.20, a decrease of £4,481.81. This is a direct result of Covid-19 as the reduced number and style of Church services has had a direct effect on attendance. Some of the reduction is as a result of switching from the envelope scheme to monthly SO giving. Three more people did this, making a total of thirteen people contributing in this manner.

C) Gift Aid Blue envelopes:

Again this method of donating has been hit hard from the reduced Church opening and services with the figure of £3,253.40 in 2019 dropping to the £2,027.00 figure for 2020, a decrease of £1,226.40.

D) Open Plate Collection:

The open plate has also seen a decrease from £6,191.00 in 2019 to £3,404.50 in 2020, a decrease of £2,786.50. Again this type of donation has been hit hard from the reduced Church opening and services.

This is a worrying trend as the non-SO planned giving, yellow envelope, blue envelope and open plate in total are approximately £8,500.00 down on 2019, providing less to cover the two major monthly outgoings, these being the Parish Share (£4,590.61 per month) and buildings insurance (£483.54 per month). Gas, electric, water etc. are extras that vary month to month; gas bills for the Church are £800.00 to £1,000.00 per month in winter and approximately £35.00 per month in the warmer months.

The Church Hall is the biggest contributor of income to the general fund that under normal circumstances would make up the shortfall in planned giving receipts to pay bills. Even the herculean efforts of Mrs Daryl Bates and her band of selfless people who maintain and normally keep the Church Hall virtually fully booked has been thwarted by Covid-19 rules and regulations, this has had the effect of reducing the Hall receipts from £45,061.09 in 2019 to a greatly reduced figure of £19,082.83 a decrease of £25,978.26. Nevertheless, without the continued commitment from this small group of people, life would be very different at St Marks.

The outstanding HMRC Gift Aid claim for 2018 and 2019 has collected a total of £14,802.98, some of this income was used to make a second payment of the Parish Share.

The Gift Aid claim for the year 2020-2021 is still to be processed but, with the reduced income, it will be around £2,900.00 for the envelope and open plate and £3,900.00 for the standing order income making a total of approximately £7,000.00 in total. This will go some way to covering the shortfall in the 2020 Parish Share debit.

2020 Income

2020 Income	Unrestricted Funds		General Fund 2526	Restricted		Total	Total
	Church £	Hall £		Development Fund General £	Memorial Chapel £	2020	2019
Voluntary Income							
Planned Giving Standing Orders	16,065.25					16,065.25	11,965.00
Planned Giving Yellow Envelopes	3,223.20					3,223.20	7,705.01
Gift Aid Blue Envelopes	2,027.00					2,027.00	3,253.40
Open Plate Unrestricted Cash	3,404.50					3,404.50	6,191.00
Donations Restricted to 6725				525.00	740.00	1,265.00	7,071.34
Donations Restricted to 2625			2,220.00			2,220.00	0.00
Votive Candles	0.00					0.00	119.34
Sundry Book Shelf Hall	0.00					0.00	40.00
HMRC Refunds	13,289.23				1,513.75	14,802.98	2,808.62
	38,009.18		2,220.00	525.00	2,253.75	43,007.93	39,153.71
Income from Investments							
Bank interest & compensation (CCLA)	56.79			2.31		59.10	103.84
	56.79		0.00	2.31	0.00	59.10	103.84
Income from church activities							
Cakes, coffee, crafts	16.79			0.00		16.79	
Charities (Rest collected to be paid out)	0.00					0.00	533.80
Spring Summer Autumn etc. Fayres	1,290.85					1,290.85	990.23
Hire of the Church	0.00					0.00	0.00
Church Hall Lettings	0.00	19,082.83				19,082.83	45,061.09
Magazine	0.00					0.00	83.80
Fundraising						0.00	667.40
St Mark's PCC Fees	1,092.00					1,092.00	3,471.10
Refund on utilities	0.00					0.00	354.76
	2,399.64	19,082.83	0.00	0.00	0.00	21,541.57	51,162.18
TOTAL INCOMING RESOURCES	40,465.61	19,082.83	2,220.00	527.31	2,253.75	64,549.50	90,419.73

4 - Expenditure:

The total expenditure for 2020 was £51,436.42. This is a decrease of £39,076.24 from the 2019 figure of £90,512.66. This figure is smaller than the £17,447.06 figure from last year as no major works or projects could be undertaken due to lack of funds and the repayments of the loan for the Chapel restoration.

The Diocesan Board of Finance gave £9,850.00 in Covid-19 support of the Parish share. With the payments that St Marks has managed to pay, this has left a Parish share underpayment of £20,000.00.

In 2020 the Finance Committee produced a forecast (which the PCC agreed), to reduce the Parish Share to £3,400.00 for the twelve payments in 2020. This would help the general fund cash flow. A thirteenth payment would be made to the Diocese of Guildford in December 2020 to cover the outstanding debit of £14,171.04 funds allowing.

In March 2020 the global pandemic dashed what hopes St Marks had in meeting the Parish Share and the PCC found itself in the difficult position of having little or no income to meet the Parish Share as the monthly income barely covers the monthly running costs of the Church and Hall.

The Parish Share figure for 2021 has been held at the 2020 figure of £54,971.00 per annum which is equal to £4,580.92 per month. Adding the outstanding £20,000.00 to the 2021 figure of £54,971.00 (74,971.00 total) would make the Parish Share repayment figure for 2021 £6,247.60 per month.

Given the situation, all expenditure has been put on hold. Only essential and safety works have been carried out to keep the expenditure as low as possible.

The fact remains that a potential £120,000 to £220,000 sum to deal with the issues of the dry rot and roof repairs, along with the work required by earlier and upcoming Quinquennial inspection, are still real and need addressing. These costs will not go away and will continue to increase.

The utility bills are being monitored to ensure both the Church and the Hall benefit from being on the best contracts available at the time. These are the greatest items of expenditure after the Parish Share and buildings insurance.

The Loan for the restoration of the Memorial Chapel is now complete as the £3,000.00 outstanding to the Benefactor, was paid in May 2020.

A renewed effort is now required for fundraising for the Church building and roof fund. The Quinquennial report lists some work that is needed fairly promptly to maintain the integrity of the building.

2020 Expenditure

2020 Resources Expended	Unrestricted Funds		Restricted Funds		Total	Toal
	Church £	Hall £	Development Fund General £	Memorial Chapel Project £	2020 £	2019
CHURCH ACTIVITIES						
Ministry						
Diocesan Parish Share	25,121.00				25,121.00	50,492.04
Working Expenses	196.90				196.90	483.56
Vicarage Expenses	846.89				846.89	712.59
Visiting Clergy	141.90				141.90	0.00
Upkeep of Services	644.55				644.55	1,641.96
Church						
Insurance	4,243.08	1,916.16			6,159.24	5,730.48
Utilities	4,828.91				4,828.91	5,633.89
Boiler Maintenance	0.00	137.00			137.00	650.40
Repairs, Maintenance Certifications	114.00	1,007.17			1,121.17	1,645.31
Church Music	0.00	990.34			990.34	1,096.48
Verger / Organist	270.00				270.00	1,580.00
Memorial Chapel Project				0.00	0.00	0.00
Hall						
Running Costs		5,483.52			5,483.52	5,299.20
Utilities		4,532.47			4,532.47	5,342.54
Hall Sundries		722.53			722.53	753.30
Hall Major Expenditure Repair Maint		140.00			140.00	6,945.51
Bad Cheques Refunds & Deposit Returns		100.00			100.00	473.00
Other Parish Expenses						
Charity Restricted paid out	0.00				0.00	533.80
Church Management and Administration						
Parish Admin	0.00				0.00	89.10
Magazine	0.00				0.00	279.00
Quinquennial Inspections			0.00		0.00	1,130.50
TOTAL RESOURCES EXPENDED	36,407.23	15,029.19	0.00	0.00	51,436.42	90,512.66

5 - 2020 Statement of Assets and Liabilities

<u>Assets</u>	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total 2020 £	Total 2019 £
General Fund:				
NatWest Bank 2526	16,573.15	2,220.00	18,793.15	8,517.92
C of E CBF No. 2 Account	12,410.44		12,410.44	12,357.97
C of E CBF No. 3 Account	545.94		545.94	543.63
Development Fund accounts:				
NatWest Bank 7625		5,314.11	5,314.11	5,535.36
C of E CBF Account No.4		1,019.78	1,019.78	1,015.46
Total Assets	29,529.53	8,553.89	38,083.42	27,970.34

6 – Movements in Restricted Funds during the year 2020.

	Bal B/fwd	Receipts	Payments	Transfers In	Loans	Bal C/fwd
Dev Fund NW 7625 Gen	4,101.72	365.00	0.00			4,466.72
Dev Fund NW 7625 Memorial Chapel	1,333.64	740.00		1,513.75	-3,000.00	587.39
Dev Fund NW 7625 Roof works	100.00	160.00	0.00			260.00
CBF No.4 004D Restricted	1,015.46	4.32				1,019.78
TOTAL	6,550.82	3,489.32	0.00	1,513.75	-3,000.00	8,553.89

Liabilities

The difference between the total cost of the Memorial Chapel restoration project and the money raised was met by a single benefactor as an interest free loan to be repaid as soon as practical

Liability to the benefactor	Payments	Bal C/fwd
Total Outstanding		£3,000.00
27/05/2020	-£3,000.00	£0.00
		£0.00
	Total outstanding	£0.00

Liability to Guildford Diocesan Board of Finance of Parish Share.

2020	Required Monthly Payment	Actual amount paid	covid 19 Support from Dioceses	Still owing for 2020 Parish Share of £54,971.00
January	4,580.92	3,400.00		51,571.00
February	4,580.92	3,400.00		48,171.00
March	4,580.92	3,400.00		44,771.00
April	4,580.92		4,850.00	39,921.00
May	4,580.92			39,921.00
June	4,580.92			39,921.00
July	4,580.92	10,200.00	3,000.00	26,721.00
August	4,580.92			26,721.00
September	4,580.92			26,721.00
October	4,580.92			26,721.00
November	4,580.92			26,721.00
December	4,580.92	4,721.00	2,000.00	20,000.00

Development Fund

The NatWest development fund, a restricted account, can only be used for PCC specified projects.

- 1) Nonspecific Fund: (Restricted within the NatWest ----7625 account) restricted fund of £4101.72 and receipts of £365.00 and expenditure of zero giving a balance of £4,466.72

- 2) Memorial Chapel Restoration Fund (Restricted within the NatWest ----7625 account) carry forward of £1,333.64 and receipts of £2,253.75 expenditure of -£3,000.00 balance of £587.39.
- 3) Church Roof Works (Restricted within the NatWest ----7625 account) carry forwards of £100.00 and receipts of £160.00 with Zero expenditure, balance of £260.00
- 4) The restricted NatWest -----7625 account balance at 31 December 2020 is the combination of the £4,466.72, £587.39, £260.00 and for a total of £5,314.11

7 Forward to 2021 and further years

As in last year's 'Forward into 2020', St Marks is now reaching a point of unsustainability and some major action will need to be taken to ensure the future of St Marks'. In its present state this is not proving to be easy.

The events planned for 2020 have not been as successful as was hoped, and in March 2020 Covid-19 reduced the ability to hold services. St Marks is not as technologically savvy as some parishes, so reaching any potential followers through the various multimedia platforms has not been pursued and that has left St Marks in a technological backwater.

As in previous years, St Marks will be facing a potential £120,000 to £220,000 sum to deal with the issues of the dry rot and roof repairs, along with the work required by the 2019 Quinquennial inspection.

2021 has seen the Diocese freeze the Parish Share at the 2020 figure £54,971.00 – unfortunately, it will be impossible for St Mark's to meet this, as it would require a monthly payment of £4,580.92 with an extra payment of £1,666.67 to cover the outstanding £20,000 from 2020 to the Diocese, plus Insurance of £483.54 and utility bills of approximately £1,000 making a total monthly outgoing of £7,731.12 and this before any Quinquennial or maintenance work is paid for.

Some time ago, the Church Wardens met the Archdeacon of Surrey at Church House, Guildford, to warn that the increase in Parish Share was unsustainable without a change in direction of the church. Plans are afoot to work with St Peter's Farnborough, to implement permanent changes to insure a good outcome for the parish.

Bank Account Functions

General funds

NatWest Account ---2625 - this is the account used for the day to day running of the Church and Church Hall.

C of E CBF No.2 account - this is the savings account for general none restricted funds.

C of E CBF No.3 account – this is a designated account that can only be for music at St Marks.

Restricted Accounts

NatWest Account ---7625- this is a restricted account and can only be used for the maintenance and upkeep for the Infrastructure of the Church, and specified projects

C of E CBF No.4 Account - this is a savings account for the development funds, same restrictions as for the NatWest Account

This report was presented to the Parochial Church Council for first review on 26 March 2021.

Compiled by Michael Smith

Treasurer for the PCC of the Ecclesiastic Parish of St Mark South Farnborough

Registered Charity Number 1188893