



**Christ Church
South Nutfield**

**PARISH REVIEW
for 2020**

**Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM)
*Sunday 25th April 2021 at 11.15am***

*Worshipping - Serving - Growing - Working together
at the heart of the community*

Review of 2020 – Revd Len Abrams

April 2021. This report is very strange to write because the whole period which it covers has been so completely unpredictable. Who would have predicted in February last year that we would have spent months in lockdown, live streaming services? From my perspective I certainly could not have predicted that I would be writing this report from my study in the vicarage of Christ Church, South Nutfield! Last year's APCM was held on 15 March 2020 – two days later Bishop Christopher sent out a letter to all the clergy of Southwark Diocese announcing the closure of churches for public worship as the whole country went into lockdown. The Archbishop said, 'Being a part of the Church of England is going to look very different in the days ahead. Our life is going to be less characterised by attendance at church on Sunday, and more characterised by the prayer and service we offer each day'. I think as we look back on the past year, in years to come, one of the abiding memories of the year will be how the whole community of South Nutfield rallied to serve and look after each other, with Christ Church at the centre.

Because of the pandemic, we have live streamed our regular services, beginning with Mothering Sunday on 22 March 2020 and then throughout the year without missing a service through Lent, Easter, Advent and Christmas. For a period, we were able to restore public worship on Sundays under strict COVID conditions with limited numbers, whilst continuing with live streaming. It appears that throughout these difficult times the numbers of people attending worship services (either in-person or on-line) remained at normal levels or increased slightly. Throughout this time we enjoyed the input, mostly pre-recorded, of the full spectrum of our Christ Church community in prayers, bible reading and especially music, from young and old. We learned a whole new vocabulary – Zoom, Google Classroom, virtual meetings, "YOU'RE MUTED!!" etc. but through it all we never stopped being 'Church' – even if the building was closed.

I have a favourite prayer:

Lord grant that I may today,
by your grace,
In things large and small,
Seen or unseen,
Be your answer
to the prayers of others
In your holy name, Amen

I think that we have seen this prayer answered in myriad ways, seen and unseen, large and small, in the way the faithful people of Christ Church have supported their own and the wider community of South Nutfield during these difficult times. In many practical ways – shopping for the vulnerable, phone calls to the lonely, meals for the

sick and bereaved – the hands and feet of Jesus have been present in our midst – the Incarnation made real in each and every act of love and service.

During the year, under these very difficult circumstances, we said good bye to a number of long-standing members of the Christ Church and wider community who passed away, to rest in peace, looking forward to the great Day of Resurrection which awaits all the faithful. This includes Bob Belcher, Roger Copeland, Barry Johnson, Alan North and Lily-Ann Baker. We continue to pray for and support their families.

During the year the work and ministry of Christ Church have inevitably been negatively impacted with many activities having to be suspended partially or completely. In other areas, through innovation, creativity and hard work, we have continued and grown. One area has been in music: whilst we have not been able to sing during the relatively brief periods when we have been able to worship in church, a quartet of singers from the Christ Church Choir have pre-recorded and mixed dozens of traditional hymns, led by Richard Guise. These, together with the music prepared by Alice and David Black, the Anderson family and the Christ Church Worship Group have contributed to our worship and praise through the year. Behind the scenes Pom Margerand and Paul Smith have spent many hundreds of hours piecing it all together and making it all happen.

One cannot help but notice, on reading the other reports contained in this 2020 Parish Review, the enormous amount and scope of activities in which Christ Church is engaged and, of particular note, the number of committed people who give of their time and resources to make it all happen. Christ Church is amazing in this respect. There is a core group who do a great deal but there is also a great sense of community with a large number of people doing all sorts of things. Details of the various areas of activity are more fully described in the individual reports, so I am not going to repeat the long list of activities here.

I would like, though, to in particular thank Trina Pearse & Paul Smith, our two Churchwardens, for all the support, guidance and friendship they have extended to me and Karen during the year. They, together with the other members of the Steering Committee, have worked very hard to provide leadership and many hours of work to keep everything going so well this year of both pandemic and a change of vicar! Key to the whole operation of course is Jackie Fenn as the Parish Administrator and Treasurer (amongst other things), providing an un-flappable foundation for us all to work off. Gratitude too for the constant presence and input from Sue Fairclough as the PCC Secretary and so much more, and the quiet wisdom of Fran Dobson.

The purpose of all of this activity, work, commitment and time of course is to further the Kingdom of God: “To do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with our God” [*Micah 6:8*]. As a faith community, we care for and serve others, and we seek to grow in our faith through an ever-deepening knowledge of scripture, prayer and a deepening relationship with Jesus. Without this focus, we are not that different

to the Cricket Club (with apologies to the Cricket Club!). Because of the crisis this year many of the usual ongoing teaching avenues such as home groups and courses like the Alpha Course have not been possible. We have instead focused on the teaching/sermon 'slot' on Sundays as the main source of teaching which has been undertaken by myself, Jonathan Holland and David Banbury, together with Sue Fairclough, Revd Moira Austin, Hilary Brand, John Bartlett and Graham Rouse.

For Karen and myself, despite all the difficulties, this past year has been full of change and very enriching. During the course of the year, we moved from being part of the Merstham and Gatton Ministry team, to supporting Christ Church in your vacancy, to becoming your new Vicar Priest-in-Charge through an intriguing search process which, through no fault of Christ Church or the Diocese, was not easy. It was therefore with heightened joy (and certainty that it was the Lord's will) that I was Licenced by Bishop Jonathan on 6 December 2020, sharing the service with Joe Austin as he was Confirmed. We moved into the Vicarage at the beginning of December and were touched and encouraged by the welcome we have received from Christ Church and the South Nutfield community.

The coming year will be very important as we emerge from the shadow of the global pandemic. As an engineer, I tend to think in pictures. In picturing the parish of Christ Church, I developed the following summary of interlinking areas of ministry and activity, each of which is needed so that the whole is more than the sum of the parts.

Christ Church at a glance



May the Lord bless us as we seek to serve him in the coming year.

Churchwarden's Report for 2020 – Trina Pearse & Paul Smith

We have had another busy year this year – not least because of the Covid pandemic and the appointment of Alison's replacement.

Interregnum and New Priest-in-Charge

We said a sad goodbye to Alison at the beginning of the year, but fortunately Revd Len Abrams had already offered to stand in as locum vicar. The PCC prepared a parish profile as part of the recruitment process, and at the "Section 11" meeting appointed our parish representatives (Rosemary Early & Nick Dobson) and decided it would initially like to interview Revd Len, rather than advertise the post. The process wasn't straightforward, but, with the help of the Bishop Jonathan and Archdeacon Moira, Revd Len was licensed as "Priest-in-Charge" at a lovely service in December. To make it even better, it incorporated Joe Austin's twice-delayed confirmation.

Quinquennial

The church has a thorough inspection of its fabric every 5 years ("the quinquennial"). It was due in May 2020, but delayed until December due to the lockdown. Sue Kent, our architect, undertook the inspection, and we received the final report in March 2021. Thankfully, there was no immediate major issues, but there are some items that will need addressing reasonably urgently e.g. external pointing, ferramenta, the nave gutters.

Finance

Not surprisingly, Covid and the consequent closure of the church and hall has had a significant impact on our finances, notably on hall income and collections. However, we are grateful that people planned giving has increased, and people have donated on-line, so the fall in income was not as large as we expected. Combined with a reduction in costs due to being closed, we managed to nearly break even – an improvement of about £5,000 on 2019 when we had a significant deficit. Thanks to everyone for helping keep our finances in order!

St Bede's applications

Len undertook the interviews this year and we submitted 7 references this year. We have also been in touch with St Bede's about their procedure for the 2021 applications, and advised the church family accordingly via the Seed.

Health & Safety

Covid was obviously the main issue to contend with in 2020, and a lot of work was done, notably by Jackie Fenn & Trina Pearse, to create a plan for Covid-safe practices when the church re-opened for services. These are about to be re-instituted as we re-open the church after the most recent lockdown. We are really hoping that we don't ever have to return to services run by a "skeleton crew" in church.

Livestreaming

Arguably, the biggest innovation for many years has been the livestreaming of services, which at the time of writing, has now been in place for a full year. When the first lockdown was announced, in March 2020, we had less than a week before the next service to prepare for it. Remarkably, Revd Len managed to master the requisite technology and, using largely his own equipment, ensured that we didn't miss a single Sunday. After the first week, livestreaming from church was banned, and for several months, our service was streamed from Len's home, with Karen being both technical support and sole member of the congregation. As regulations allowed, we moved back to the church, but soon realised that we needed a proper video camera. The cost was mostly covered by a diocesan grant and a very generous donation. Peter Early provided invaluable support to the associated set-up process. The process has now been fine-tuned, and, as we return to church, will be seeking to re-train the Sunday technical team in the new, and rather more complicated, procedures. Many thanks also to Iain Kingsley for building a screen to allow operation by mixed households. We are planning to continue livestreaming into the future, and thinking about the lessons we've learned over this period for how we "do church".

Data & Data Protection

The Safeguarding Team has created a new Images Policy for us, and we have changed our procedures to ensure they are GDPR-compliant. In particular, all photos are now taken using a church camera, and electronically stored with password-protection. We are also in the process of updating the database to record a new permission for children's first names to be used along with photos.

Children's Groups

Because of the obvious problems, the children's groups have met for only a handful of times but there have been creative initiatives to keep them in contact with church. Thank you to all involved, especially to Melissa Lipka and Sharon Shearer, who are standing down from their co-ordination role after 6 years.

Hon. Treasurer's Report 2020 – Jackie Fenn

Planned giving (combined with envelope giving) increased by £3630 (9%) this year.

Tax recovered via gift aid increased by £1089.12 (10%). We received no legacies this year.

Donations were up by £2363.23 (132%). Specific donations were made towards the live-stream camera and painting of the tower.

Collections were down by £2160.20 (68%). They were heavily affected by the COVID19 pandemic. But donations increased probably as a result of the

congregation being unable to attend services in person; and a wish to support the church in its loss of hall income.

Fees received were down by £782 (39%). One wedding was postponed until 2021.

Hall income decreased by £5372 (43%), and expenses decreased by £1928.93 (24%). The hall was closed for six months of 2020 due to the COVID19 pandemic.

A grant of £1000 was received from the South London Churches Fund towards the cost of the live-stream camera.

Total income decreased by £1203.43 (1.6%).

Total expenses decreased by £6293.94 (8%), leaving us with a deficit for the year of £558.80. The reserves in the General Fund, are still at an acceptable level of 3.5 x monthly expenditure. (The Diocese of Southwark's recommended range of 3 to 6 x monthly expenditure.)

As usual, we have had some movement in the numbers of people using planned giving with some moving away or reducing giving and some starting or increasing regular giving. We are very thankful to those people who have been able to continue to donate through planned giving or donations in this difficult year. And we pray that better times are ahead very soon for anyone who is feeling financial pressure at the moment. May God bless you.

My thanks go to the rest of the finance team: Ken Rolaston, Sue Wayland; and especially to Rosemary Early for administering gift aid, including making our applications to H. M. Revenue and Customs. And thanks to Richard Jenkins for his faithful commitment to carrying out the independent examination of the accounts.

Electoral Roll Officer's Report – Ian Phillips

There were 139 names on the Roll as reported at the 2020 APCM, an increase of 6 since 2019. Of these 33% are male, 67% female and 22% of our membership reside outside our parish boundary.

The Parochial Church Council

The Parochial Church Council (PCC) is a corporate body established by the Church of England. The PCC operates under the Parochial Church Council Powers Measure. The PCC is a Registered Charity. Christ Church South Nutfield Parochial Church Council has the responsibility of cooperating with the vicar/priest-in-charge in promoting in the ecclesiastical parish, the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical. The PCC is also specifically responsible for the maintenance of the Church Centre complex of Christ Church South Nutfield.

The method of appointment of PCC members is set out in the Church Representation Rules. At Christ Church the membership of the PCC consists of the incumbent, churchwardens, the readers, and members elected by those members of the congregation who are on the electoral roll of the church. All those who attend our services are encouraged to register on the Electoral Roll and stand for election to the PCC.

The PCC members are responsible for making decisions on all matters of general concern and importance to the parish, including decisions on how the funds of the PCC are to be spent.

The full PCC met 8 times from March 2020 - March 2021, and an overview of the business covered is included in the PCC report.

Administrative information: Christ Church is situated in South Nutfield. It is part of the Diocese of Southwark within the Church of England. The correspondence address is Christ Church Parish Office, Kings Cross Lane, South Nutfield RH1 5NG.

PCC members who have served at any time since the last APCM until this report was approved are:

Ex officio Members:

Incumbent:	Revd Len Abrams – since December 2020 (Vice Chair)
Readers:	J. Holland and D. Banbury
Wardens:	P. Smith (PCC Chair), T. Pearse

Elected Members:

Treasurer:	J. Fenn
PCC Secretary:	S. Fairclough
Deanery Synod:	S. Fairclough, K Waple + 2 Vacancies
Safeguarding:	D. Martin

PCC members: F. Dobson, K. Doye, K. Evans, M. Forbes, S. Grace, R. Guise, A. Mungham, S. Nicholls, R. O'Neill, G. Wiles

PCC Secretary's Report – Sue Fairclough

The election of members to the 2020/2021 Parochial Church Council was held at the Annual Meeting on 15th March 2020, following the Easter Vestry for the election of Churchwardens and their deputies. Trina Pearse and Paul Smith continued as Wardens (an extra year for Paul). Christ Church was unusual in that we managed to hold our APCM just before the first Covid-19 lockdown. Revd Alison Way had provided a presentation overview of 2019 before she departed for Wincanton and Pen Selwood in February 2020, which was shown at the meeting.

Then there was lockdown! So the first PCC meeting at the end of March, following the APCM, was conducted via email. The situation had been very fast moving over the weeks prior to the lockdown. It was reported that:

- a Continuity Plan had been submitted to the Area Dean on 18th March.
- The Steering Committee were keen to ensure that communication was maintained. Information about the current situation as it changed had been sent out via emails to all those who had given consent to receive them. A number of the Christ Church family were involved in community support around the village.
- We made the sad decision to postpone the Church Away Day, scheduled for May. The Confirmation Service on 19th April was also cancelled. Bishop Jonathan sent a personal message to Joe Austin.
- A small team consisting of Revd Len Abrams, Paul Smith, Fran Dobson and Sue Fairclough had streamed a service from Christ Church on 22nd March. Due to the lockdown and closure of churches, the 29th March service was streamed from Revd Abrams' house in Caterham. All services thereafter, until we were allowed back into church, continued to be streamed from Len and Karen's home.
- There was concern over the potential financial impact of closure of the Church Centre.
- Karen Waple had stepped forward to be a Deanery Synod Representative.

By the next PCC meeting on 4th June, we had mastered the technology, so the meeting was conducted via Zoom. This was the required Interregnum Section 11 meeting: Rosemary Early and Nick Dobson were elected as Parish Representatives. The PCC adopted the Parish Profile, which is the statement of needs for the Parish of Christ Church South Nutfield, that had been compiled by the Steering Committee.

The 16th July PCC agreed to the redecoration of the Church Centre Hall, which was duly carried out by Nick Richardson and completed by the time the Centre was able to open its doors again at the end of August. Instructions regarding the re-opening of churches for worship had been received from the Diocese. We were not allowed to sing in church or share in the communion cup, and of course had to sit 2m apart. No separate activities for children were currently allowed to take place, which made it particularly difficult for families to attend church. Risk Assessments had to be carried out by any group using the Centre. The PCC agreed to new cleaners being appointed.

An Extraordinary PCC meeting was called on 6th August, principally to discuss issues arising from the Interregnum recruitment process.

At the 17th September PCC it was agreed to purchase a video camera, using a grant obtained from the Croydon Episcopal Area Mission Grant Scheme and a generous donation. Although the Centre was now in use again, the Treasurer reported that the total Church Centre income lost since the start of April was £3881.25. The PCC

agreed to freeze the annual Pledge to the diocese for 2021. However, we were thankful that planned giving and donations had improved.

As the Tower area was now being used as an exit from the Church it was agreed to ask Nick Richardson to repaint this area, as this had not been done when the church was refurbished in the 1990s.

Another Extraordinary PCC meeting via zoom was called on 22nd October to discuss further developments in the recruitment process.

The Safeguarding team had drawn up an Images Policy which was ratified at the 26th November PCC meeting. There had been a good response by the Church Community and Nutfield School to the harvest gifts for the Redhill Food Bank. Len's Licensing service would take place on 6th December, at which time Bishop Jonathan would also confirm Joe Austin. The Quinquennial Inspection by the Diocesan-appointed Architect had been carried out and a full report would be available in the New Year. Planning and recording had begun in earnest for the Carol Service and other Christmas services.

At the January 21st PCC meeting it was agreed to take the opportunity of the church being closed to clean the church carpet. It was felt that the Christmas Services had gone as well as possible in the constrained circumstances.



Parish Office – Jackie Fenn

What an odd year! It started with Revd Alison's departure and the good news that we would have Revd Len on a part-time basis during the interregnum. (What a blessing he has turned out to be.) And then – lockdown.

I suspected that I might have less to do than normal, but that didn't turn out to be the case. An early task was collecting names of volunteers to support others. There were many offers of help, but not many calling for help. I expect this was because our kind and caring congregation were already looking after their neighbours. And because of other schemes run by Nutfield Parish Council, Holborn's, the Station Pub and Nutfield's Good Neighbours. What a lovely village we live in.

I had plenty of new things to do: purchasing masks, gloves and sanitiser; organising readers and intercessors to video themselves and upload onto the church "cloud"; (on a personal note – learning how to do it myself for worship group and the lighting of the paschal candle at Easter); writing risk assessments and procedures, printing signs and advertising – firstly to reopen the church for personal worship, then for reopening the church for services, and for reopening the centre for our regular hirers.

Several of our regular hirers felt unable to return in September. Hopefully they will be happy to return later this year. We do have some new hirers, who are very

welcome, especially from an income point of view. All, sadly, not coming as I write this in January.

The Seed now gets sent to all our active members by email, with the exception of a few folk who receive theirs by post. And it is also uploaded to our website. This has meant that there is no need to fold and staple paper copies, which is just as well because I can't have my office helper volunteers at the moment. I had to do all my own folding and stapling of the service booklets for the carol service and Len's licensing. And trimming the candles, which seems to need doing much more frequently than before.

To minimise the number of people handling money, I have been dealing with the collection, free will envelopes, cheques and banking.

Our cleaner, Peter Hill, was unable to return to duties when we reopened. So new cleaners were appointed. Vickie and Jo settled in nicely, but were not needed during the lockdowns.

My loveliest tasks were sending flowers to Margaret Young and Eileen Akehurst for their 90th birthdays.

I would like to thank everyone who has responded to my numerous emails and contributed to our services. And my grateful thanks to the members of the steering committee, especially Trina, who have been a huge support.

What am I looking forward to in 2021? Working with Len. Seeing how Christ Church can grow in faith. And – like everyone else – singing in church, receiving communion, sharing the peace and refreshments. Cheers!

Duty Wardens, Welcome Teams and Audio/Visual Operators

Christ Church is known for its warm, welcoming atmosphere – we have all missed the sense of community that we experience when we can come together to worship. When we have been able to worship in church with restricted numbers, the Duty Wardens and Welcome Teams have shown great efficiency and empathy to those attending. Our sincere thanks to all of them, and to those who stepped in when regular helpers could not do so for reasons of shielding and vulnerability. We were blessed with extra volunteers for our Carol and Christmas Services. Our current Duty Wardens are Karen Probetts, Rosemary Early, Lucy Austin, Clare Lancaster and Ken Rolaston.

Streaming services has been a technological challenge, but with Revd Len's help we were able to start streaming from the very beginning of lockdown in March 2020 and continued, when churches were completely closed, from Len and Karen's front room! Streaming live services was not achieved by many churches until much later in the year, and something which some have not done at all. Paul Smith, supported by

Revd Len, Peter Early and Peter Brand, has reorganised the church sound and visual systems to accommodate streaming and since December has set up the services each week and operated the AV desk with the help of Pip Smith. Paul – you are a STAR!



Safeguarding Report – Diane Martin

As mentioned in last year's report there has been a very full investigation into historical abuse within the C of E across the country. This is now complete and the results are available in a very full report on the Diocesan website

Also mentioned last year was the fact that a new policy (the Images Policy) was being drawn up to cover the taking, displaying and storage of all photographs taken in connection with any church function. We now have a camera which has to be used for taking any such photos and the policy also covers photos being taken privately for public events and services when streamed. More recently, the use of images captured by the live-stream video camera, and videos sent for use in services, have been added to the policy.

Sadly, the children's groups have been unable to meet although the youth group has had some online input. The registration forms for children joining the Sunday groups have been changed to cover both GDP and the requirements of the Images Policy. The team will continue to look at safeguarding issues as and when we are able to get together again.

DBS updates are continuing for renewals. We have had very few requests for new DBS checks understandably. There is a new application form for all checks which we have been asked to use immediately.

Safeguarding update training for all DBS holders should be done every 3 years. It is due here in Christ Church in October this year. If you are a holder please watch out for notices relating to the training later in the year.

If anyone wishes to contact the diocesan Safeguarding team or find out more about anything related to safeguarding the contact details for the team are on the Christ Church website as is the very detailed document 'A Safe Church'. A hard copy of this document is kept in the parish office.



Pastoral Care – Elaine Philips

The Pastoral Care Team has been working quietly in the background this year. Len's leadership and guidance has been a great help and support to the team. Whilst not meeting face to face, we have had regular zoom meetings to update and refocus the team. Jonathan, Sue, Elaine and Len continue to keep in touch with 11 people. This has been crucial over the last year as COVID restrictions have been isolating for so many people in our community. The Team has continued to stay in touch with anyone who we feel we can support in any way.



Teaching Team – David Banbury

Members of the Teach Team are Revd Len Abrams, David Banbury, Jonathan Holland and Sue Fairclough. In January, Revd Alison Way left CCSN to take on a new role as Rector of Wincanton and Pen Selwood. Revd. Len Abrams, who was part of the Merstham Team Ministry, became our locum priest from February onwards during the interregnum.

We started the year preaching on particular themes focussing on Philippians. By April we were unable to meet in the church so sermons were being recorded at home and streamed online from Len's living room, We are indebted to his technical knowledge, supported by Paul Smith. We were fortunate to be able to have guest speakers deliver sermons including Revd Raewynne Whiteley, John Bartlett, Hilary Brand, Graham Rouse and Moira Astin.

The changes to Covid-19 restriction guidelines has meant that we have occasionally been able to move back into church so that the preacher speaks live in the service on Sunday mornings. The service is captured by a video camera at the west end of the church and is streamed live online through YouTube.

Whatever the Covid restrictions are for the foreseeable future, the church is now well equipped to stream services, thanks to grant money being obtained for the purchase of a video camera. The current streaming of services will probably continue even after worship in church is allowed again, because we believe there are a number of people who watch who might not otherwise be able to attend in person.

The Teaching team meet regularly to plan services, themes and topics. At present we are following the readings supplied by the lectionary (a listing that contains a collection of scripture readings for Christian worship on a given day), as this allows us to cover a wide range of aspects of Biblical teaching. We will continue to invite the

occasional guest preacher as their faith, insight and speaking skills enhance our Sunday worship.

Verger's Report – Sue Fairclough

As with all other activities, Covid-19 has disrupted baptisms, weddings and funerals. Nor has there been the opportunity for the school to hold any services at church during 2020. In August there was one funeral and one wedding, and a further funeral in October.

I think that a funeral, of all services, is the hardest to bear when attendance is so restricted. But, as with so many things, with a bit of planning and technical knowhow ways are found to ameliorate the situation. The October funeral was streamed, an advantage to all those who were unable to attend, or had problems with travel or self-isolation. It is thought that this funeral was viewed 200 times. It is likely that we will stream more special services in the future.

There has been a lot of tidying up to the areas surrounding the church, cutting down overgrown saplings, dead trees, thinning and cutting of hedges. There is still much to do. We await the granting of a Faculty from the Diocese to replace the flower shed – this process has dragged on for a longer than usual time. Thank you to the volunteers who have assisted with the gardening.

I await with relish the opportunity to welcome the school back to their lively services, to hear singing in church, have baptism parties gathered around the font and witness the romance, emotion and occasion of weddings once again.

Fabric & Maintenance Report

It's been a quiet year in terms of fabric, given the fact that the church and hall have been closed for long periods. Nevertheless, it has given us the opportunity to do some maintenance work which would otherwise have caused disruption. In particular, Nick Richardson has redecorated the church hall for us, and it now looks so much fresher! In addition, he redecorated the tower ground floor area - which also is much improved - following a very generous donation. Recently, we took the opportunity of the church being closed to clean the carpet.

We are grateful to a number of people who have joined working parties to help keep the grounds in good order, and the lawn mowing team, co-ordinated by Andrew Winterbotham. Richard Waple reduced the height of saplings growing along the boundary with Churchfield and we had a dead fir tree taken down on the field boundary. Most recently, Roger Fairclough has done sterling work clearing the lower-level gutters. The church gutters still need to be done. Roger has also provided very helpful advice in relation to the recent quinquennial report (see Churchwardens' Report).

In terms of faculties, we obtained “List B” permission from the diocese to install the new video camera, and are progressing a faculty to replace the garden sheds – both thanks to Sue Fairclough.

Growing Mission Action Planning Group – Lucy Austin, David Banbury, Shona Grace, Di Martin, Trina Pearce, Jeni Stewart, Simon Williams

In January 2020 the Growing Group (part of the Christ Church Mission Action Plan) ran an Alpha course which was well attended. Each evening was based around a video, and discussed in the group afterwards. Feedback from Alpha attendees was positive and encouraging, but the team did wonder if maybe in future we would have the meal to allow people to get to know one another and so encourage more open discussions. The group was quite shy.

After any Alpha course we hope guests will come to church and become a part of the community. We did plan to take a group to Holy Trinity Brompton in London as a social but unfortunately the virus prevented that. There is always the question of how best to support guests once they have completed an Alpha course. Ideally, we would like to be able to offer them the chance to join an existing home group but there are clearly insufficient spaces in the few homegroups currently running. The Growing Group suggested to Len that Christ Church might look at actively promoting homegroups in the future and seeing if there is a demand for new groups to start-up.

The Christ Church Awayday, originally planned for May, also had to be postponed. As soon as the Covid restrictions go and we can mix again we will start planning for another awayday.

In the early days of this virus the Growing Group postponed any activity until the Autumn hoping things might be better. Since then the team has met very occasionally to discuss future plans. Some ideas include more activity using social media for spiritual encouragement, possibly running Alpha online and hosting prayer training courses using videos from 24/7. It is clear that the only influence we can have at the moment is to go online. We are also keen to see if new occasional meetings online might work, for example once a week half-hour chats based on readings from something like Daily Bread. We are concerned about the number of people who may have stopped attending the church services since they started streaming, and the need to move forward with home groups and Alpha as soon as feasible.

Nutfield Church Primary School – Christopher Pearse

Christ Church continues to support the work and management of Nutfield Church (C of E) Primary School with Chris Pearse, Diane Martin and Jane Vorster the appointed Foundation Governors whilst Sam Nichols is the Co-Chair of the Governing Body, Vicky Atherley is an appointed Foundation Governor on behalf of St Peter and St Pauls Church in Nutfield and Michael Hill is a Parent Governor. Chris is the nominated Inclusion Governor with responsibility to ensure all different groups have their learning and development needs considered to enable them to flourish and that funding is effectively used. Chris is also the Numeracy Governor and visits the school regularly to review attainment and progress of all pupils following assessment weeks with the Head Teacher and Deputy Head Teacher as part of the Outcomes Monitoring process.

Diane is the nominated Safeguarding Governor for Nutfield Church School and oversees the safeguarding of all the children, the management of any looked after children and also the welfare and behaviour of the pupils. Diane has continued to do safeguarding audits but only one per term this year. A clear change brought about by Covid enforced lockdowns has been discussion re the situation with home schooling and pupil's safeguarding and mental health. The document KCSIE has been issued in January with some alterations due to both Covid and Brexit. Diane has joined a number of webinars and also the Safeguarding for Staff Zoom sessions.

Jane and I attended a virtual meeting re going for the gold standard of the anti-bullying charter mark with Imogen and 2 teachers who have taken on that task.

I personally have attended 2 Webinars recently and am joining the Safeguarding for staff Zoom session this week.

Jane has taken part in monitoring the Antibullying Group along with Diane. This is now led by two enthusiastic staff members who have had the difficult task of adapting existing practices to fit the current restrictions. The Antibullying Pupil Team consists of representatives from each of the classes who used to meet regularly which encouraged an understanding of bullying and how to combat it in younger pupils. Due to covid restrictions this group cannot meet, so the staff members have had to proceed creatively. Similarly, Peer Mentoring has had to have a different approach. Despite the changes, the team is determined to drive forward the Antibullying agenda and has plans in place not only to maintain the Gold Award but to aim for the Platinum Award too.

Sam, Michael and Chris form the Financial Management Working Group alongside Imogen Woods (Head Teacher) and Philippa Assender (School Bursar).

The School's vision and values are set out below:

Vision: We fully embrace the vision stated in the Church of England's Vision for Education 'Deeply Christian Serving the Common Good' published in July 2016 of educating the whole person. We aim for our children and members of the wider school community to flourish in all they do and '**live life in all its fullness**'. (John 10:10)

Values: Our values are informed by the values central to Christianity.

We are ambitious - we want each member of the school to discover and realise their true potential in a Christian environment.

Our mission is:

- We are a church school, which believes in the importance of **community**, where people from all races, religions and cultures act in **peace** together
- Our pupils, staff and families work together as a team, with **wisdom** supporting each other through our learning. We have **hope** in our challenges and in our successes.
- We recognise the **dignity** and ultimate worth of each person, created in the image of God, further shaped by the person, teaching and example of Jesus. We look to the future with **joy**.

Covid 19 and the resulting lockdowns and restrictions have curtailed the physical monitoring visits by governors as the school has had to minimise external contact with visitors and the potential contact across the various bubbles within the School.

However, we have been kept well informed of actions and concerns by Imogen and her team. The governors have also attended virtual FGB, Finance Working Group and monitoring meetings. During these meetings it is apparent that, despite the disruption caused by covid and the daunting task of teaching children at home and in school, the whole staff has been focussed on nurturing our pupils and ensuring progress.

The team have had to process and implement a huge number of directives and policies received from the Department of Education during the year, many of which have been updated and changed with regularity. The staff members without exception have also worked hard on plans to mitigate the impact of covid absence and has ensured that priorities are in place for when pupils return to school fulltime. Nutfield was one of very few schools that managed to have year 5 pupils in school alongside year R, 1 and 6 during the summer term.

Typically, the School would have seen pupils in year 2 and 6 sit their SATS examinations which have confirmed the continued progress the School has been making. Clearly SATS were cancelled in 2020 and have been cancelled for 2021. The focus for the School (and all schools) is to try and undo the disruption and impact that Covid 19 has had on children's progress.

The School is very fortunate to have an incredible staff who are determined and passionate to ensure the best outcomes for our pupils and all the governors would like to thank everyone at the school for working so hard, so willingly, to care for our pupils, families and each other at this challenging time for many.

Our sincere thanks to Chris Pearse for his commitment and work at Nutfield School over the past eight years. Chris is standing down as Foundation Governor this year. Please pray that a suitable candidate for Foundation Governor is found.

Early Morning Prayer Group and Prayer Ministry – Veronica Hamilton



Since Lockdown our long-standing group who met before the church services to pray have been unable to do so. However, we have taken turns in writing a Prayer Anchor piece for the Christ Church Facebook page each Friday. Where members are not confident in posting their own contribution on Facebook, or do not belong to Facebook we have been fortunate in having Elaine Perry to do this for us.

The Prayer Anchor piece usually takes its inspiration from a passage in the Bible or a christian book to encourage us in our Christian life at this challenging time, and to bring our prayers to God.

Sometimes we have failed to remember our rota slots, for which we apologise, and thank you to members of the steering group who have brought it to our attention.

The people involved since lockdown are: Peter Early, Ann Nicholls, Karen Waple, Lucy Austin, Marian Forbes, Julie Higgs, Sue Fairclough, Mary Beale, Jackie Fenn, and Veronica Hamilton.

Worship Group – Janet Bailey

Despite Covid-19 and all the restrictions it brought during 2020, the Worship Group was able to provide worship music for services at Christ Church. This was in large part through technology and the guidance and dedication of Paul, who selected and recorded our individual contributions. These were then sent to Pom who skilfully combined our efforts to produce a polished end result for transmission in the streamed services. Without the know-how from Paul and Pom we could not have achieved the results we did.



For 2021, we would aspire to be back performing in Church but until then the Worship Group would hope to continue recording and videoing as we are doing. A

huge thank you to all the Worship Group – Paul, Pom, Jack A, Nicholas, Jackie, Emma, Emily, Fran, Graham and Jack C on the sound desk.

First Sunday Singers and Carol Service – Richard Guise

Service music at Christ Church since the last APCM has continued to be severely restricted by the legislation and guidelines imposed due to Coronavirus. The most fundamental effect has been the increased use of recorded material and the introduction of live-streaming via YouTube. Although the introduction of externally sourced music of many types has been necessary and in many ways refreshing, we have been keen to provide an appropriate amount of "home-grown" traditional music from within the Christ Church community.



It has not been possible to convene the Sunday Singers. We therefore formed a quartet comprising Sue Wayland (soprano), Angela Anderson (alto), Richard Guise (tenor) and Chris Pratt (bass) to record hymns for Sunday services and carols for the Carol Service. Fortunately, when the present hymn books were purchased, a set of 35 CDs was purchased containing accompaniments for all the 858 hymns in the book (to cover for non-availability of organists, etc.). The CDs have proved a true bedrock of this project. For each chosen hymn the accompaniment has been extracted, a verbal count-in for each verse added and this sent to each of the quartet members. Using earphones, the singers have recorded their parts separately and the resulting tracks have been mixed together. A bit of "churchy" reverb has then been added before being sent for inclusion in services. We are now adding synchronised word screens using PowerPoint, and Len has been adding a series of fine backdrops. We have now at the time of writing completed some 24 items (15 hymns and 9 carols).

A variety of sacred and secular music from other sources has also been sent for inclusion. This has included items recorded from several South Nutfield Choral Society concerts, from other musical events at Christ Church and from other sources.

In addition to the above contributions and those of the Worship Group, the Anderson family and David & Alice Black have recorded a steady flow of delightful music. It is understood that Pom's expertise has also been an important ingredient in many of the items.

It is interesting to speculate how Christ Church's music will emerge from the present constraints. Yes, surely the Sunday Singers will resume as soon as possible but

certainly lots will be different. However, this is not the place to start trying to make predictions.



Bell Ringing – Jo Ainsley

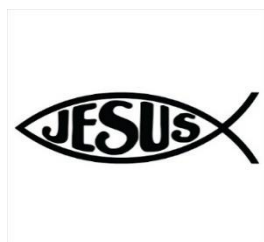
The bells in Christ Church are carillons, which means that it is the hammers that move to strike the bell, not the whole bell. Therefore, it does not involve the pulling of heavy ropes. Not so much fun but enjoyable all the same.

Margaret Brakell retired from bell ringing this year, after working the bells with Jo Ainsley since the Millennium, ringing at Sunday services and weddings, when requested. Thank you, Margaret, for this loving service to the community.

When restrictions are lifted, Jo would like to run some training sessions for anyone interested in "learning the ropes" so that bell ringing duties can be shared on a regular basis.

Zoom Tea & Coffee

Whilst we have not been able to enjoy the company of the cheerful coffee rota helpers and members of the congregation over a warm drink and natter after our Sunday services, it has been wonderful to be able to have the chance to see each other and talk via the Zoom meetings held by Len and Karen. For some regular members of the congregation, this has been especially important as it is the only opportunity to catch up with other members of Christ Church after watching the streamed services. Ruth Guise has organised the Sunday Coffee Rota for many years and has now stepped down, so a new organiser will be needed when we can open up the church and centre and offer refreshments again. Our very grateful thanks to Ruth.



Little Fishes (Toddler Praise) – Lucy Austin, Fran Dobson & Cate Mungham

Little Fishes is a service for children aged 0-3, with their families, and at the beginning of 2020 was held in the Christ Church hall on the first Sunday of the month.

January – March: We started at 9.15am and enjoyed singing and dancing to songs, sharing our box of musical instruments, Fran encouraged all our little ones to sit around her on the rug for story time, the little ones enjoyed physical games, an age-appropriate craft was enjoyed together and we concluded with holding hands in a big circle with our finishing song 'Our love is like a circle'.

Whilst the children finished their craft after the session, with their parents supporting them, there was the chance to chat and enjoy tea/coffee, squash, fruit and biscuits before the parents helped clear away the hall ready for after-church coffee. From Jan to March we have covered topics on The Wise Men, The Good Samaritan, Lent and Temptation.

April: Struggling to decide how to support our families, and to keep the routine of our monthly Little Fishes, we opted for a Palm Sunday service, of sorts, which was sent to our families via an email. We asked everyone to read and join in the instructions at 11am after the Sunday Service. The email included 3 YouTube songs, a YouTube story, craft ideas, prayers to read and finally a beautiful recording by Elizabeth Black of 'Our love is like a circle'. We received lovely feedback from one family. Here is the craft we asked the children to make, with sticks from a walk/garden and string to make a cross to place in their homes.



May to October: Zoom services started and it was lovely to be able to 'see' each other. We were aware that many children are spending time on zoom during the week and may be bored or may not comprehend the medium.

To be honest it was a case of trial and error and our first zoom did not run as smoothly as we had hoped, but as the months progressed it became more like a well-oiled machine with planning and production! We feel our LF families enjoyed it too. We have tried to make the sessions as active as possible. Fran was adept at finding songs and stories; Cate creatively found craft ideas which were forwarded to the families before the Sunday for them to 'show and tell' during zoom, and Lucy lead the service.

As with the April session we had two YouTube songs, a YouTube story, craft to do (and to show) and prayers. We started the session with sharing our news and finished with Elizabeth Black singing 'Our love is like a circle'. We tried to keep our topics in line with the main Sunday service, ie Zacchaeus, Jairus' daughter, Jesus heals, The Prodigal Son and the wealthy man. We had between 1 and 6 families joining us on Zoom. This format carried on throughout the year except for November and December when we managed to have our services in the CC hall.

November and December in CC! After support from Sue and Trina we returned to CC for our Little Fishes sessions. Very different from our previous sessions at the beginning of the year but lovely to actually see our families. In December a generous parishioner donated Nativity books for all our families. This was perfect as Lucy could read the story whilst the families followed the story with their own children, and those who could not attend received the book. We had 3 and 5 families joining us at CC. We covered topics on All Saints Day and The Nativity Story, In January'21 we returned to Zoom.



Children's Groups (Rocks & Pebbles, and Meteors) - Sharon Shearer

We started the year extremely positively with an increase in the number of carers willing to help and both children's groups were well attended. The children's groups stopped in March and whilst we had put into place all the procedures to restart the groups safely in November due to the increase in Covid numbers the decision was taken not to restart them. For Christmas some of the children recorded Little Donkey and this was merged together and was successfully shown at the Crib Service.

Whilst most families have been accessing services on line, Julie Barwick has been providing activities for the children to undertaken between sessions.

The winter lockdown has given us time for reflection on what and how we deliver our ministry to young people. In early February, a new Family Ministry team has come together to reach out to our church families and children, by providing activities and packs on a monthly basis until lockdown eases. Further plans will then be made with the support of Revd Len and members of the Christ Church Steering Committee. Melissa Lipka and Sharon Shearer have now stood down after several years as co-ordinators for the Children's Groups – our grateful thanks for their support and enthusiasm in the children's ministry.

Rise and Shine – Sue Fairclough

We held our only regular Rise & Shine service of the year in January, the topic being the Story of Joseph and the flight to Egypt: Refugees and Immigrants. Our February meeting was a Messy Rise & Shine and it coincided with half term and the Sunday that Revd Alison Way was licensed as Rector at Wincanton and Pen Selwood in Somerset. Our March Rise & Shine, scheduled for Mothering Sunday, March 22nd, with the theme of Mary, the Mother of Jesus, was cancelled due to the first Covid lockdown. It has not been possible to hold an early morning Rise & Shine service since that time, although there have been prayers for all the families and leaders that used to be involved on a regular basis. It has been sad not to experience the input of the children at the service and to hear the happy buzz of chat from parents after the service.



We did hold the usual 4pm Rise & Shine-type Crib Service on Christmas Eve, and even managed to get the puppets involved! Many thanks to all those who had input into the service, especially the songs.

What of the future? I believe 2020 has provided us with a chance to step back and review what we do at Christ Church and how we should be

moving forward with our ministry to young people, children and families. There will be no church of the future unless we develop this ministry. It is very much up to parents and families to take this forward, as they are best placed to know how to reach out, engage and involve the children, supported by Revd Len and the Christ Church leadership team and PCC.



Crèche Report – Katie Parry

Unsurprisingly there is sadly very little to report for crèche in the year of 2020, thanks to Covid. Despite making plans for additional cleaning/disinfecting procedures to make the crèche as safe as possible with the new challenges facing us all, the direction to close the church meant that we only had 6 weeks of manned crèche provision in the whole year, the busiest of which was Alison's final service.

Thank you to the crèche team (Delphine, Sarah, Hannah, Lucy and Helen) for their support and fingers crossed that we will be able to provide more than 6 weeks of crèche in 2021!



Youth United - Nick and Fran Dobson

2020 was an interesting year to say the least for Youth United. During the first 3 months we were welcoming around 12-14 young people on a regular basis to the fortnightly sessions (1st Sunday of the month at Christ church and 3rd Sunday at Earlswood Baptist church).

Activities ranged from pancake races, soup making, bike repairs, laundry bag making (from old pillowcases!) to indoor hockey and crab football, before the Covid-19 restrictions meant we were no longer allowed to meet in person (nor could the two planned excursions to Air Hop and Clip 'n' Climb take place). In the vain hope that lockdown measures would not continue for long and to give the young people a break from online meetings, Youth United did not meet between mid-March and end-October. However, with no end in sight to the restrictions, we decided we would have to adapt the format of Youth United to accommodate the "new normal". At the beginning of November, we managed a socially-distanced session with 7 young people present, which included a very successful game of chair football, followed by a couple of virtual Zoom meetings during the 2nd lockdown and finally a socially-distanced Christmas movie night in December. A big thanks to all the volunteers, without whose help Youth United

would not be able to run (Diane, Ruth, Shona, Vron & Jack). Leaders are Fran and Nick Dobson, and Jonathan and Lindsay Hardwick (Earlswood).

Thursday Toddler Group - Helen Eddleston, Helen Brooks and Alice Black

We can't quite believe it's been almost a year since we were last able to run toddler group. We are missing all the toddler group families terribly but are hopeful that at some point soon it will be safe enough to re-start the group and we look forward to welcoming families old and new back to the group.

For those of you unfamiliar with our group; we meet on Thursday mornings at Christ Church South Nutfield Community Hall. The group is run by volunteers for local families with babies, toddlers and pre-school aged children to enjoy. It runs from 9.30am to 11am and for a small donation (£2 recommended) you can enjoy a hot drink and a biscuit whilst your child plays with our huge range of toys, dress up and pretend play items. We also provide snacks for the children and run craft activities, themed sessions and parties from time to time.

We have used the time away to sort through and clean our store cupboard and toys, and have added some new items to our collection.

Our usual activities around this time of year would include valentines card craft, preparation for Easter activities plus the scheduling of events like a teddy bears picnic and a fabulous summer party for the warmer months.

At this point it would be great to appeal for more volunteers to help ready for when we can re-open. You would only need to commit to a couple of Thursday mornings a month and it's a really good way to meet people. Don't feel you have to have toddler-aged children to help out either - a children-free pair of hands to assist with set up, Tea and Coffee making, and tidy up would be very useful!

We keep in contact with our Families via the church office and also have a WhatsApp group set up. We will use these channels to communicate regarding any restart. In the meantime, please contact the church office if you are interested in becoming a volunteer.



The Sunflower Café – Diane Varley

The Sunflower Café continued to prosper in 2020 with friends enjoying a cup of tea/coffee and a slice of cake made by various cake makers in the village. Friends and new acquaintances have been able to sit and chat about their day to day lives and reminisce about old times.

This year was tinged with sadness at the loss of Tony Turner and Bob Belcher, both always made people's day with their fun and laughter, they are greatly missed. We also said our fond goodbyes to our vicar Alison Way who has moved on to pastures new.

The café has been able to donate large amounts of monies to the Shooting Star Hospice for sick children and St Catherine's Hospice, Crawley.

Due to COVID we closed our doors on the 11th March 2020 and at the present time cannot give any date to re-open. Rest assured, once the Government gives the go-ahead, our doors will be open to everyone.

Visits to Kings Lodge – Shona Grace

Christ Church services ceased in March 2020 at Kings Lodge Complex Needs Centre. Recent Christ Church attendees have been Shona Grace, Revd Len Abrams, Jonathan Holland, Julie Higgs, Mary Beale, Sylvia Jarvis, Kath Johnson and Brenda Masters. Sadly, three residents died due to Covid-19 over the Christmas period. The PCC is looking at ways to re-engage with Kings Lodge.



Environment Group – Kate Evans, George and Margaret Young, Ken Rolaston, Chris Fry, Veronica Hamilton, Anne Starmer

Over the last year to February 2021 we, like many of the church groups, have found it difficult to meet due to Covid restrictions. As the world has been taking precautions to stop the virus from spreading, many people have had to find alternative ways of living which includes less travelling locally and long distance, including flights abroad. Many more people are working from home which has lessened the need for office space and travel. People have reflected on their lives and seek a gentler, simplistic way of living with less impact on the planet.

We have continued when possible to produce articles for the Link on encouraging green ways of living. Veronica has recently spoken to Sophia Jones who is the assistant editor at the Southwark diocesan newspaper, 'The Bridge', who wanted to know what it is like to be an eco-church (this interview will be in the online February edition). The discussion includes the many positive changes that we have been able to implement at Christ Church including achieving the silver award.

To enable us to work towards the gold award we need to work with our community regarding their local environmental impact. In 2019 a group of us went up to the mass lobby in Westminster organised by the Climate Coalition. One of the aims was to speak to our MP who was unavailable but did meet with some of us a month later.

After discussion with him we formed a village organisation 'Nutfield's Greener Future'. We held meetings and produced articles for the village magazine, the 'Nutfield Link'. One of the aims of the group was to have solar power installations on the community buildings of the village including the Christ Church Centre. This would make a big impact on our carbon footprint which is necessary to meet the 2030 target for the Church of England who aims to be carbon neutral. This would be made easier by passing of the 'Power for People' bill to facilitate local energy schemes and we continue to lobby our current MP to support this.

Members of the group aim to join online zoom meetings that Southwark have recently introduced every last Monday of the month regarding environmental initiatives in our church and homes.

Flowers – Marian Forbes

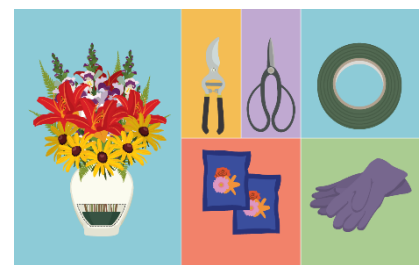
A personal thank you to all who are involved in streaming our regular Sunday morning Church Services over the year.

Unfortunately, lockdown in March, 2020 determined that Mothering Sunday, a much-loved occasion in church, would not happen and posies and flowers would not be required. Inevitably, Easter Sunday, 12th April at church did not see the usual daffodils and spring flowers overflowing in their vases because by then we had to live-stream services.

However, On Saturday 10th October, part of our Flower Team, namely Sue Fairclough, Kay Gage, Jo Ainsley and me were able to decorate the church in preparation for Harvest Sunday (11th October); as we were again returning to church services, with social distancing, of course. It was lovely to see the colourful dahlias from Clive and Ann O'Flynn's garden at Morris Road and various decorative shrubs and flowers from Liz Ramsey's 'Little Priory' garden, displayed in vases in the windows at church; along with a number of squash's, apples, and conkers surrounding them. Autumn had definitely arrived!

Although Christ Church could not hold their Remembrance Service in November, due to lockdown again, I was very pleased to display the poppies which I had made to commemorate the day and week. Poppies could not be viewed inside Christ Church and it was sad that the British Legion could not attend any church service in the area. Nevertheless, it was good to see members of our village community visiting the Silent Soldier and poppy display, taking a few minutes to reflect and remember at this significant time.

Thankfully, Sue Fairclough and I took great pleasure in being able to decorate the church for Len's Licensing service as Priest-in-charge on Sunday 6th December. (This was also Joe Austin's confirmation service). We placed white, yellow & rust



chrysanthemums in tall vases in the middle windows of the church – a great opportunity to provide some colour to enhance the celebration.

Finally, Christmas enabled the Flower Team to fully decorate the church. Thank you to Nick, Fran and her children who did such a wonderful job decorating the tree, which was seen by all those who watched the Christmas streamed services.

The ladies who were responsible for decorating the rest of the church with holly, cypress, and cotoneaster with red berries etc., were Ann Ward, Sue Fairclough, Jo Ainsley, Kay Gage, Tina Skeats, Brenda Masters and Marian Forbes. Thank you to everyone for making Christ Church so welcoming!

My thoughts on how our Flower Team could progress in the future will depend on a number of things. COVID could stop a certain number of young and older people from attending church and, therefore, not be available to join us; but let's hope there may be more enthusiasm when all this calms down. We definitely need to be more progressive in looking at ways of being more aware of green issues. For instance, our usage of traditional Oasis Floral Foam bricks when arranging a pedestal. This is not good for the environment as it doesn't break down. Although there is a greener-type of oasis alternative, we suspect that in time this too will enter and pollute water systems. We therefore have to change our way of thinking and look into different types of containers, such as urns and vessels that will take wire mesh to help contain the flower arrangements. Hopefully, we can create new exciting ideas that will be refreshing, so watch this space!

I would like to say a big 'Thank you' to our ladies – Sue Fairclough, Kay Gage, and Ann Ward who resolutely support me with their pedestals every 2 weeks. A small team as we no longer have Ruth Guise and Jacqueline Chapman, due to illness, which are dearly missed. A newcomer to the team, however, is Tina Skeats. Thank you, Tina.

Second Sunday Cakes – Sarah Coomes, Fran Dobson, Hannah O'Neill, Trina Pearse & Gina Wiles



As with so many other activities at Christ church, Second Sunday Cakes was severely impacted by the Covid-19 restrictions in 2020. We were fortunate enough to be able to hold a couple of cake sales at the beginning of the year, before the first national lockdown began and, together with a brief return in December, we managed to raise a total of £220 in 2020 for Toilet Twinning, YMCA Redhill and Eddie's Heroes, which was very much appreciated by these charities. We'd like to take this opportunity to thank everyone from our fabulous bakers to those who generously bought and donated on the day. We are looking forward to

the day when we will be able to safely return and continue raising the much-needed funds for charity.

Report of the Christ Church Zimbabwe Team – Jane Vorster

Croydon Diocese is linked with the Diocese of Central Zimbabwe in Gweru; Christ Church has been supporting St Patrick's Mission Clinic for 16 years. During that time we have raised money for drugs, medical equipment, wages, an ambulance and for the new hospital. The hospital building is now being used but does not have official designation as a hospital, therefore it has no doctor assigned. There have been difficulties in government which have resulted in delays to the hospital designation. A recent change in government personnel and the establishment of a new task force involving the diocese and the government gives hope that the process will speed up.

A number of our congregation give on a regular basis to St Patrick's via standing orders for which we give thanks. In addition, the Zim Team organise several events to fund raise each year, including the Lent Appeal and the Quiz Night. During 2020, because of Covid restrictions we have been unable to run any of our usual events. However we hope the Quiz Night will bounce back later this year.

Last year we made two appeals, during Lent when we raised £1500 and for Christmas when the giving was £446.50 with gift aid still to be added. We are so grateful that our members have responded to generously to the appeals especially at a financially difficult and uncertain time for many people. As a result, we have been able to send £3000 to St Patrick's Clinic and Hospital in November 2020.

The exciting news is that Revd Len's book has now been published. It is a remarkable book. Revd. Len has very generously said that all profits from the book will go to support health and education in Zimbabwe. As more and more books are sold we will be able to carry on supporting the work of the St Patrick's Clinic through these very hard days in Zimbabwe.

Home Groups

Covid-19 has disrupted normal Home Group meetings over the past year. Some groups have re-convened via Zoom, but this brings a different dynamic to discussions and some have not been comfortable to meet in this way. Home groups can provide support in practical ways to group members and are therefore important from a pastoral perspective. With an easing of lockdown measures, we hope and pray that normal weekly or fortnightly meetings will start up again and we can all enjoy the companionship and enjoyment of discovering God's word together.



Tandridge Deanery Synod – Sue Fairclough

The Deanery Synod met twice during 2020 – in February and December. The latter via Zoom. In February the keynote speaker was Gabby Parikh, Head of Parish Giving at Southwark. Gabby's theme was Encouraging Generosity and Giving and she gave a number of suggestions as to how to do this and, importantly, to say thank you often. At the December meeting, Bishop Jonathan gave the address. He reminded us that Christian hope is to look forward and to look beyond the reality of the current situation. The pandemic has highlighted the importance to people of place, community and church. The necessity of digital communications means that we now have to ensure that we are 'out there' as well as being in our physical space at church. Bishop Jonathan expressed heartfelt thanks for the generosity and support of people in Southwark Diocese, who have maintained their levels of giving in such difficult times, which has enabled the Diocese to fill clergy vacancies.

EASTER VESTRY for the election of church wardens followed by THE ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING

Agenda for 25th April 2021

1. Apologies for absence
2. Minutes of the meeting held on 15th March 2020
3. Matters arising from the Minutes
4. Vicar's Review and Annual Reports, to include presentation of the Terrier and Inventory by the Churchwardens
5. Treasurer's Report - Jackie Fenn
- 5.1 Appointment of independent examiner for 2022
6. Presentation of Electoral Roll – Ian Phillips
7. Election of Deanery Synod Representatives
8. Election of Members of the Parochial Church Council
9. Safeguarding Statement
10. Health and Safety Statement
11. Any Other Business
12. Prayers of thankfulness

This will be followed by a brief meeting of the newly-appointed PCC for the election of officers: Chair, Vice Chair, PCC Secretary, PCC Treasurer, Electoral Roll Officer, Steering Committee, Safeguarding Representative.

The next PCC meeting is: May 13th at 8pm via Zoom. Suggested future PCC dates: July 8th, Sept. 16th, Nov. 18th.