

**SAINT MARK'S CHURCH REIGATE**  
**ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING SUNDAY 15 MAY 2022**  
**HELD IN CHURCH DURING THE 10.00AM PARISH EUCHARIST**

Fr Martin Colton, Chairman of the Parochial Church Council was in the chair.

**PRESENT:**

Forty-five parishioners in church.

**APOLOGIES:**

Apologies were received from eleven parishioners.

**MINUTES:**

The Minutes of the 2021 Annual Parochial Church Meeting were agreed and signed as an accurate record of what had taken place.

**MATTERS ARISING:**

There were no matters arising.

**PRESENTATION OF THE ELECTORAL ROLL:**

Mr Terrence Hancock reported that at this time last year, the number on the Electoral Roll stood at 159. There are now 163 names on the Roll. Accounting for the removal of 5 names due to death or moving away from the parish and the addition of 9 names, the number on the Roll now stands at 163. A copy of the revised Roll will be placed on the table by the north-west door.

**ELECTION OF DEPUTY WARDENS:**

Mrs Jane Artis and Mr Timothy Warren was re-elected for a further year.

**ELECTION OF DEANERY SYNOD REPRESENTATIVES:**

No nominees came forward hence the present vacancy will remain un-filled for the time being.

**ELECTION OF PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL MEMBERS:**

Mrs Nicola Lloyd and Mrs Rachel Potter were elected each for a term of three years.

**CHAIRMAN'S REMARKS AND PRESENTATION OF THE ANNUAL REPORT:**

Fr Martin reflected back over the past couple of years during which we managed to keep things going but in a very different way. This past year was one where we slowly began to restore elements of normality to our services and various other activities. He thanked the congregation for their support during the difficult times and expressed the hope that as conditions improved so we might be able to return to a point where a full selection of services and other activities were possible.

**REPORT UPON THE GOODS AND ORNAMENTS:**

Prepared by Mr Benjamin Read and by Mrs Louise Wallis:

A number of changes, repairs and upgrades to the fabric of our church have been made in the last 12 months. I can also advise that we now have the full report from the quinquennial inspection and whilst there is work to be done, nothing of a major nature has been unearthed. Indeed, the most pressing aspect of the report is the need to renew the bird netting inside the tower and we are seeking advice to help identify a suitable tradesman to undertake that work for us.

As ever, there is also some work to do to the stonework, but nothing significant or urgent.

Last year, I reported that we had begun the process of inspecting the organ and as anticipated, it will need some major renovation in the next 5-10 years, but given its musical significance, it remains an instrument we are very fortunate to have at our disposal. We will need to begin fund raising for those repairs in the coming years.

We have made some small upgrades to the technology that allows us to stream services from St Mark's and further small upgrades are planned to improve the sound quality for those in church and online.

Perhaps the most significant aspect I can report on today is the installation of solar panels above the hall. Whilst the hall itself is not the subject of this report, the power we derive from those panels is saved to batteries in the vestry and is already contributing to some significant cost and carbon savings.

Most of the power we are currently drawing in church this morning is almost certainly solar-produced.

In terms of the goods of the church, nothing was disposed of in 2021.

Finally, Louise Wallis and I would like to thank all the many volunteers who have done so much behind the scenes to help keep our church open and functioning through this somewhat challenging period.

### **THE CHURCH ACCOUNTS:**

Mrs Melanie Crighton (Treasurer) gave a report about the 2021 accounts.

Total income for the year was £210,000 which included regular donations of £85,000 and gift day donations of £28,000. We received over £42,000 in rental income from the car park and cottage. Additional income in 2021 came from legacies of £10,000 and support to the local community for the census of £11,000.

Total expenditure was £186,000 of which £111,000 is the Parish Support Fund paid to the diocese. The balance relates to staff costs, cleaning, insurance, utilities and other running expenses for the church and hall.

Income from our hall lettings showed an increase on 2020 as regular hirers gradually returned. Costs were kept to a minimum giving a break-even position for the year before building works of £5,000 that were required to the gable end. Lettings income in 2022 is expected to return to pre pandemic levels

Overall, the 2021 accounts show a surplus of £24,000 and unrestricted reserves at the end of the year stood at £107,000.

As a Church and a Charity, we aim to breakeven over a five-year period whilst retaining sufficient reserves to cover around six months expenditure and any unexpected events. In 2022 over £26,000 has already been invested in solar panels and later in the year decoration work to the hall is planned. A loss of £35,000 is therefore forecast for this current year.

Looking ahead over the next few years the gas heating systems in both the church and hall will need to be replaced and work is required to be carried out on the organ and church sound system.

We are very grateful to all who donate to the church both financially and with their time and energy in all the many aspects of running activities. The church would not be able to operate or meet its financial obligations without this support.

### **APPOINTMENT OF INDEPENDENT EXAMINER:**

It was proposed by Mr Anthony Bird and unanimously agreed that Mr Ian Matthews of Moore Kingston Smith LLP, should continue as our Independent Examiner.

### **REPORT ON DEANERY SYNOD:**

Presented by Mrs Sarah Walker

Deanery synod members: Sarah Walker, Suzanne Baker Hedge, Sara Johnson

The meetings themselves for those who don't know are a way of lay people and clergy keeping in touch across the Parish – sharing positives and what has worked across all areas of the church. What doesn't and asking for help or guidance from others. And promoting and evolving ideas into action.

The first Deanery synod meeting of 2021 focussed on drawing people to our faith. We discussed the **Reigate Deanery "Mission Action Plan (MAP)"** and defined the purpose or mission objectives as:

"Reigate Deanery provides a supportive framework for Churches to connect with each other.

We collectively develop and share ways to proclaim the love of God, to grow as disciples of Christ Jesus and see the Holy Spirit transform lives. We aim to be creative, exciting, fun and welcoming with servant hearts."

Three main "action areas" agreed upon were:

1. Connecting Local Churches
2. Christ Centred Disciples
3. Being creative in our Mission

Break off groups, to discuss drawing people to our faith threw up many ideas, such involving friends in the community side of things such as food banks and community lunches.

**Part of the DS area for discussion is the Reigate Archdeaconry Social Justice Focus (RASJF)**

– Chris Elliot is our Deanery champion for this. This area includes:

Raising awareness of County Lines drug dealing, modern slavery, teenage mental health and working to improve the lives of the exploited. Central to this is linking up services including the police with representatives from the Church.

The second meeting of the year in October 2021 was Reverend Anita Colpus's final meeting as Area Dean. This centred on the Environment and climate crisis. The strong trends of climate disruption are being hailed as a code red for humanity by the United Nations and focussed on 2 reasons why the church wants to act:

- 1) To show God our love and gratitude
- 2) To show love of one's neighbours and reduce the impact on the poor

Practical things we can do as a church community:

- Reduce our own clutter
- Eat healthily, reduce meat and dairy, (vegetarian meals for messy church)
- Holiday locally,
- Dress fresh – meaning repair and buy second hand
- Travel well – use public transport/ cycle or walk
- Change the system – reward green co.s from energy to financial institutions, supermarkets with your business.
- Move the pressure onto larger organisations by writing to them and asking them to take more action especially your MP. But most of all don't be overwhelmed by the big picture as an individual. Individual steps all count and that includes talking to others about climate action.
- There was an update on the renewed Hope Trust and a fourth person being employed post pandemic. Updated on the process of the house bought for four homeless men in the parish.
- Living in Love and Faith course was positive and enjoyable with over 100 participants.
- Deanery synod finances were approved with no queries or concerns.

The last meeting involved Fr Martin Colton officially being appointed Area Dean.

Each Parish shared what they had done on an Environmental basis. I would say that as a church we are ahead of the curve in all that we are doing. So, we were able to share advice and contacts to others to help them along. A good way to start for a few was for them to look into the green awards.

Finally, the Reigate Archdeaconry Social Justice Focus have recently developed an Anti-Slavery Partnership pledge. The pledge is aimed at small and medium businesses and has recently been launched with churches in East Surrey and London Borough of Sutton. It asks for a commitment to three or more actions raising awareness of modern slavery. It will be brought to the business community in Surrey later in the year.

**OTHER BUSINESS:**

The Reverend Reginald Grant (Assistant Curate) voiced a vote of thanks to Rachel Potter for all the work she did with Messy Church and for being our representative for Young People.

There was no other business and the meeting closed at 10.45am.