

WONERSH CHURCH

St John the Baptist, Parish of Wonersh with Blackheath

Wonersh with Blackheath Parochial Church Council

Agenda of the Annual Meeting of Parishioners and the Annual Parochial Church Meeting

Monday 5th October 2020

A. Annual Meeting of Parishioners (Joint Vice Chairs: Alex Vinall and Guy Pakenham)

1. Minutes of the Annual Meeting of Parishioners held on April 29th 2019
For approval as a true record.
2. Election of Church Wardens
3. Amendment to rule pertaining to duration of service of Church Wardens.
4. Thanks

B. Annual Parochial Church Meeting (Joint Vice Chairs: Alex Vinall and Guy Pakenham)

1. Opening Worship
2. Apologies for Absence
3. Minutes of the Annual Meeting held on April 29th 2019
For approval as a true record. Pg. 3-5
4. Matters Arising
5. Associate Vicar's report Pg. 6-7
6. Churchwardens' Reports: Wonersh, Blackheath and Buildings Pg 8-12
7. Annual Report and Financial Statements of the PCC for 2019
8. Youth and Children's Work Pg. 13-16
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11. Electoral Roll Report Pg. 20
12. Activities of PCC Pg. 21
13. Deanery Synod Report Pg. 22

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| 17. | Appointment of Independent Examiner | |
| 18. | Any other business | |

WONERSH WITH BLACKHEATH PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL
Minutes of the Annual Meeting of Parishioners and the
Annual Parochial Church Meeting
Monday 29th April 2019 at 8pm at St John the Baptist, Wonersh
Chair: The Rev Canon Debbie Sellin (DS)
Clerk: Clive Couzens (Hon. Sec., PCC) (CC)

The Rev Canon Debbie Sellin welcomed everyone to the meeting, advising that only a few paper copies of reports were available, but that they or electronic versions could be sent if required; most papers had been circulated electronically before the meeting. She continued with a reading from 1 Peter 2, noting the importance of the church being built from living stones.

A. Annual meeting of parishioners

1. The minutes of the 2018 meeting were approved.
2. DS expressed a vote of thanks to the churchwardens, noting Patricia Allen's contribution at Blackheath and the way Guy Pakenham and Sarah Jo Gray had complemented each other in their roles. Sarah Jo Gray was standing down from the role. Alex Vinall had been proposed as churchwarden, and she, together with Guy Pakenham and Patricia Allen, was elected to the respective positions at St John's and St Martin's.

B. Annual Parochial Church Meeting

1. Opening Worship

This had already taken place, at the beginning of the evening.

2. Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence had been received from Bryan Boswell, Nicky Cooke, Adam Rowden, Camilla Gosden and John Gosden.

3. Minutes

The minutes of the 2018 were approved as a true record of the meeting.

4. Matters arising

The only matter arising was the question of the acoustics at Lawnsmead. Some investigations had been carried out but no simple answer had been identified. The PCC would continue to look into the matter.

5. Vicar's report

DS advised that she had not produced a written report, but in the light of her impending departure would reflect on her time at Wonersh and the future for the parish.

DS referred to the earlier reading and to another prophecy about stones being built together. It is fundamental to note that Jesus is the capstone, that all other stones are different, and that love is the cement that binds them together. Her time at Wonersh had seen both spiritual and numerical growth in the church, but that this was God's work. The church's demographic makeup had changed, and was now reflective of that of the parish it served.

The growth of the church had taken time, and DS picked out certain moments which highlighted how that growth had arisen.

The mission to Uganda had changed our understanding of mission. We are all involved in mission, and mission is very much a partnership with other people and agencies.

The weekend away at Wokefield Park reflected the changing nature of the church community, with both relatively new and long standing members attending in equal number.

The pilgrimage to Canterbury had provided an opportunity for a shared experience, even if that experience was unfamiliar for many.

The involvement with Wonersh and Shamley Green School had shown how we can join in where God is already at work.

The refurbishment of Lawnsmead had transformed it from a burden to a resource.

Finally, the purchase of Springfield had shown the value of prayer, and the importance of investment in youth and children's work.

DS went on to ask how the church could build on all this. The church needed to increase its outreach, recognising the hunger that exists in the parish, as demonstrated by contact with couples getting married and families coming to Chatterbox; we need to be bolder in our invitations to occasions such as carol services and Alpha courses. The 1045 service had settled into a role of being for those who are not used to coming to church. The church needs a wider and more strategic understanding of pastoral care, as well as a strengthening of its sense of community for smaller events.

DS then went on to discuss the pain felt by all on the occasion of a departure. She highlighted the role of the wardens over the next few months, and asked for prayer for Rev David Peters, who would be leading the clergy team during the vacancy.

She concluded by telling the church to dream big dreams, believing in God who can do immeasurably more than we can imagine, and praying a prayer ('Disturb me, Lord') that asked God to take us out of our familiar and safe places.

6. Churchwardens' reports

Sarah Jo Gray referred to the report that had been circulated. She gave thanks for the support she had received; it had been an honour and privilege to serve the church. She encouraged church members to take all opportunities to serve in the months ahead.

Patricia Allen spoke about developments at Blackheath which, though small, had been exciting. These included the inspirational visitation of the Archdeacon, the 125th anniversary of the church, and the new use of the church for Julian meetings. She spoke of the dedication of many people over the history of the church, and expressed thanks to all the ministry team.

At this point DS interjected to express her thanks to Marion Peters for her role as Operations Director for the last three years, following Marion's decision to explore other areas of ministry. Much of the work that needed doing had now been completed and would in future be managed by other people. The growth of the church demanded a review of structures.

7. Finance report

Guy Pakenham, Chair of the Finance Committee, expressed thanks for all who had contributed to the handling of finances and preparation of the accounts, noting in particular Joe Anderson, the previous Treasurer, and Charlie Wakefield (CW), who had taken on the role during the financial year.

CW went on to thank David Allen, who had contributed much in his work at Blackheath. CW advised that there had been much to catch up on, but that he was now on top of things. There would be some changes in 2019: updated software, tighter financial controls, stronger budgetary controls and fixed account handling. Although CW was happy with the financial status of the church, he felt there would have to be a focus on giving and costs. He would also be assisted by a church member who would assist with bookkeeping.

CW then referred to the 2018 accounts and balance sheet, explaining the impact of work carried out to the Blackheath church roof and the cemetery, the release of reserves for work previously conducted on the

Wonersh church roof and new heating controls. Also noteworthy were the contributions to the costs of the pilgrimage to Canterbury and the increase in church cleaning costs.

8. Youth and Children's Work and Safeguarding

Sarah Rowden, Youth and Children's worker, referred to the previously circulated report. She welcomed the new worker, Tom Tate, who would be taking her place during her maternity leave, and who would not merely be a caretaker of the role but would continue to drive the work forward. She also talked about her invitation to the Youth Evangelism Task Force, which had come about because Wonersh is one of a very small proportion of churches that has more than 25 young people attending regularly, and even more unusual because it is a rural parish. She stressed the importance of continuing to value young people, and asked the church how it can continue to invest in the young.

Other reports were taken as read. DS confirmed that there were no safeguarding matters to report.

9. Electoral Roll report

The numbers on the electoral roll were shown as 182 at Wonersh and 39 at Blackheath. DS advised that the reduction in numbers was not unusual following the periodic complete revision of the roll.

10. Deanery Synod report

This had been circulated previously and was taken as read.

11. Reports from some church groups

These had been circulated previously and were taken as read.

12. Election of PCC (and Deanery Synod) members

There were four vacancies for elected PCC members. Adam Rowden (second term), Joanne Menges, Malcolm Pickering and Jean Matthews were elected without a vote being necessary. Note: One of the first two names would only be a member for a two year term; this would be decided at a later date. Jackie Vass was elected to the vacant deanery Synod position.

13. Appointment of sidesmen

The list of wardens, duty wardens and sidesmen had been circulated.

14. Appointment of Independent Examiner

Guy Pakenham proposed, and Graham Penney seconded, the reappointment of CN Barnard FCA of Brayne, Williams and Barnard Ltd as Independent Examiner. This was passed unanimously.

15. Any Other Business

No other business was raised. The meeting was followed by a presentation by The Venerable Paul Davies, Archdeacon of Surrey, about the process to be followed during the forthcoming vacancy.

ASSOCIATE VICAR'S REPORT

Wonersh and Blackheath remains at present in vacancy. I will focus on the ministry areas of church life and allow the wardens, who have legal responsibility to ensure the church keeps running, to develop and explain all that has been going on.

This APCM is delayed because of Covid-19 and the impact of this virus upon individuals, our church, community and country, cannot be underestimated.

Following Debbie's departure in June 2019, the wider ministry team, including clergy and service leaders, home group leaders, youth and children's workers and large numbers of support members, continued to ensure that all services and events took place as normal. With both the Curate and Associate Vicar having paid employment elsewhere, it was wonderful to see how resourceful and committed the congregation became.

The word to describe this time, for me at least, is 'community', as a church, Parish and village network. The staff team including wardens met 'virtually', twice a week in those early days, now once a week, to discuss services, pastoral care, practical issues and latest guidance. The response was to approach community in a different way:

- Services immediately moved to YouTube, courtesy of Guy Peters and his filming and editing each week. These quickly started to involve a wider range of contributors (including music, readings, prayers and imagery), allowing the church to once again become community, while also impacting communities as far away as Dubai, California and Wales.
- This theme was developed further with a thought for the week to help keep our personal well-being and community focus in mind. This has been expanded to include contributions from anyone in the congregation who has a thought, a picture, or some music they wish to share so that our connectivity increases.
- Children have joined through their own Zoom song time and activity sheets. Deliveries were made to many children of 'goodie bags' with activity gifts included.
- The youth not surprisingly, have taken to the virtual world without blinking, holding worship evenings and bible studies by Zoom and YouTube.
- Our Home Groups have shown huge fortitude in meeting by Zoom wherever possible and in various gardens when permitted.
- The Thursday congregation has a service emailed each week or delivered to those who might otherwise miss out.
- The church has held distanced weddings and funerals in the most difficult of circumstances.
- We have hosted Zoom coffee meetings and prayer meetings, the latter being particularly well attended.
- Separate online adult and youth Alpha courses have added new members to our community. Thanks to Patsy and Sarah for leading these, supported by Kia and Fiona, along with dedicated prayer supporters.
- A confidential prayer line email was set up and the church office was made mobile.
- The Parish magazine has moved online and links forged with other websites, including the Parish Council.
- We have tried to telephone everyone in the congregation and as time has gone on and opportunity permitted, undertaken personal visits and either grocery or medicine deliveries.
- Separate events have also taken place within fixed requirements, such as various walking groups and even a gardening course.
- Contact has been made with all mission partners, far and near, in order to assess their needs and consider how we might be able to support and encourage them.

- We have continued to press forward with those items of maintenance and development of our building to aid our worship in the days ahead, including a revamped vestry area and replacement lighting.

This has been a most extraordinary time from which we will all ultimately emerge, albeit changed. There is much to learn and our links with the community will become the most important area of focus for ministry in the months ahead as our profile and influence within the local area and wider community needs to rise.

The recent church survey is currently being analysed but let me finish with some early trends.

1. Many in the congregation have found these last few months a time when their faith has been challenged and they have been helped to find their own ways of approaching God, both alongside and, because of what we are doing in Blackheath and Wonersh. These include more frequent and deeper times of prayer, use of the Lectio 365 or Pray as you go Apps, use of more online material from other churches, cathedrals and worldwide groups. Some have also taken the opportunity to study for themselves, with God as the guide and the bible in hand.
2. It is a strong theme that our virtual life will, in many ways, continue. That means that we will engage in services at different times of the week, when we are unable to meet on Sunday. We will therefore need to look at 'streaming' and recording our live services so that a catch up service can be provided.
3. Some virtual meetings are also likely to continue, at least on an intermittent or occasional basis. While the coffee meetings need some more thought, the prayer meeting was found to be extremely helpful.
4. The Thought for the Week was also well liked and requests made for it continuing. The range of contributor and equally, the range of thoughts expressed were particularly welcome and reinforced our togetherness in community.
5. Music was as ever, a more complex area. Some appreciated the range of music made available while others would clearly prefer a more traditional style of music. This is fully appreciated and accepted although perhaps it should also be said that because these songs are found and being reproduced via YouTube, we are dependent upon the copyright situation and quality of recording. Those older songs are less available and tend to be weaker recordings and so we have done what we can, but promise to continue learning.

There are so many people that have worked tirelessly to ensure that Wonersh and Blackheath continues to thrive that it is difficult to highlight a handful of individuals. That said, our staff team have been amazing and my personal thanks especially to the wardens, Alex and Guy and Patricia, along with Sarah, Kia, Heather and Colin for helping to steer, control, provide, prevent and encourage in equal measure; they have been simply fabulous. To all those that have played their part in all of the numerous activities listed above, thank you.

Revd David Peters – Associate Vicar
September 2020

CHURCHWARDENS' REPORT – WONERSH

We would like to begin this report by expressing our thanks to everyone who has been part of an extremely interesting, eventful and often deeply challenging 18 months. During this period, we have not only been in vacancy but have also had to adapt to the impact of the coronavirus pandemic. This is a longer report than normal partly because it reflects the last 18 months and also because we feel it is important to capture these unique times in the church's life.

Staff and Leadership Changes

Back in 2019, which seems like a very long time ago, we saw many staff changes, the most significant being the departure of the incumbent, Debbie Sellin, who took up the post of Bishop of Southampton in June of that year. This was an extremely positive period for the congregation, who were universally delighted for her. As Debbie left us, so did Paul Sellin, and we would like to thank him for the countless areas where he contributed to the running of the church, most notably the church music and technical set up, including lighting.

We also saw the Operations Manager, Marion Peters, step down from her role, leaving the church and processes in a much better state than when she found them. She continues to assist and guide as appropriate, along with handing over her role of Dedicated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) to Catherine Keech.

Our Director of Youth and Children's Work, Sarah Rowden, took maternity leave in the summer of 2019 and was temporarily replaced by Tom Tame. Sarah returned to her role at Easter 2020, deciding to return on a part-time basis, reducing her hours from full time to 25 per week.

At the 2019 APCM, Sarah Jo Gray, churchwarden, stood down after 3 years wonderful service and has been replaced by Alex Vinall, a long-standing member of the congregation.

Kia Pakenham was ordained priest in July 2019 and continues her role as Curate. Her husband, Guy Pakenham, became an Occasional Preacher in the same year, which has certainly helped with the workload.

A new treasurer, Charlie Wakefield, has performed exceptionally well and has additionally taken on the role of book-keeper.

The chair of the Buildings Committee, Mike Hodges, moved away from the area in Summer 2019, and we thank him for his many years of unfaltering service in this and many other aspects of church life. Mike is replaced as chair of the Buildings Committee by Martin Keech, a relatively recent addition to our church family, and we welcome him warmly along with his wife Catherine. We also thank Sian Hodges for a similar dedication to the church and amongst other things, her work with the youth groups.

Alex Vinall stepped down from being Chair of the Mission Committee when she took up her position as churchwarden and was replaced by Caroline Stearman. Our mission partnerships continue to thrive under her leadership and the hard work of the committee.

Ministerially, we have been blessed that David Peters continues to serve us with confidence, grace and skill as Associate Vicar, 17 months into our interregnum. He is strongly supported by Kia Pakenham and Colin Matthews. Throughout 2019 and early 2020, James Cooke, Patsy Kettle, Liz Tilley, Keith Bateson and Paddy Beresford continue to support in a variety of ways. We thank them all.

The Parish Office was partially closed from mid-December for 6 weeks, whilst our Parish Administrator, Heather Hope, was on sick leave. Colin and the Wardens kept the basic routines running, ready for Heather's healthy return.

We have been blessed with a strong and fruitful mission partnership with Wonersh and Shamley Green Primary School under the headship of Tess Trewinard. Tess retired from this role in July 2020, when Kia, David and Alex were able to make a socially distanced presentation, expressing our thanks for all her hard work and dedication. We very much look forward to supporting Tim Cheesman, who takes on this role from September.

Church Buildings

Lawnsmead Hall underwent extensive redecoration in 2019, with the wooden floor being sanded and re-varnished, new flooring, curtains and light fittings in the Turner Room, and fresh paintwork throughout. This work was funded by extremely generous anonymous donations, which gives the hall a fresh new feel.

Springfield, the house acquired for the Youth and Children's Worker, was extensively redecorated and let commercially, following the Rowden's purchase of a new home in nearby Cranleigh.

Several running repairs were carried out over the last 18 months, many of which were identified by the Quinquennial Report, such as repairing leaks in both the church and the Selwyn Room. The installation of a new soak away was completed in the nick of time, saving the church from flooding in inclement weather. Stone masonry repairs in the Bell Tower and Lady Chapel have also been undertaken.

In the pipeline we have plans to reorganise the Vestry, provide new sustainable lighting in church and make further improvements to Lawnsmead, particularly the exterior.

The Diocese is currently advertising the Vicarage for commercial let, having recently installed a new boiler and making a number of internal improvements.

Sustainability

The drive towards a more sustainable church continues, with the Sustainability Committee considering new ways to achieve their objectives. They have hosted a sustainability fair for the church family and the wider community at Lawnsmead as well as number of talks at the local pub and Cricket Pavilion. They have been influential in the discussion over the church lighting and are now looking at the best eco friendly options for a replacement church boiler that is nearing the end of its life.

Social Events

The most notable events of 2019 were the various services and parties to send Debbie on her way. This included visits to St Paul's Cathedral, Winchester Cathedral and a garden party in the Vicarage.

In January 2020, we held our annual Quiz Evening, with all proceeds donated to our Mission Partner, Tear Fund. The coronavirus curtailed any spring or summer events.

PCC, Sidespeople and Duty Wardens

We are ever grateful to the dedication and hard work of our Sidespeople and Duty Wardens. Please do approach Guy or Alex if you would like to join this esteemed line up, we are always looking for more! The church families of Blackheath and Wonersh have grown closer over the last 18 months, despite the absence of a Vicar and the PCC is functioning admirably in their support of both churches.

Covid-19

On 13 March 2020, the church was delighted to host a lunch for the new Area Dean, Roy Woodhams and his intrepid supporters, as they walked between the parishes of the Deanery. Little did we know, that just a few short days later, the country would come to a standstill with the Covid-19 pandemic and church life would change completely.

With the closure of the physical church, David Peters responded immediately by creating a Wonersh and Blackheath You-Tube Channel, where recorded services have been streamed weekly ever since. The quality of these online services has been widely appreciated and praised. In addition to the services of worship, a new weekly feature was established, where individuals share a personal "Thought of the Week". This has been highly valued by all who have watched, sharing vulnerabilities, music, hopes and encouragement, during what has been an un-nerving few months.

Sadly, our community was not unscathed by Covid-19 and on 2 April our own John Metcalfe lost his battle with this virus. John was such an important part of our church for so many years and no-one who met him will forget that broad and welcoming smile. Over the years he fulfilled so many crucial roles in the church, from treasurer to church warden to chief entertainment officer. He will be sorely missed by so many but leaves us with a tremendous legacy

and a lifetime of happy memories. We are delighted that Wendy, John's wife, recovered strongly from the illness and remains in the heart of our church life and services.

With the inability to meet in person, the church office went mobile and an emergency helpline was created. Led by Kia and Nancy, a team of people made countless phone calls and deliveries to support those who were confined to their home, isolated or struggling. All social activities were put on hold and Lawnmead has not been able open for use or hire since March. Currently we do not foresee this changing until 2021, however we will review this status regularly, in conjunction with Diocesan guidance.

Church Family News emails from David have been a bi-weekly feature of our inboxes. Whereas they were once a helpful, friendly point of contact, throughout Covid-19, they have become a crucial way of communicating, with the link to the weekly service and Thought for the Week. This has also been an appropriate moment to go fully digital for the Parish Magazine. Camilla Gosden has ably led this transition and we thank her for all the time and energy she puts into this service. Those who are not on email will continue to receive a hand delivered, printed version.

It is now hard to imagine life before Zoom, however this clever app has allowed us to continue Home Group gatherings, host prayer and PCC meetings, virtual coffee mornings and even keep Chatterbox running throughout. Behind all these adaptations and changes to church life is a hive of activity and support. The ministry team and wardens meet virtually, at least once a week, reacting to ever evolving government guidelines.

Our finances have been strong enough to avoid furloughing any salaried staff and we are grateful that Sarah and Heather have been so willing to work in creative new ways, both of whom have had the additional distraction of home schooling to contend with.

New Incumbent

The Wardens are in discussion with the Archdeacon who is due to provide an update on 4th October.

Finally, heartfelt thanks to you all, especially those who have contributed to the safe and successful running of the church in all its diversity.

Guy Pakenham and Alex Vinall
September 2020

CHURCHWARDENS' REPORT – BLACKHEATH

I started writing this report early in March this year before the outbreak of Covid-19 and the postponement of the APCM. Looking at my report below seems strange in the light of what has happened since. It is easy to forget just how different things were last year! Life in our Parish, like everywhere else, has changed in a way we could never have imagined a year ago, or even at Christmas. Like all churches in the country services were halted at the end of March and we are only now just beginning to return to some sort of 'normal' church services. Blackheath church meetings have been taking place on Zoom, the Blackheath Home Group has been keeping in touch by email and Zoom and donations to the Hygiene Bank are now given by the click of a button on-line!

I am conscious that living in the area we do has been a great blessing for our community, in a way that has not been possible for many others in this country and around the world. Nevertheless, it has still brought challenges and we are so grateful to the Blackheath Church Care Team which has worked so hard, particularly during lockdown, to support those needing help. The Team and the church continue to reach out to those in need.

Since lockdown Womersley Church has provided the Parish and beyond with awe inspiring and uplifting Sunday Services and Thoughts for the Week on-line. The hard work, dedication and professionalism of these resources has been truly remarkable and I for one offer the team my heartfelt thanks. It has certainly highlighted that there are different ways of reaching out to people other than through services in church buildings, however special these buildings might be. It has raised the question of how we develop in the future and what new opportunities as well as challenges this might throw up. This will no doubt occupy the thoughts of our ministry team, PCC and DCC in the future. When so much has gone on-line, including the Parish Magazine, I am particularly conscious that keeping in touch with those who aren't is very important.

Looking back over 2019 I am aware of just how busy a year it was. In July 2019 we said good-bye to Debbie Sellin and wished her well in her new role as Bishop of Southampton. For those from the Parish who made it to her consecration service at St Paul's Cathedral this was a very moving occasion, made even more memorable by the number of Bishops in attendance as well as past and current Archbishops. It was a joyous occasion and this was reflected on the faces of those present and in particular, Debbie herself and her proud family. Following this was Debbie's installation service at Winchester Cathedral at the beginning of July. Many from the Parish packed the chancel of the Cathedral for Choral Evensong and the installation ceremony.

Debbie's time in the Parish as our Vicar was one of huge benefit to us all and her calm, caring manner and inspired teaching will live on. Looking to the future, we look forward to the induction of a new Vicar to lead us into the next exciting phase of the church's life in our Parish. One significant benefit in having a long Vacancy period is that it has allowed time to develop a closer relationship between the churches of St John's and St Martin's. This is good to see and something to be strengthened and built on in the future.

During the Vacancy we haven't been idle at St Martin's and have managed to move forward. Outreach during 2019 continued with renewed focus. It was a privilege to support 6 couples who married or had wedding blessings at the church during last year. Church Coffee Mornings went from strength to strength and there were a couple more held than in previous years. These are always greatly appreciated and usually see 45-50 coming along to enjoy cakes, coffee and a chat. (We really look forward to resuming these when circumstances allow.) The church supported its community through the St Martin's Care Fund and the District Church Council made a point of reviewing the role of the Fund and how it can best help the people of Blackheath in the future. We also offered support for the bereaved, the sick and those wishing prayers said in church.

During last year, St Martin's became a drop off point for donated products for the Hygiene Bank. This charity helps restore dignity and well-being to those living in poverty, by giving people access to basic hygiene and personal care essentials. We were delighted at the response this new initiative received and we were also able to donate some funds to the charity, as well as products, after the Harvest Praise Service last September. These donations were all distributed locally and are always much needed.

The regular services continued as usual and it was a delight to see an increase in numbers at the Choral Evensong. However, the number of those coming to our services from outside the village increased but from Blackheath slightly decreased. The total number of people at the three main Christmas Services was distinctly up from 2018, including 150 at the Carol Service, and there was good consistent attendance at the monthly Julian Meetings for those wishing to spend half an hour of stillness and silence in the beauty of St Martin's. (We are delighted that these and our monthly Evensongs have now resumed.)

The Blackheath Home Group just goes from strength to strength and is a great source of learning, encouragement and support for those in the group. The Group also dedicates time to pray for the community and those in special need of prayer.

Early in 2020 there was one Funeral, one Memorial Service and one Baptism. (There is one wedding hoping to take place later in 2020, one already booked for 2021 and even one for 2023!)

The list of those who support St Martin's and its work increased yet again in 2019 to 44 and we are enormously grateful for the numerous ways those in the community put themselves out to offer help. It is particularly appreciated as we are very aware that many are time poor and have heavy family and work commitments. However, the Church still struggles to find post holders and we continue to look for people to fill the roles of Deputy Warden, Server, Sidesperson, DCC representative on the PCC, and new members to join the DCC. We also for a number of years have had a vacancy for a second Churchwarden.

We owe a huge debt of gratitude to the parish Ministry Team. Without their considerable dedication, Christian teaching and unwavering support we would not have the high standard of worship that we have become so used to and which draws people to St Martin's. Thank you to you, and also my fellow churchwardens Guy and Alex, and our Parish Administrator, Heather.

Patricia Allen
September 2020

CHILDREN'S + YOUTH MINISTRY AT WONERSH CHURCH

In all our children's and youth work, we operate with three aims; to have fun, to make disciples and to grow leaders.

During the past year our children's and youth ministry has been led by Tom Tame working part time during Sarah Rowden's maternity leave (from May 2019-20). During this time, our children's work and youth ministry activities have been consolidated as a consequence of fewer paid staff hours, and lower regular attendance across all age groups- which is attributed to general trends in Church attendance and response to the vacancy.

We offer our huge thanks to those who worked so hard alongside Tom, particularly Fiona Allan who has steadfastly cared for our Sparks and Blaze age group, Liz Lister who has led and nurtured Chatterbox so well, and Abby Cowey who has invested greatly in our teenagers.

Pre Covid-19, our ministry to children and young people has been largely focused around the 10am Sunday Service for under 12s and a mid week discipleship group for 12-18s, with outreach activities taking place via Chatterbox baby & toddler group and Youth Café each week. These activities were organised as follows;

Informal Crèche space	0 - 4 yrs	Lady Chapel	Regularly in use by 8 families with children aged 0-4.
Chatterbox	0-4s and their families	Lawnsmead, Thursday mornings	Regular contact with around 80 families of children aged 0-4 (around 8 families making connections with 10.45am services/other church activities and services)
Sparks + Blaze combined	Primary School aged children	Lawnsmead, Sundays at 9.50am	Regular contact with around 17 children
Youth Discipleship group	Year 7 - Year 13	Leader homes/Lawnsmead Wednesday evenings	Regular contact with 15 young people
Youth Café	Year 7 - Year 13	Lawnsmead Sunday evenings	Regular contact with 8 young people (2 not otherwise involved)

Sarah returned from maternity leave on a part time basis at Easter and worked alongside Tom Tame to handover the role for a period of two weeks, made slightly less straightforward by lockdown restrictions!

During lockdown and the weeks following, our ministry to children, young people and their families has prioritised opportunities that seek to 'hold community together', whilst supporting and nurturing growing faith in families at home. This has taken many forms from a weekly supportive and resource-filled email to families of all age groups, to delivering goody bags and books to children and young people involved in our ministry, as well as zoom meetings and online content for families to participate with. Amongst it all, there have been some wonderful moments where deeper relationships are being forged, and joys and sorrows are being shared.

Some lockdown highlights

More of our young people are participating more regularly. Where we would usually expect 60-70% of our contact group at any one session, during lockdown we have been seeing most young people on most occasions.

Door-step visits and goody bags have been extremely well received and have caused more than one teary eye! Feedback from parents has been overwhelmingly positive; families have felt remembered, included and cared for through the receiving of personalised gifts and a quick chat from the front path.

A new initiative, Late Night Worship, has enabled our young people to engage with worship in new ways, and articulate their faith journeys creatively. It operates without video calls, meaning that the focus is on listening to God's voice and not one another. The young people share with the group what God has been saying to them, drawings, prayers and verses of scripture. There have been some very powerful moments shared. Most excitingly, this weekly activity often scoops in young people usually on the fringe of our ministry activities.

Emerging from Lockdown considerations

As restrictions continue to change and become increasingly more prohibitive again, it is my view that children's and youth work as we have known it is still some way away from returning to normal.

Practically, for all age groups, we do not have a viable number of volunteers able to lead in-person, and so for consistency it is most straight-forward to retain a regular online programme for the time being. Additionally, the requirements around social distancing and face coverings impedes the activities we would be able to facilitate.

Although our families are missing being, worshipping, and praying together at Church, the support and resources we are providing to encourage the growth of faith at home are working reasonably well and being accessed by a good number. And, for some families, sharing in prayer and worship together at home has been much easier and more consistent than getting the family out to Church each week in normal times. When a return to in-person groups becomes viable, we will need to start small, and for a while (if not indefinitely) I expect there will be a need to maintain an online provision alongside in-person activities. There will be a great need to enlarge our volunteer pool, and specifically to identify individuals whom God is calling to invest in the next generation.

In the meantime, I hope that we can begin to compliment the current programme by facilitating occasional face to face, socially distanced, open air gatherings during the summer months. For example, I hope to organise a couple of family walks for Chatterbox Mums with little ones, and similarly for our young people.

Internship

The PCC have agreed to employ a Church Ministry Intern for this academic year, and from October 1st Jasper Parsons will be joining us in this role. Jas has been a regular member of our youth ministry groups for the past 5 years, and it is wonderful to support him further in his discipleship journey, and leadership development, whilst also benefitting from his skills, energy and perspective. Alongside part-time work within the scope of Church life, Jas will be undertaking Guildford Diocese Leadership and Theology training.

Programme detail

Our ministry programme since April;

Group	When?	Age Range	Platform Used
Chatterbox Online Song Time	Weekly, Thursday mornings	Under 5s and their families. Weekly attendance between 1-28 households. Beginning to now reduce	Zoom, with promotion via email and facebook
Chatterbox Resource Email	Weekly, Wednesdays	Chatterbox parents (68)	Email, often containing links to other websites, blogs, and videos
Big Worship	Weekly from beginning of September	0-12yrs and their families	YouTube, prerecorded and premiered at advertised time
Children, Youth & Families Email	Weekly, Sundays	Parents of 0-18s involved in Church life.	Email, plus resources for children produced by 'Together at Home'
Wednesday Youth Huddle	Weekly, Wednesdays 7-8pm	12-18yr olds. Weekly participation of between 6-8 young people.	Zoom, with communication and promotion via Instagram and parental email
Youth Alpha Online	Commenced 25th June, then weekly for 6wks, Thursdays 7.30-9pm	12-18yr olds. 12 young people participated	Zoom, with communication and promotion via Instagram and parental email to those already known to us.
Late Night Youth Worship	Launched 17th May, then weekly, Sundays 9-9.45pm	14-18yrs. Weekly participation of 8 young people	Instagram and YouTube
Door-step home visits	Various	0-18yrs. Visiting households of 75 children, young people and young adults associated with our ministry in 'normal' times to deliver goody bags, Christian books, and have doorstep conversations. Visits do not include Chatterbox families at this point.	Front gardens and driveways!

Sarah Rowden
September 2020

OPEN THE BOOK ASSEMBLIES – 10 years on!

All praise and thanks to God for the opportunity He has given us to go into Wonersh & Shamley Green School (every Thursday during term time) and Bramley Infants School (every Friday), to share Bible Stories through the Open the Book scheme! For 10 years now we have had a wonderful welcome from the schools and a great team (currently 16 adults drawn from 4 different churches), who are prepared to share their gifts of acting, costume & prop-making or providing, creative ideas, sense of humour, time and lots more. The aim (and our privilege) is to communicate the Bible in an accessible, enjoyable and memorable way, which enables the children to engage imaginatively with the text. We are often amazed and challenged ourselves by the questions, thoughts and prayers with which the children respond in the time of reflection and prayer after the story has been acted out, as well as their memory of individual stories often months or even years later. We link the Christian values highlighted in the stories to the school values and of course they are reinforced and applied throughout school days.

Sadly, with the onset of Covid-19 in March this year, we had to stop going into the school, just before we were due to present the Easter Story. Nevertheless Team Members have continued to pray for the schools and for inspiration as to how we can adapt what we do to the new situation, restrictions and guidelines. Tim Cheesman, the new Head at Wonersh & Shamley Green School has been very encouraging towards us. After discussions with him and the team, we have worked out a safe way to present a Bible Story in November with about 4 team members who feel comfortable going into the school environment, with all the safety measures in place. Appropriately, the story will illustrate “Trust in God”.

Do pray for us and, if anyone would like more information or would like to consider joining the team, do please get in touch Patsy Kettle or me.

Nicky Cooke
September 2020

SAFEGUARDING AND INCLUSION REPORT

Safeguarding and Inclusion continues to form an intrinsic part of our behaviour at Wonersh and Blackheath, a parish where every person is respected and valued, a place where all can safely thrive and develop. Although effective responsibility for Safeguarding and Inclusion rests with the PCC the ethos and practicalities are part of every part of our ministry. This report covers an 18 month period since the last APCM during which there have been no safeguarding concerns.

The Parish Safeguarding Self Audit and Parish Training Needs Analysis were both submitted to the Diocese in September 2019 and will be updated shortly as part of a new annual requirement. Following contact with four previous incumbents, the Past Cases Review 2 return was made by the Associate Vicar in February 2020.

To comply with Diocesan requirements Core 1 (Foundation) Safeguarding Training is now undertaken by all PCC members and Home Group leaders with the expectation that Leadership Safeguarding Training will be completed routinely as the module is made available online. A new parish record of training has recently been compiled to mirror the Diocesan Training Pathway.

Pandemic restrictions imposed during 2020 saw church activities move to a virtual arena. The introduction of YouTube services and Zoom meetings were assessed by the ministry team to ensure that all online activities offered by the church were safe, secure and appropriate. In the months ahead, a more formal Social Media Policy will be adopted by the PCC to sit alongside the existing Social Media Policy for Youth and Children's Work which was updated in response to changes necessitated by Lockdown.

Safeguarding continues to be an agenda item at all PCC meetings. I am grateful to Jean Matthews, PCC Safeguarding Lead during the past 18 months, and to Alex Vinall for taking this role into her portfolio as Church Warden. My thanks to Heather Hope who continues to process all DBS applications ensuring that our volunteer clearance is up to date. Finally, I am grateful to Catherine Keech who has agreed to take on the role of Safeguarding Officer following the APCM and has already completed the necessary training.

Marion Peters

15 September 2020

BUILDINGS AND OPERATIONS REPORT

The Quinquennial survey was conducted on 6th June 2019 which has resulted in a number of activities to ensure the church and grounds are kept in good order as detailed below.

Church

Drains

There have been problems for a significant period with water collecting in the drive immediately outside church and on occasion entering the church. After using CCTV it was determined that a pipe had collapsed. Work was undertaken to replace the pipework and in addition to build a new soakaway. The gully in the drive is regularly covered in Yew leaves which prevent the water getting to the soakaway so a new much larger gully has been installed with a silt bucket which can periodically be removed and emptied. This should prevent further ingress of water when we have torrential downpours.

Gravestone in the churchyard

A Faculty has been obtained to permit the lowering of a gravestone in the churchyard which has been deemed to be unsafe. The work will be undertaken by a working party once it is feasible to do which it is not currently due to the social distancing requirements.

Updating of the church lighting

The PCC have agreed that the lighting in church should be updated as all the halogen spot lights are now obsolete. A new system would be energy efficient with significantly lower running costs and also much lower maintenance. The opportunity will also be taken to improve/enhance the lighting in areas of the church where the lighting is deemed inadequate and to provide lighting suitable for streaming of services. In addition the external floodlights will also be replaced with LED fittings. Lux Lucis have been engaged to produce a lighting design and then undertake the installation. It is hoped the work will be complete by the end of the year but this is dependent on a number of factors.

Roofing repairs

Work has been completed to replace a number of broken and missing tiles, repairs to valleys and flashing plus repair of woodwork in the belfry. In addition over 1000 tiles were replaced on the roof of the hall extension roof due to disintegration which in time would have led to leaks.

Stone work

The coping stone on the NE corner of church above the Lady Chapel has been replaced as it was starting to disintegrate and the door surround on the east side of the Tower has been treated to prevent further disintegration of the chalkwork.

Re-ordering of the vestry

The use of the South Transept has been under discussion for some time as the present arrangement does not function as a vestry and the organist does not have enough space to sit comfortably. The aim of the re-ordering is to provide an open space for private prayer, small meetings, small acts of worship and counselling plus to act as an overflow when the pews are full. The new arrangement will be a good quality open space with purpose-built storage and improved space for the organist. In addition, the outer door will be draught-proofed to improve the internal environment of the space.

DAC approval has been granted for the re-ordering of the vestry based on drawings produced by Thomas Ford & Partners and a Faculty has been submitted. If the Faculty is approved promptly it is hoped the work can be completed by the end of the year.

Wonersh and Blackheath Cemetery

The cemetery is kept in good order by Steve the gardener contracted to undertake cutting of the grass and general maintenance. Only two vacant plots remain in the 'old' part of the cemetery so the new section is being marked out. Work will be undertaken on the path at the bottom end of the cemetery to improve accessibility. Work on the chapel will be delayed until a new incumbent is in place.

Vicarage

Working parties have ensured that the vicarage garden has been kept in a reasonable state of order during the incumbency. A new shed has been erected as the previous shed was beyond repair.

I should like to thank my fellow members of the Buildings Committee - Thiew Tan, Malcolm Pickering and Darren Alford as well as the assistance of the churchwardens.

Martin Keech

Chair of the Buildings Committee

ELECTOROL ROLL REPORT

Electoral Roll figures as at 5th October 2020

St. John the Baptist Church, Wonersh	171	(182)
St. Martin's Church, Blackheath	41	(41)
	————	
Total	212	(223)

(Figures for 2019 in brackets)

5% drop from electoral roll figures of 2019.

This is due to people moving away from the area and sadly from a number of deaths.

Heather Hope
October 2020

ACTIVITIES OF THE PCC REPORT

This report is very brief, as the majority of the PCC's activities are described in Wardens' and Trustees' reports, and elsewhere in the meeting papers.

The PCC held seven regular meetings during the year. In addition there were "Section 11" meetings to agree the Parish Profile for the appointment of a new Vicar, as well as Standing Committee meetings to make urgent decisions between main PCC meetings.

Work continued in 2019 on the development of Finance Committee Terms of Reference and policies, as well as agreeing interim Terms of Reference for the Mission Committee, pending the arrival of a new Vicar.

Naturally much of the PCC's efforts during the year related to the departure of the Vicar, Debbie Sellin, the preparation of the Parish Profile, and the two rounds of interviews that were held. In addition members of the PCC were active in ensuring that the activities, processes and maintenance of the church and its buildings continued to run smoothly.

Although the period of this report is for 2019, parishioners might like to know that PCC business continued during lockdown, with one meeting cancelled, one held via email and subsequently via Zoom.

Clive Couzens
28th September 2020

DEANERY SYNOD REPORT

Since the last Annual District Church Meeting, Cranleigh Deanery has held three Synod Meetings, in June, November and February. Due to Covid-19 there have been no further meetings held since February 2020.

There have been a number of changes on the Deanery Synod. Following Debbie Sellin's departure the new Area Dean is now the Revd Canon Roy Woodham. Katherine Tuck has taken over as Honorary Secretary from Christine Sweeting and the name of a new Lay Chair has yet to be announced. Roy has also been elected to fill the Clergy vacancy on the Diocesan Synod and the Clergy vacancy on the Deanery Synod Standing Committee has been filled by the Revd Greg Cushing. During the year the Synod welcomed the Revd Tim Heaney as Rector of Shere and noted there were three Vacancies, namely Bramley, Dunsfold & Hascombe and Wonersh with Blackheath. Bramley and Dunsfold & Hascombe have since made appointments. The Revd Ian Maslin was licensed as priest in charge of Dunsfold & Hascombe on 3rd February 2020 and the Revd Andy Davis is the new priest in charge at Bramley. The Revd Martin Hughes, a previous Vicar of Shamley Green, has sadly died.

In June 2019 the Synod looked at 'Connecting church with children, young people and their families'. There were presentations from the Diocesan Children & Families Ministry Adviser and the Diocesan Youth Adviser. The Synod discussed ways of working locally in the parishes through such initiatives as Toddler Groups, Tots Praise, engaging with Schools, and supporting families with Parenting Courses.

In November the meeting welcomed a report from Richard Gates, the Deanery Representative on the Diocesan Board of Education, who outlined the work of the Board as it oversees Church Schools in the Diocese. He highlighted the guidance it gives schools on 'teaching about relationships', 'the development of academies' and 'developing the Christian distinctiveness of Church Schools'.

Roy Woodhams laid out his 'Vision for the Deanery' under the headings of, Mission, Clergy Pastoral Care and Sharing Expertise and told the meeting he would 'Walk the Deanery' in the Spring as a way of getting to know each area better as well as spending time individually with clergy colleagues. (Roy has since completed his walk round the Deanery.) He also raised the idea of holding an annual Deanery Event, open to all parishioners in the Deanery, with a guest keynote speaker.

At the February meeting, in Albury Village Hall, there was a presentation by the Revd Greg Cushing, sports co-ordinator for the Diocese and a member of the Advisory Board to the C of E Sports Ministry. Guildford Diocese, as part of a pilot scheme, is considering ways of using sports activities in parishes to engage with people as sport and fitness has never been as big as it is today. In the UK in 2018 the number of over-16s playing sport once a week, every week, had risen to a new record – 15.6 million. The aim is to reach those who no longer attend church, not even at Christmas or Easter, and the young who have never been to church at all. Gloucester Diocese has been leading the way on this and Guildford Diocese has used some of its research and initiatives and now has a team of Sports Ambassadors committed to encouraging more (congregational) participation in sport and to creating Gospel opportunities through sport. The ideal is to have a Sports Ambassador in every congregation. The initiative links in with the appointment of a National Sports Director for the Church of England.

Further items discussed were, a Deanery link with Viborg West Deanery, Denmark, a visit to the Deanery by Bishop Thom from Ohio for a few days prior to the Lambeth Conference in July, and the Archbishop of Canterbury's visit to the Diocese in March. Sadly these were later cancelled due to the Coronavirus pandemic.

The Archdeacon, Paul Davies, talked to the Deanery Synod about the new 'Deanery Handbook' which contains practical advice for Area and Lay Chairs and also ideas for making Deaneries work more efficiently and effectively in terms of strategy, mission and collaboration. It outlines ideas behind the forming of Deanery Leadership Teams. Each Leadership Team would put forward recommendations to its Deanery so decisions for the future can be made at Deanery level. There would also be an opportunity for Deaneries to put recommendations to the Bishop's Council. The Team would be responsible for forward planning and not just be reactive to events. The suggested membership of the Leadership Team would consist of the Officers of the Standing Committee, plus 2 clerical representatives, and 2 lay representatives. The Bishop would like Deanery Leadership Teams to be mandatory.

Patricia Allen
Deanery Synod Representative

SENIORS MINISTRY

The majority of our Senior's ministry continues to be centred around the Thursday morning service. Over the last eighteen months we have seen this congregation dwindle somewhat due to natural causes but it remains a bedrock of care, support and discipleship for those that attend.

Nansi, Brenda, Liz, James and Keith have worked tirelessly to ensure that a comprehensive programme of events was offered with Wonersh and Shamley green school's leading of the Remembrance service a particular highlight. We continue to foster good relations with the URC with a positive and cooperative relationship forged with the new minister, Helen Everard.

During recent months, with the inevitable restrictions of Covid-19 we have adapted by producing written material, emailed out to those with computer access and hard copies delivered to those without.

Our main aim in this challenging time has been to try and maintain a sense of community and connectedness within the fellowship.

A small gathering of six is planned outside and will continue as weather allows.

I'd like to take this opportunity to thank Brenda and Bruce Morley for their faithfulness, dedication and care for this ministry as they move on to pastures knew and we wish them joy in their new setting.

Liz Tilley and I will subsequently be heading up this ministry going forward and my thanks go to her and all those who help make this a wonderful ministry to be a part of.

Rev'd Kia Pakenham (Curate)
September 2020

PASTORAL CARE

Our pastoral care continues to be focussed, very successfully, through our many home groups. The memorial service is also a strong outreach and pastoral support for many.

Our blue print as a church has always had a strong sense of community and caring and this has been especially evident within the last six months as the pandemic hit.

A special helpline was set up and we coordinated with other groups within the village to offer shopping and prescription collection. All people on our electoral role were contacted by phone and this proved an effective outreach tool. New connections were made and the sense of 'all pulling together' was strong.

Going forward it is recognised that we need a more coordinated approach with occasional offices, and specific pastoral needs being overseen. This will be the remit of the new Incumbent but while we patiently await their arrival I am preparing the ground work for this, with increased pastoral visiting, home group oversight and strategic conversations and planning.

We remain so grateful to all the congregation for their obvious love and care for each other and I have a sense that we are closer as a church family as a result of recent global events. Thank you.

Rev'd Kia Pakenham (Curate)
September 2020

CONNECTIONS REPORT

As with most other things that were due to happen over the past 6 or 7 months, the Connections group has had to lie low, with some of our favourite annual events cancelled, indeed we have had no gatherings at all in 2020, apart from a small walking group event on 18th September. Nine of us gathered at Dunsfold and walked in two 'bubbles' about 100 yds apart, round a wonderfully scenic route through the Surrey Countryside, ending up with a delicious lunch outside (still in our bubbles) at the Sun Inn.

The group is for what might be described as the 'actively retired' members of the church and we aim to go for walks, one every season, as well as occasional other events such as the always popular "Boules and BBQ" in August (though sadly it didn't happen this year). If you think that this group might be just right for you, then do get in touch with me and I will make sure you receive our publicity: james.cooke2015@gmail.com

Three years ago the name of the group was changed to Connections. But recently we have heard that Wonersh Parish Council have set up a website entitled 'Wonersh Connections', in order to advertise everything that the village has to offer. This is likely to cause confusion with our group name so I am proposing that we change our name to "The Caleb Group". Caleb was an active spiritual giant in Old Testament days. Even at the age of 85 Caleb ... followed the Lord, the God of Israel, wholeheartedly. (Joshua 14 v 14). It seems a like a good description of what we aspire to be.

James Cooke
September 2020

HOMEGROUPS

Throughout 2019, Homegroups have continue to be at the heart of church family life – places of growth, prayer and mutual support. One new group has started. Sadly, some group leaders have moved to pastures new. We are so grateful to them, and we will miss them. At the same time, it has been good to welcome new members to the leadership team. We are so grateful to all our leaders who exercise this vital ministry within our church community. Regular meetings of group leaders take place and it has been encouraging to see an increasing sense of support and collaboration within this leadership team.

The response of all groups to the Covid crises has been full of energy and creativity. An immense amount of time and energy has been given to enabling online or socially distanced meetings to take place, backed up by regular phone calls or social media exchanges. The inspiration for the very well received on-line Alpha Course can be traced back to the common life of our homegroups. This variety of expressions is likely to continue for the immediate future. So, excitingly, this is both an easy time to join a group – and also a very important one.

It's been a privilege to (try to!) coordinate all this energy and inspiration, however it now makes perfect sense to hand coordination over to Kia as part of her general mandate for pastoral care.

Colin Matthews
September 2020

SUSTAINABILITY REPORT

A highlight of the last year was the 'sustainability fair' in autumn 2019. The event featured a range of stalls, giving attendees the opportunity to learn about how they can live more sustainably in everyday life. Stallholders included both church members and other members of the local community with expertise in various areas, as well as external organisations such as the Surrey Wildlife Trust. The fair also included sustainability-focused craft activities for children, and attracted a steady stream of attendees throughout the morning from both the church and the community. Following its success, plans were under way to include sustainability stalls at the Wonersh summer fete, but this of course had to be cancelled.

We have also held two meetings of 'The Bakery' – a group set up by Will Gardner, in conjunction with the sustainability team, to facilitate discussion on a range of sustainability topics and targeting the local community as well as the church. The focus of our autumn 2019 meeting was food – its impacts and our choices – and in March 2020 Richard Hiblen, from renewable energy company Green Square in Bramley, gave an informative and enjoyable presentation on green energy options for the home. Both meetings were lively and well attended, and we look forward to being able to resume these events in due course.

As well as highlighting the importance of sustainability and enabling individuals to explore and learn more, the sustainability fair and the Bakery have also provided a wonderful opportunity to work with, and reach out, to the wider local community.

Alongside these highlights, throughout the year we have continued to publish occasional articles on sustainability in the parish magazine. While Covid has prevented us from holding a churchyard working party this year, we still maintain a rota of people to feed the birds, and Thiew Tan has installed large bug hotels on a wall in the churchyard to attract local wildlife. We are exploring various other opportunities, including how we can improve the energy consumption of the church and whether we can register as a Fairtrade church, and planning for a possible service themed on sustainability and creation care later in the autumn term.

Having revisited the Eco Church audit at the start of the 2020, we had hoped that – with a bit more of a push in specific areas – we might be able to qualify for the Silver Eco Church award by autumn this year. This year's extraordinary circumstances have prevented that, but with a renewed focus now on those areas we can currently influence and improve, we are hopeful that this is within reach!

Our thanks go to Darren Alford, Sarah Jo Gray, Mike Hodges and Christine Sweeting – who, for various reasons, have stepped down from the sustainability team over the last year or so – for their contributions and enthusiasm. We have now welcomed Caroline Stearman and John Wallis to the team. Other members are Malcolm Pickering, Charlie Wakefield and Jane Boswell. We would love to hear from anyone who has ideas or suggestions or who is keen to be involved in any way.

Jane Boswell & Charlie Wakefield
September 2020

MISSION COMMITTEE REPORT

Mission Committee membership comprises Alex Vinall, Keith Bateson, Jane Boswell, Liz Tilley, Nick Bamber and Caroline Stearman, having said farewell to Mike Hodges earlier in the year. We have space for a couple more members on the Mission Committee, so we would welcome a conversation with anyone who is interested!

We have a rhythm of four meetings per year and aim to publish two newsletters a year with Mission Partner news. Our Spring newsletter was published at Easter and the second is due in November.

As a Mission Committee the focus of our activity is the following:

- Building and maintaining strong relationships with our Mission Partners
- Praying for our Mission Partners
- Being a conduit for communication between the Mission Partners and the church family
- Making stewarding decisions around the allocation of the annual mission giving budget across our partnerships, and recommending this to the PCC
- Proposing the giving focus for events such as the Harvest Appeal etc.

Our 5 main Mission Partners are:

1. Viva International and Mim Friday
2. World Horizons and Charlotte R
3. Wonersh and Shamley Green School
4. YMCA Downslink Group
5. Ema and Viorel Tulpan

We continue to have strong connections and relationships with our Mission Partners, keeping in close contact particularly over the last 6 months of coronavirus. A few examples of this over the year are:

- We were delighted to welcome Mim Friday (Viva) just after Christmas to a morning service and an evening conversation with James Cooke's Homegroup, to which all were welcome
- We have had Take 5 contributions from Tess Trewinnard (Wonersh and Shamley Green School) and Mim Friday and are soon to have one from the YMCA
- We were due to have the Lead Chaplain from the YMCA join us for a service earlier this year, but this was cancelled due to lockdown.

A summary of our annual allocation follows on the next page. Our overall budget was lower than last year, so our priority with allocation was to maintain the level of the annual gift to our core Mission Partners and to the other local organisations we donate to annually. This resulted in a slightly lower gift to Tearfund and the Bible Society.

Mission Partners	Allocation 2020
Charlotte R	£3,399
Ema and Viorel Tulpan	£3,399
VIVA	£3,399
YMCA Downslink Group	£3,399
Wonersh and Shamley Green School	£3,399
Bible Society	£900
Tearfund	£1,900
4 Villages Day Care	£350
Guildford Bell Ringers	£200
Church Green Trustees	£350
Age Concern	£250
Woncares	£100
TOTAL GIVING	£21,045

We want to thank everyone in the church for their giving to the various appeals which have been held in church through the year; we recognise that this is often top of people's planned giving. Thank you!

Additional Mission giving:

Our Harvest Appeal in 2019 raised £586 for a number of partners: Ema and Viorel Tulpan, Tearfund and the North Guildford Food Bank

The coronavirus week of giving and prayer in raised £8,395 to be distributed 75% to support specific coronavirus needs internationally through Tearfund DEC appeal and 25% to support specific coronavirus needs locally through Wonersh and Shamley Green School.

The quiz evening – rapidly becoming an annual affair – raised £287.50 towards general mission giving.

Caroline Stearman
September 2020

BELL RINGERS REPORT

We have lost two of our experienced ringers over the last year and are now down to six ringers, which for eight bells is clearly inadequate. We had one new volunteer who began to learn to handle a bell in mid-March 2020, but after several lessons where she was progressing well the Covid-19 lockdown was announced and all ringing teaching had to stop. I have kept in touch with the learner and hopefully she will return to training once the social distancing rules are relaxed. Once that happens we would be pleased to welcome more new ringers to join our band at any time. It takes quite a long time and a lot of determination to become a proficient ringer (as recent recruits will testify) but it is a very rewarding activity and we would love to teach anyone who is willing to make that commitment. We have in Womersley a magnificent tuneful peal of eight bells to ring to the glory of God and to call people to church each Sunday. Please encourage others to join our band. Ringing really is both enjoyable and challenging.

Until March 2020 we rang the bells for services every Sunday and for all the major church festivals. All ringing was then stopped by order of the Church of England, and it was only restarted in August 2020, but with strict social distancing rules which mean we can only ring four or five of our eight bells, and can only ring for 15 minutes at a time. We can only ring five when three of our band (the Pickeringings) are from one family, so can ring adjacent bells.

In addition to calling worshippers to services bells are traditionally rung to celebrate personal and national events. On 27th May 2019 we rang a full peal of Grandsire Triples (5040 changes) to celebrate the appointment of Debbie Sellin to be the Bishop of Southampton. Full peals are rare events in our tower, rung only to mark very special occasions. They involve three hours of continuous ringing and are the equivalent of bell ringing marathons, requiring stamina and constant concentration by the whole band. I am sure everybody will agree that having one's vicar promoted to be a bishop is a suitable occasion to be marked by a full peal. The details of the peal are recorded on a peal board hung in the ringing chamber.

Stephen Darvill
September 2020

WONERSH AND SHAMLEY GREEN SCHOOL

Wonersh Church continues to have a strong relationship with WSG school. This was continued after Debbie's departure through parent of church children and communication with Tess Trewinnard, then Headteacher.

During the Covid-19 pandemic, Tess led the school with commendable calm and enthusiasm, even creating a daily thought circulated by email and lessons moved swiftly to on-line systems. Any pupil suffering hardship was given necessary equipment and the church helped with funding for meals and equipment. WSG was also a recipient of the recent giving through our dedicated Week of Giving and Prayer.

Tess announced her retirement during the year and Tim Cheesman, previously Deputy Head Teacher at Tillingbourne School was appointed, He is making a welcome visit to the church and meeting staff members. A special award was made to Tess from the church in her final week. Our liaison continues through a number of ways:

- As a Mission Partner
- Through the parent body
- We also intend to resume support with assemblies and with a new incumbent, through the governing body.

Specific trips to Wonersh which had been planned were sadly cancelled although it is hoped that these will recommence in 2021.

David Peters
September 2020

LIST OF WARDENS AND SIDESPEOPLE 2020

Wardens:

Guy Packenham

Alex Vinall

Duty Wardens:

John Nolan (8am)

David Hutchins (8am)

John Wallis

Darren Alford

Sides people:

Barbara Hutchins (8am)

Martin Maybrey (8am)

Malcolm Pickering

Susannah Alford

Clive Couzens

Rosie Couzens

Kim Gibbs

Christine Sweeting

Janet Spall

Nicky Cooke

Seana Willmott

Sheila Lonsdale

Sarah Jo Gray - occasional