

## **PARISH OF WIMBLEDON Vestry meeting, 26<sup>th</sup> May 2021, 8:15pm**

**Present:** The Reverend Mandy Hodgson, The Revd. Clive Gardner, The Revd. Stephen Edmonds, The Revd. Nils Bersweden, The Revd. Alastair Newman and some 41 parishioners.

Apologies: there were 8 apologies for absence.

The meeting opened with prayer. The Secretary (Wendy Ziegler) confirmed that any voting would be by a show of hands either physically or using the Zoom hand sign. Those not visible would be regarded as abstaining.

### **Election of Parish Wardens**

John Bush and Jane Austin confirmed that they were willing to continue in office. There were no other candidates. Elected unopposed.

The Rector thanked the Wardens for their work for the Parish.

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## **PARISH OF WIMBLEDON Annual Parochial Church meeting, 26<sup>th</sup> May 2021, 8:20pm**

**Present:** this followed on with the same attendees.

### **1. Deanery Synod representatives.**

The following were elected at the APCM on 11<sup>th</sup> November 2020 for the next 3 years.

- David Jennings and Paula Thorvaldsen from St Mark's
- Charles Thompson and Alison Merriman from St Matthew's
- Helen Surana and Tim Wheeler from St Mary's with Neal Harvey on Diocesan Synod
- Sally Carter-Esdale and Chris Jolly for St John's

### **2. Team Churches' representatives to the PCC**

- Alex Youel for St Mark's
- Mary-Jane Taylor and William Varlow St Matthew's
- Jane Long and Graham Crofts St John's
- Mike Leeson and Anthea Richardson for St Mary's

Anthea Richardson was proposed by Mike Leeson; seconded: Wendy Ziegler. Approved unanimously.

All other PCC representatives continued in office unopposed

Nicholas Long had stepped down as church warden at St Mary's and from the PCC and the Rector thanked him for his work.

The Rector thanked all church wardens for their hard work for their churches and the parish, and especially Alex Youel who undertook the warden's work for St Mark's on his own.

### **3. Election of other PCC officers**

- Parish Treasurer Catherine Porter and Parish Insurance Officer Elizabeth Ziegler. Both are continuing in office.
- Secretary: Wendy Ziegler is retiring as Secretary and Charles Esdale has agreed to be the new Secretary.

The above were elected unopposed. The Rector thanked all of them for their work on behalf of the parish.

### **4. Appointment of Auditors**

It was resolved that the current Auditors, Jacob Cavenagh & Skeet (JCS) be appointed for the year ending 31<sup>st</sup> December 2021

Proposed: Catherine Porter; seconded: John Bush. Unanimously approved

## 5. Electoral Roll Report to APCM

	<u>2020</u>	<u>add</u>	<u>less</u>	<u>2021</u>
St Mary's	507	8	9	506
St Mark's	112	6	1	117
St John's	104	7	1	110
St Matthew's	148	1	0	149
<b>Total</b>	<b>871</b>			<b>882</b>

The Rector thanked the Electoral Roll Officers of the 4 Churches.

## 6. Annual Report on the proceedings of the Parochial Church Council and the activities of the Parish generally

The PCC had met 3 times since the last APCM on 11<sup>th</sup> November 2020. It had discussed:

- The 2020 pledge
- Parish Insurance
- Parish Finance including a visit from our Auditors
- Parish Housing

It had hosted an Open Meeting to show the Parish and local residents the housing proposed on the 3 Arthur Road site and the plans to be put to the Planning Committee of the Borough of Merton

It had received a report on Soulscape and on the Julian Group.

The Rector thanked Wendy Ziegler, the retiring Secretary for her work over the past years as Secretary and other roles on the PCC during the preceding 30 years and presented her with a large bunch of peonies and a rose bush for the garden.

## 7. Financial Statement

The Hon. Treasurer, Catherine Porter, thanked the Treasurers of the four churches for their hard work. There were some property details that were being verified but the Parish Accounts had otherwise been finalised. She used the following graphs and extracts to illustrate the position of the Parish

The results for the year ending 31<sup>st</sup> December 2020 clearly show that the parish and its 4 underlying churches have not been severely affected by the pandemic. Whilst hall lettings and other fund-raising events have been severely curtailed, Planned Giving figures have held up.

The Hon Treasurer illustrated the financial position of the Parish with 4 graphs. (Overleaf.)

Graph 1: results 2020

Statement of financial activities			Statement of financial position	
	2020	2019	2020	2019
Total income	867,874	1,494,107	Tangible fixed assets	3,370,977
Total expenditure	-924,597	-1,274,030	Financial investments	702,132
Gains on investments	107,486	52,858	Investment property	2,015,000
Net movement in funds	<u>50,763</u>	<u>272,935</u>	Debtors	78,970
Funds b.f. (1.1.20 restated)	7,119,709	6,846,774	Cash at bank	1,058,464
Funds c.f.	<u>7,170,472</u>	<u>7,119,709</u>	Less creditors < 1 year	<u>-55,071</u>
			Net assets	<u>7,170,472</u>
			Restricted funds	3,117,613
			Unrestricted funds (inc. designated)	<u>4,052,859</u>
			Total funds	<u>7,170,472</u>

Y/E 31 DECEMBER 2020 PARISH FINANCIAL RESULTS

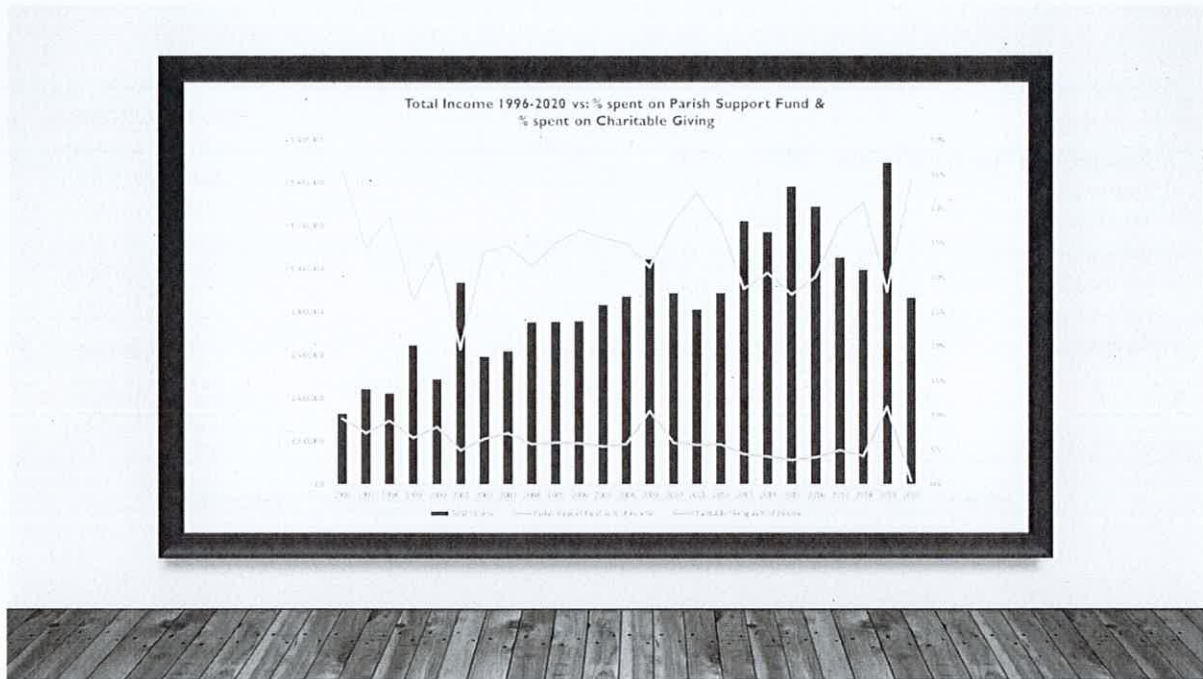
Graph 2: cash flows

Statement of cash flows	2020	2019
Cash (used in)/provided by operating activities	-121,352	143,442
Purchase of tangible fixed assets	0	-12,546
Purchase of fixed asset investments	0	-375,000
Investment dividends & rents	<u>94,154</u>	<u>81,250</u>
Change in cash in the year	<u>-27,198</u>	<u>-162,854</u>
Cash at beginning of year	<u>1,085,662</u>	<u>1,248,516</u>
Cash at end of year	<u>1,058,464</u>	<u>1,085,662</u>

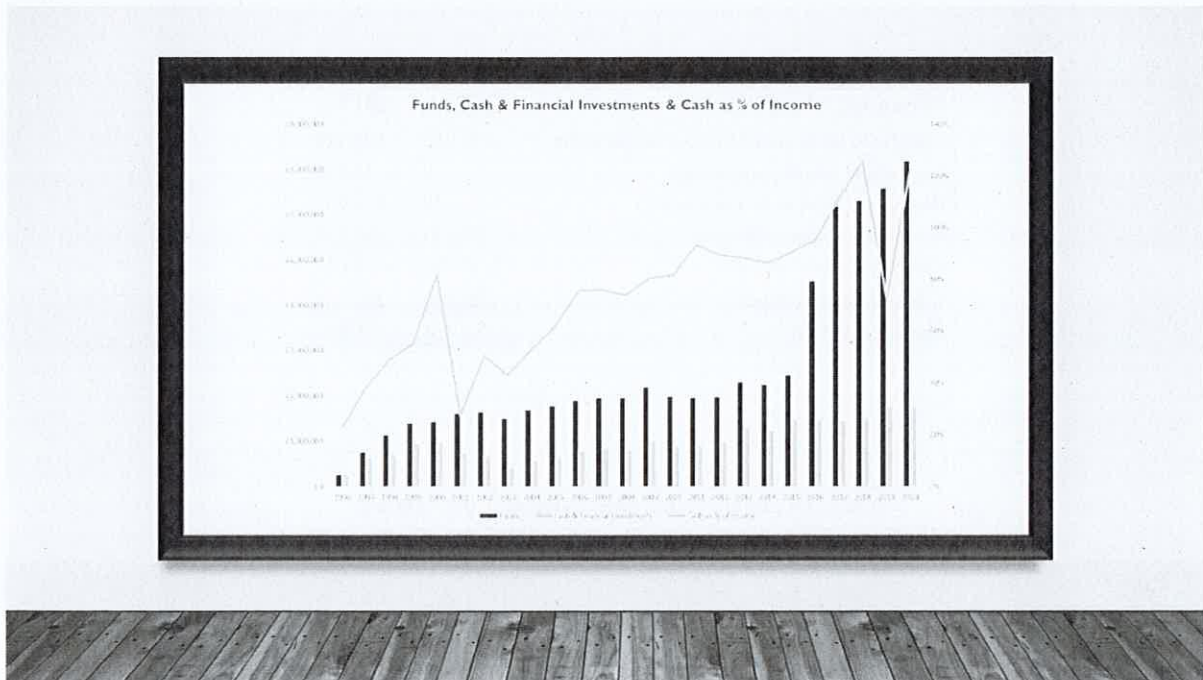
Y/E 31 DECEMBER 2020 PARISH FINANCIAL RESULTS

Year on year the Parish has over £1m in cash in its multiple bank accounts.

**Graph 3: Parish Support Fund-giving over total income during the last 25 years as well as other charitable giving**



**Graph 4: Funds, cash and financial investments & cash as a percentage of income over 25 years**



The aim of this analysis is for Churches to feel confident in their decision making on financial matters.

Catherine emphasised that she had spent 5 months looking into the Parish Accounts. It was essential that everything should be dealt with in a more professional way. She pointed out that "We are not a Scout Hut"; and that the churches and the Parish must keep their records up to date.

On behalf of the whole Parish the Rector thanked Catherine for her hard work.

## **8. Annual Reports from the 4 Churches on goods & ornaments**

### **8.1 St Mark's**

#### **8.1.1 Church and Hall fabric and maintenance**

Since the previous report the church has benefitted from a variety of mostly minor improvements. However, the extensive flat roof over the ancillary rooms attached to the main body of the church is approaching the end of its useful life and is needing more frequent repairs. There have been several leaks during the period, including close to the organ and over the kitchen, but happily nothing disastrous so far. A thorough programme of piecemeal repairs has arrested deterioration for now, but more substantial replacement must be anticipated and planned for in the next few years.

Following recommendations from our specialist supplier, a second lightning conductor from our prominent cross into the ground was installed in early 2021. This has effectively doubled our protection from the damaging impact of lightning strike.

The Church Hall was comprehensively painted a couple of years ago and remains in good condition. As for the church, the hall felt roof also needs replacing this year or next at most.

Boilers and heating: Considerable effort has gone into repairing the complex control panel for the church heating system, and most recently church and hall boilers have both been comprehensively serviced along with timers and all radiators, electric and hot water. Further attention is required to replace a pressurised water tank which should automatically top-up the water radiators, but which no longer does.

#### **8.1.2 Additions and replacements of chattels, equipment and fittings**

Two Church Wardens' wands were acquired last year, drawing on a small legacy from a parishioner, Mrs Maggie Morris. Most recently our A/V provision has been problematic and a new - but cheap - replacement projector is only a temporary fix. A more comprehensive approach is being explored, which would include the provision of a fixed screen.

#### **8.1.3 Galustian Garden**

Regular maintenance has continued throughout the year and has kept the gardens in generally adequate condition. But there is so much more that could be achieved to enhance their beauty and value to the church and local community. A replacement garden shed - jointly paid for by the Galustian Fund and the Butterfly Preschool - is due imminently.

#### **8.1.4 Outside spaces (car park, planters and garden borders)**

The installation of bollards to protect our small car park has been a great success although not without its challenges. Recently someone reversed into the rising/falling bollard, sufficiently hard so as to bend it out of shape and to require a replacement.

The large planter at the front of the church is beginning to crumble but re-building awaits both funds and decisions from Merton Council about when and how to progress major enhancement works for St Mark's Place generally - from which we should benefit.

Church Warden Alex Youel

### **8.2 St Matthew's**

#### **8.2.1 Challenges**

It almost goes without saying that the biggest challenge this year has been to find ways to continue to provide the worship and services for the congregation within the limitations that Covid restrictions put on us. Firstly, our response has centred on developing our IT skills and investing in the hardware and infrastructure to stream services to our community while the church was closed. Since then, our "Digital Strategy Group", led by Charles Thompson, has worked tirelessly to upgrade our provision so that as many people as possible can access our live services or catch up with them later on YouTube or via our website. The team should also be commended for delivering all this on a very small budget. It is most likely that this access to virtual will be a legacy that continues even after we are able to return to worship in the traditional way once Covid restrictions are lifted. This will be a wonderful thing for those of us who may not be able to attend in person for whatever reason.

### 8.2.2 Roof repairs

This year has definitely been the year of the roof! It started with us doing some low-level work in preparation for the Quinquennial Inspection during the late summer. This led to us identifying a slipped tile on the high roof which was likely to be letting in water! This had to be remedied by employing a steeple jack company to do the works. This steeple jack company identified a potentially dangerous situation with slipping packing tiles between the pan tiles and ridge tiles. We had to cordon off the garden area beneath the slipping tiles until we had gained approval from the Diocese and PCC to carry out the works after obtaining three quotes.

The happy ending to this story is that the steeple jack company were able to devise a cheaper method of securing the tiles and the icing on the cake is that Mother Helen got up on the roof and blessed it! The original low level work cost £1600 and the two steeple jack projects cost £8000! The roof isn't leaking but our reserves have sprung a leak! Thankfully, our parishioners have been very generous, and their donations are close to covering the cost of the work. The church organ has had a major service.

### 8.2.3 Quinquennial

Quinquennial Inspection took place in November. The purpose of the inspection is to make sure that the church's assets and the fabric of the building are kept in good order. We are required to commission an approved architect to carry out this inspection every five years. The cost is approximately £1000. The architect writes up a very detailed report which we can use to identify works, repairs and upgrades. The full copy is available to see. Please ask the Wardens if you would like to see it. Thankfully the folk who used to rent the hall before the restrictions are beginning to return. Various small repairs to locks, lights and toilets were carried out in the past few weeks in preparation for the hall to be back in full swing. Thank you to Bob McDonough, Rachel Rowel and William Varlow for your time and various talents and attention to these matters. We have upgraded and repaired the lights outside the west door.

The Quinquennial Inspection also audited our terrier and we are happy to report that all our goods and ornaments, vestments and silver were present and in good order. In addition, we purchased a new purple dalmatic for our Curate. We have also purchased a laptop and cameras to facilitate the streaming of our Services.

### 8.2.4 Roll

Electoral Roll 2020: 148. In 2021 we added one member and have not removed any, so it stands at 149.

Church Wardens, Mary-Jane Taylor & William Varlow

## 8.3 St Mary's

As Churchwardens we are responsible for the maintenance of the "Fabric, Goods and Ornaments" of St Mary's. We could not do this without the help of the many volunteers who give so much time to the church. In particular, we would like to thank all those who have been involved during this most extraordinary year of the global pandemic due to Covid 19. We have had to close the church, run services remotely and re-open the church with social distancing measures in place and restrictions on numbers and singing. Throughout this time, there has been a mass of volunteers from the congregation who have continued to work both front of house and behind the scenes to look after the church and to enable services to go ahead.

### 8.3.1 Church

Following the Quinquennial survey issued in April 2017, the church wardens instructed our architect Daniel Benson of Ablett Architects to draw up a specification for the work needed to the outside of the church. Much of the structural work on the outside was completed in 2019. Having effected the external repairs we have had to allow the internal walls to dry out before attempting to make these good. The architects have drawn up a specification for the re-plastering work that is required in the church most notably to the south-west corner of the gallery and also in and around the south porch and we expect to be able to take this forward in 2021 following an application to the Diocesan Advisory Committee (DAC) which is underway.

As part of the structural work, the corner stone at the south-east corner of the chancel was replaced with a piece of shaped stone as shown in the photograph overleaf. (The other, original, corner stones are carved). A project was proposed which would have allowed members of the community to bid for the opportunity to design a carving for this new stone. Ultimately it has been decided that it would be better for the church to identify a suitable subject and, once agreed by the DAC, to have this carved into the stone.



#### 8.3.1.1 Damp in vestry toilet and drainage

This still requires some more detailed analysis of the possible solutions. The level of the clergy vestry and toilet is lower than the ground outside and the walls on the east side have been damp for many years. Following the investigation of the drainage system, it is clear that the damp is probably caused by the lack of adequate drainage for the rainwater coming down from the roof of the church. The soakaways for rainwater are either inadequately sized or partially silted or both. It has not been possible to find the chambers for all the soakaways and these are not functioning at all. Water coming down the drainpipe outside the vestry door is flooding down the path leading to Arthur Road. The drainage on the east side of the church is not being carried away and so is saturating the ground here. Some major work is needed to ensure that this rainwater drains away from the church. Our architect has presented a number of possible solutions, but some further advice on the most cost-effective way of solving this problem is needed. This will not be easy because of the presence of trees and graves. There could be an opportunity to combine these works with those being undertaken on 3 Arthur Road.

#### 8.3.1.2 Other minor works

The Chancel carpet: following an application for a faculty so that the worn carpet in the choir stalls could be replaced and delays caused by possible damp problems, a new, breathable carpet was identified which satisfied the DAC. This has now been installed in a way that allows it to be easily removed if necessary.

It seems a property report would not be complete without a mention of the clock in the tower which has continued to cause problems. It seems as though another issue arises as soon as one is fixed. However, at the time of writing, it is behaving reasonably well and we will continue to persevere.

#### 8.3.2 Churchyard

During lockdown a number of volunteer gardeners have been hard at work ensuring that the Churchyard looks better than ever before. Particular thanks are due to Robert MacDonald Watson, Richard Pelly, Ulla Yangopoulos, Tom Moulton and to everyone else who has made the most of lockdown to get some fresh air and spend time working on the leaves, weeds, grass and more major items.

The fencing around the field has been repaired and the stretch at the road end of the new churchyard has been replaced with pales that match the existing fence.

A family (with long-term connections to St Mary's) have recently expressed an interest in supplying a bench (in memory of family members) for the churchyard. An existing bench in poor condition was identified as suitable for replacement and there has been a successful application to DAC for this to be undertaken. The new bench is due to be installed on 10th May 2021.

We are very grateful to Selina and George Master for managing a project to repair the five listed monuments in the churchyard which are on the heritage 'at risk' register. Work has been focused on the Bazelgette monument and, although it has not been possible to progress any physical works during lockdown, contact has been maintained with partners in order to increase publicity and identify further sources of support and funding.

### 8.3.3 Parish Office

We are most grateful to Jane Johnston, our Parish Operations Manager, for running the office and for managing the many property issues which arise. Whilst there has been less administration for weddings, funerals and hall bookings, we are extremely grateful to all those who help out and support with these administrative duties. We can now look forward to the frequency of all these events picking up again.

### 8.3.4 Fellowship House

Fellowship House is used from Monday morning until Friday lunchtime by Oak Tree Pre-School Nursery providing a very useful contribution to our income. Although the nursery has been impacted by the lockdown, they managed to resume operations in June, albeit at a reduced level.

The Fellowship House roof had been leaking in heavy rain and Total Roofing had carried out minor repairs; it had been hoped that this would solve the problem. However, a torrential downpour earlier this year showed that there were still some areas of weakness and further work is being arranged.

A drainage problem with wastewater from Fellowship House caused by roots growing into the pipes was the subject of an insurance claim and has now been resolved.

### 8.3.5 Garden Hall

The Garden Hall has been little used from March 2020 onwards due to the national lockdown and the restrictions of the tier system although, amongst other activities, protective mask fabrication was carried out there and it was used for an innovative project to see whether it would be possible for a jury to be situated remotely from the court where a legal trial was being held.

A replacement range cooker is being sourced for the kitchen and improvements to the other fittings are being considered. The large glass sliding door remains unusable and a lock has been fitted so that it cannot be opened. There is a danger that it could become stuck in the open position. Our architect, Marcus Beale, has been consulted on this and other issues such as wear occurring to the Portland stone cladding, the kitchen refit and acoustics in the hall, and his report is awaited.

Church Wardens Nick Long & Mike Leeson

## 8.4 St John's

The general state of the fabric of St John's is in good repair on the whole. The usual gas, fire extinguisher and PAT testing have been undertaken and certified, and the insurance certificate renewed.

Recent problems with the boiler have been investigated and resolved. Likewise some necessary repairs to the organ have been undertaken along with routine tuning. However, in order to protect our finances, other general maintenance works have largely been deferred and only essential works carried out.

As the fixed contracts for the provision of electricity and gas to the church (and hall) were coming to an end, competitive quotes were obtained for renewal and new three-year fixed contracts were agreed at the best available rates to give us certainty over the next few years.

Following evidence of an attempted break in to the church during the current ongoing lighting works (reported below), the wrought iron gates at the entrance to the North Porch have been secured with a chain and padlock for the duration and the insurers informed.

### 8.4.1 Internal Lighting

Despite the prevailing circumstances, the lighting project has proceeded to its final stages, as dedicated funding for this was largely in place. A formal petition for a faculty was submitted to the Diocese, and the Public Notice displayed from 28th October to 27th November 2020 to alert neighbours to the proposals. Local councillors and the Residents' Association were also contacted, inviting them to visit the church to inspect the plans if they were interested.

A prototype chandelier was temporarily installed in the church, to check its specifications and to gauge feedback from the congregation, which was overwhelmingly positive. As a consequence of this review, a few small changes were made to the specification, including the RAL colour of the steelwork, the length of the suspension chain for the pendant, and the glass for the lamp shade. It was well worth us getting these details right before placing the final order.

In January 2021 a faculty was granted by the Chancellor of the Diocese, and in February a grant for £3000 was awarded to us by the Allchurches Trust (the charitable arm of Ecclesiastical Insurance). Subsequently, a detailed cost estimate for the works was obtained from the lighting contractor, CES, and some further fundraising undertaken to cover a small shortfall in the total cost for carrying out the specified works.



The cost estimate and proposed works were reviewed by our inspecting architect, and then presented to the church committee at a meeting on 10 March 2021, where they were approved unanimously. This timing coincided very well with the availability of the contractor, and works commenced on 12 April 2021, with a target completion date of 18 June 2021.

Our thanks go to our lighting team, particularly Ursula Edwards, Catherine Davies and Ken Boyt for their hard work in getting us to this point. We look forward to seeing the new lighting in action.

#### 8.4.2 Church furnishings and ornaments

In the current circumstances, all movable items (bibles, pew cushions, kneelers etc) remain in storage until they can be returned to their usual location. Moreover, further items have temporarily been removed for safety while the lighting works are ongoing. No items have been added to the inventory.

#### 8.4.3 Church interior (including the Peter Dixon Room)

Our usual annual Spring-clean of the church has not yet happened in 2021, but lower level cleaning has been carried out by members of the congregation from time to time, leaving the church fresher and brighter. Our thanks go to them for their hard work.

#### 8.4.4 Church Garden

Again, although our usual bi-annual gardening sessions have not happened in the usual fashion, our gardening team has nevertheless undertaken some general maintenance work to keep the gardens areas around the church in good order. Our thanks go to our gardening team and helpers for their hard work.

#### 8.4.5 Community Hall

Other than general cleaning, no works have been undertaken in the hall. However, it has been a pleasure to see more regular usage of the hall by the Montessori nursery as restrictions have been relaxed, followed by the return of the ballet school and the brownies.

#### 8.4.6 Thanks

Finally, our thanks go to the many people who have contributed to the maintenance and improvement of our fabric over the past six months and more, but particularly to Catherine Davies, Ken Boyt and Richard Tomkins for their ongoing dedication in maintaining our buildings for the future.

Church Wardens Graham Crofts & Jane Long

### 9. Deanery Synod

Deanery Synod reps serving throughout the year were Paula Thorvaldsen and Dr David Jennings for St Mark's, Charles Thompson and Alison Merriman (apptd. 2020) for St Matthew's, and Chris Jolly and Sally Carter-Esdale (apptd. 2020) for St John's. St Mary's appointed two new Deanery Synod representatives In April of 2020: Helen Surana and Tim Wheeler. It is most unfortunate that the pandemic has destroyed their first year of service. I remain a member of the Standing Committee. Despite the pandemic, Merton Deanery Synod meet 3 times since my last report. All meetings where via Zoom. We met 9<sup>th</sup> July, 5<sup>th</sup> October and 19<sup>th</sup> January 21.

At the July meeting we were informed that Rev David Ruddick and Fr David Pennells had been appointed Assistant Area Deans, and that Julie Ashbee had taken over as Deanery Secretary. Most of the evening was dedicated to breakout rooms discussing and sharing experiences of Church in Lockdown. In October we received the accounts. The Deanery received a grant from the Diocese, and that had made the need for Parish support unnecessary, with funds available of £8985. Jay Colwill presented his take on "Being Church and reaching out within Covid guidelines", with the objective of amplifying those things which had been of value. Our last meeting in January 21 adopted the Diocesan Model Rules for Deaneries as its constitution.

Deanery Synod representative Neal Harvey

### 10 Diocesan Synod

Since April 2020, I have continued to serve as a Diocesan Synod Representative as elections were postponed due to the Pandemic. I have continued as a deanery representative on the Lambeth Pastoral Working Group, and the Diocesan Board of Patronage. I remain as a member of the vacancy in See committee.

Diocesan Synod meet three times since April last year, all by Zoom. In July 20 we were informed of a new Diocesan Safeguarding officer, Stephen Roberts, and licensing of 18 new curates. The 2019 report was approved, with a financial surplus of £4.3m. Model Rules for Deanery Synod were presented and adopted. In December a meeting which had been delayed, we received the Annual Objectives review for 2020 and the objectives and budget for 2021. The budget for 2021 of expenditure of £25.3m and income of £22.6m was

approved. The number of seats available for the forthcoming Diocesan Synod elections was confirmed. Merton is allocated 6 lay seats and 6 Clergy seats. The Rev Jay Colwill under the title of Growing Faith, posed the question "how could we change our thinking and actions in the roles we hold, so that it becomes second nature to look at all life decisions, through the lens of what it means for our children, young people, and households."

The latest meeting was on 13th March. This meeting coincided with the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Bishop's Christopher's tenure. He reminded us of the charge he had been handed by Archbishop Rowan Williams in 2011. Part of this was an explicit command to ensure involvement of black and ethnic minority people in every aspect of Diocesan life. It was therefore apt that the main business included the adoption of the Southwark Anti Racism Charter. Andrew Denby the retiring Director of Finance, confirmed that Pledge income had reached 96% for 2020, and that with capital receipts the Diocese would show a surplus, a vastly better position than had been anticipated in July 2020. The meeting also received a presentation of "Living in Love and Faith", the Church's official approach to resolving the issue of same sex marriage. Feedback is expected by the Autumn of this year, with decisions at General Synod level due in 2022. A presentation on Eco Church made the long-term suggestion that gas boilers could be replaced by electric heating.

Diocesan Synod representative Neal Harvey

The Rector thanked Neal and reminded the churches that Diocesan Synod elections will take place shortly; and if anyone was interested in this aspect of Church life in the Diocese of Southwark then they may apply.

## **11. Safeguarding**

I am grateful to the Safeguarding officers of St Mary's, St Mark's, St John's and St Matthew's for their cooperation in producing this report.

All churches have a Safeguarding Officer in position, Pauline Bakker at St Mary's, Kathy Pring St Mark's, Olivia Page St John's and Karen Skinner St Matthew's. The pandemic has made Safeguarding difficult like many things in terms of reporting, and there was no request from the Diocese to hold annual audits, so the last time reports were prepared by the churches go back to 2019. However, the churches have been able to give me the following information relating to 2020.

During 2020 53 DBS checks were logged new and renewal. In the period 9 safeguarding incidents were notified, classified as 4 serious, 1 notable, and 4 minor. 5 incidents were referred to the Diocese, and all have been closed. Annual audits were last performed in 2019, although one church not since 2018, due to the diocese not requesting them to be performed during 2020. Dates for 2021 audits are yet to be established. All actions arising from those earlier audits have however been closed out.

With very little activity going on in 2020, very few risk assessments have been carried out. They number 2 situational and 0 personal. All issues arising have been closed out.

Again, due to the pandemic, training has been severely curtailed. However, 2 of our safeguarding officers have undergone personal training, and there has been one other training event.

St Mary's which had issues with tracking DBS application, is making use of Churchsuite to record and monitor those applications.

Safeguarding Co-ordinator Neal Harvey

The Rector thanked Neal for his report and for taking on the role co-ordinating the reports of the 4 Church Safeguarding Officers to the PCC.

## **12. Team Rector's address**

The last year has demonstrated the resilience of our team. Together our churches have weathered the pandemic. We have not just survived; but served and ministered to Wimbledon in the most challenging circumstances. We have continued to worship God and love our neighbour in faith, hope and love. The pandemic is not yet over, but we have reason to hope that we are over the worst in this country. I pray it is so. As we begin to raise our heads and review 2020 we can see that not only have our finances held up remarkably but we have continued to serve our primary mission in the most challenging circumstance most of us have lived through together.

The significant work done by the four churches around planned giving has paid dividends this year and the generosity of our congregations has continued despite the loss of so many other sources of income. Thank you.

Our two major parish projects are both moving forward despite being set back by the pandemic. Our governance project to set up a Team Constitution lead by Zillah Stone, Sandy Blewitt, Matt Smith and Wendy Zeigler has made some progress and we are hopeful to have a something to present to the APCM next year.

Our building project is moving forward. The PCC have now committed themselves to the building of two new parsonages on the 3 Arthur Road site and we have applied for planning permission. We are now waiting for the outcome of the preplanning meeting held a couple of weeks ago. Initial signs were good, but until we get a written response we won't know for sure. We may have to do some significant redesigns if we are required to; we will keep the Parish informed of the development of the project as it goes along. We have now appointed a Quantity Surveyor/ Project Manager David Heil who will oversee the day-to-day management of the project. His appointment has helped to clarify the likely timetable and we expect to start work on the 3 Arthur Road site in April next year as long as the response from the planners is a positive one.

The work done by Catherine our Parish Treasurer to complete the Accounts and enable the audit this year has been considerable and will also make a significant improvement to our governance. Her work means that there is far greater clarity and transparency about the finances of the whole parish that I hope means that each of the churches will also have a firmer grasp of the resources they are responsible for. We will be able to make better decisions faster and steward our resources better.

Now we have a clear view of where we are financially, we will need to think more about discipleship and mission so that we use our extensive resources wisely and well. How does Jesus' teaching help us to think about our finances and where does it challenge us? What are the Christian values that should underpin our decision making? How can we best use our resources to support the mission and ministry of our churches and serve God in Wimbledon and the world? What responsibility do we have to neighbours who have suffered far more than us in the pandemic?

I am looking forward to exploring all these questions with you in the months to come and most especially to meeting with you face to face again and enjoying your company.

Team Rector Revd Mandy Hodgson

John Bush, on behalf of the Parish, thanked Mandy for her report and her leadership.

### **13. Close**

The APCM closed with saying The Grace

