

Annual Parochial Church Meeting

(For all those on the Church Electoral Roll of the Parish)

The following reports are issued in preparation for the APCM of St Paul's Church in Tongham, which will be held at 2pm on Sunday 11th October 2020.

1. Churchwardens Report
2. PCC Report
3. Treasurer's Report and Accounts
4. Deanery Synod Report
5. Safeguarding Report

1. Churchwarden's report 2020

Churchwardens: Mrs Margaret Murray
 Mr Phil Treherne

The first thing I would like to say this year is a 'Thank You' to Phil Treherne for his continuing service as my fellow Churchwarden. Phil, your energy and commitment are impressive! (Phil has indicated that he wants to pass huge thanks on to me, too – so many thanks, Phil, much appreciated.) And, as we can't ignore the Covid-19 issue, I also want to thank Claire and all the Tech Team. Claire is working far more hours than she should be, and could not do it without the Tech Team – John, Phil, Sean, Magnus, David, Lyn. The only word for them is Magnificent. So a huge thank you to Claire and the team. I personally feel utterly out of my comfort zone and a bit useless!

We are still looking to have the gutters round the church renewed – our architect has assured us that we do not need cast iron, cast aluminium would be fine, so we are working with A.E. Hughes, who carried out the roof repairs some years ago. Work should be completed later this year. (Held up by Covid 19.)

We now have several quotes for the proposed ramp (varying between £75000 and £99000) and are continuing our active fundraising. However I am delighted to report that we already have almost £72000 raised, and would like to start the work this year. Our very courageous Vicar is doing a sky dive, (when allowed), which we hope will raise a substantial amount. We also expect a refund via Gift Aid reclaim, which can be used for the ramp, or the tower, or any of the other necessary projects we are working on. We have shortlisted a builder, and hope to start shortly.

We also have quotes to refurbish the clock tower, which should be covered by the Chester Fund, although we will most likely have to pay for the scaffolding; once the scaffolding is in place the clock can be removed and re-gilded; and we need to rebuild the stairs leading up to the back door of the church and fill in the potholes in the Old School driveway. Some tarmacking has already been carried out – many thanks to our benefactor. The Parish Council have contributed £250.00 towards repairing the remaining pot-holes. (Held up by Covid 19).

The ditches and drains around the church and churchyard – and the Old School - are under control and are regularly monitored. We have a gardener who cuts the grass in the church yard, and he also strims and tidies the churchyard, as well as some volunteers who clear round the graves. We simply do not have enough people with sufficient free time to carry this out on a voluntary – and regular - basis. Thanks must be given to Tongham Parish Council, who contribute up to a maximum of £650 for churchyard maintenance

on an annual basis. On a personal basis I would also like to thank the Maintenance team – unsung heroes the lot of you! So much gets done quietly and without fuss behind the scenes.

The quinquennial inspection was carried out in February and we now have the report. Before we received this, the architect mentioned two special points; the guttering near the vestry is both blocked and broken and needs urgent action, (now repaired) and the clunch (soft stone) with which the church is built needs repair. He suggested a firm in Farnham be employed for 3 or 4 days to carry out any urgent repairs and do us a report, then over the next 5 years we should schedule regular work. We now have the report and will decide what action to take, but the cost means that this will be decided at PCC level, not Maintenance team. The entire report was lengthy, but we have split it down to four pages and will work our way through it. Phil (Thank you Phil!) has already cleared a few items, as has Bill Manfield – thanks to you too, Bill. We are still waiting for the Quinquennial report on the Old School Hall – held up by Covid 19, as our architect has a young family and has been working reduced hours from home. I feel sure we will all understand this, and sympathise with him.

I want to thank all our hard workers; the refreshments team, the Flames and Ignite teams, Exploring Events leaders, the welcome team, the service leaders team, the music team, the sound team, readers, parish visitors, Coffeepus team, Messy Church, the prayer group, flower rotas, brass cleaning, the maintenance team, the Events team, the Deanery Synod reps, Café church, the Treasurer, Greg Milne, and his team, Sue Treherne for opening and closing the hall in all weathers – and our new venture, headed by Claire Boud, the Babyplus group for new mums meeting on Thursday mornings, merits a special mention. This has proved extremely successful – it was started after Surrey County Council announced that funding was ending for many of the local parent support groups. Claire Boud worked from St Paul's school in the village and was willing to transfer to the church to help us set a group up, and then to carry on running the group. She has a huge amount of experience and we are very glad she has joined us. It is a wonderful example of how the Church can help and serve in the community, and also to encourage new families to attend regular services.

Although these activities have pretty well stopped, Claire Boud is carrying on with Babyplus online – and doing a terrific job. Well done, Claire. I think I speak for us all when I say that we are eager to get back to normal, and to meet up again in all our groups and activities. The visiting team have also been marvellous in keeping in touch with most especially people living alone, by phone, email, visit (socially distanced).

I know this will be familiar to all who were at the APCM last year – but the Events team in particular will need more help and support. At the moment there are no events but if you would like to volunteer to 'buddy up' with an experienced events team member, do please let Claire, Nikki or Margaret know. Covid 19 will not last forever. The Welcome team and the refreshments team are also keen to find more teams of two, or families, to welcome people to our lovely friendly church, and to set up and clear down coffees and teas after the 10.00 am service on Sundays, once we can reinstate this. The important thing to remember is, if everyone does a little, no-one needs to do a lot. Please speak to Claire, Margaret, Phil or Karen. Observant people will realise that this plea is very similar to last year's; the need for practical help remains, and as churchwardens, it is up to Phil and I to recruit and encourage volunteers – preferably without twisting too many arms! Sad to say, you will have plenty of time to consider carefully before offering to help ... as no return to full normality is expected any time soon.

I would also like to say a big thank you to the PCC, especially Sally Banks the PCC secretary, to Alison Pickles our cleaner for all her extra work protecting the church and the hall from infection, and to Wendy Blight in the office. They contribute hugely to the smooth running of the church in so many ways, socially, financially and worshipfully.

As usual, and in so many ways, Claire our vicar deserves a huge thank you for all the work she carries out in the Church and in the community. Claire, you go above and beyond the call of duty. Thank you, from us all. We so appreciate all the work you are doing on website, Zoom, Facebook and any other social media forum – and we do understand the challenges.

Margaret Murray

Phil Treherne

2. PCC Report 2020

Administrative information:

St Paul's Church is located in Poyle Road, Tongham, GU10 1DS and is within the Aldershot Deanery of the Guildford Diocese. The Parochial Church Council (PCC) is a 'charity exempt from registration' with the Charity Commission.

PCC members in office at the time of writing are:

Vicar: Revd. Claire Holt

Wardens: Mrs Margaret Murray (since 2015) Mr Phil Treherne (since 2018)

Deanery Synod: Mrs Sally Banks (PCC Secretary) and Mr Kay Tauschwitz (elected 2017-2020)

Elected members:

- (until 2022) Mr Sean Kavanagh, Mrs Janet Sturt, Mrs Bren Marks
- (until 2021) Mrs Susan Young, Mr Greg Milne (Treasurer), Mrs Wendy Blight
- (until 2020) Mr Bill Manfield, Mr Rutton Viccajee

Ex-officio: Dave Welch

Structure, governance and management

The method of appointment of Elected Members conforms to the requirements of The Church Representation Rules (2011 revision) whereby all Church attendees must register on the Electoral Roll for 6 months minimum and may then seek election to the PCC. Usually members are elected for three years (and may serve for six years before resting for a minimum of a year) ideally with three members being elected each year as three retire (but they remain eligible for re-election if they have not completed six consecutive years on the Council). Reaching the end of their term this year and now standing down are Bill and Rutton.

We are very grateful for Mrs Susan Treherne for keeping the books up to date and getting the accounts ready for auditing.

Objectives and activities

The PCC has the responsibility of co-operating with Vicar: Revd. Claire Holt, in promoting within the ecclesiastical parish the whole mission of the Church (pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical). The PCC also has freehold ownership and maintenance responsibilities for The Old School (beside the Church in Poyle Road) which serves as the Church Hall.

Church attendance

There are now **88** names on the Church Electoral Roll. Average weekly attendance at the main Sunday service over the whole of 2019 was **64** adults and **17** children.

Review of the year

PCC:

During this year we have continued to focus on our Church Development Plan.

From the last APCM it was:

Our aim for 2019:

1. We join with the whole of Guildford Diocese in focusing on discipleship – becoming prayerful, confident disciples in our daily lives
2. We are concentrating on getting the ramp built to improve access to our church building
3. We are looking at how we can reach out into the community, especially with the loss of the Children's Centre at St Paul's School

We have made good progress:

1. We have been focusing on what discipleship in our daily lives looks like: Looked at fruitfulness on the frontline / small groups developing / helping us to see our faith making a difference wherever we are
2. Ramp has permissions in place, architect ready to get tenders, last bit of fundraising to do!
3. Community worker started and we have seen 3 baptism enquiries, 1 wedding booked as well as families coming at Christmas, Sundays and to Messy Church

Financially, we have finished the year in a good position. We continue to increase the ramp fund with some generous giving and are currently applying for grants. The PCC aims to move this project to building this year. We do however need to keep an awareness that our Parish Share will go up significantly in the future and need to be future proofing ourselves. We are beginning a budgeting process and will be sharing our thoughts on stewardship and we plan to continue to apply for a grant towards the cost of our Community Worker; but will need to contribute to this funding too.

The maintenance team have continued to ensure the church is safe and repairs are carried out. We have just had our Quinquennial inspection and are waiting for the report. There didn't appear to be too many unexpected concerns, but we will wait and see!

We support financially Phyllis Tuckwell, Nepal Mission via CMS, Blythswood Care and with our gifts Step by Step and the Food Bank. We were able to support Blythswood through a St Andrew's dinner, which was very successful. And there was a fantastic team involved in sorting shoe boxes!

And have had 2 successful recycling collections and have taken over 20 sacks of milk bottle lids to raise money for Air Ambulance! Next one is in May, with a plant stall as well.

A huge thank you to all on the PCC – we have good meetings (with cake) and benefit from the contributions of all who are there. A particular thank you to the wardens for all their additional work and support for Claire.

Parish Life:

Our Children's Team has been fantastic! We are hugely grateful to the team through 2019, a few of whom have now stepped down: Julie Kavanagh, Karen Lambert, Nicki Bunce and Robin Bunce have all stepped down from Sunday groups – and we are really grateful for the many years they have encouraged and helped our children to have fun and grow in their faith. Nicki (and her mum!) continues to lead, with me, our afterschool club at St Paul's Infants once a term – which has had around 24 children each session! This has seen an increase in the number of children attending the seasonal events "Exploring Christmas", "Exploring Easter" and "Exploring Summer" – which Karen, Nicki and I lead alongside a great team for the 40-45 children who attend! Pam Welch is now picking up the baton on a Sunday. The pancake party is becoming an annual event and is enjoyed by all who attend!

The Hub meets in Sunday evenings for older teens, lead by Dave Welch, with Lisa, Hannah and Kate. Much pizza eating, conversations and chat takes place!

Messy Church and Café Church are our newest services and they continue to be varied in content and reaching a wide range of people. Messy Church has grown hugely this year, with numbers up to 70! We have a small but committed team for Messy Church and we are hoping to have a bit more help and are looking forward to the services at The Vicarage in the summer, when there is more space!

A particular thanks to Madeline Manfield and Margaret Murray who do refreshments at Coffee Plus, Baby Plus and Messy Church!! Not only do they make sure everyone has the refreshments they need but they also get to know the families and provide a welcome face when they move between groups. Thank you so much for all the time you commit to these groups and families!

Coffee Plus, our toddler group, continues to thrive and has grown in numbers. The families come regularly and enjoy play, refreshments, a Bible story, craft and singing – alongside a lot of chat! We have a fantastic team running this, building relationships with those who attend. And we are seeing several families attend our Messy Church service. And the new Baby Plus group, which started in September is thriving. Some of these families are coming to coffee plus as they return to work or as they need the next stage of toys. It is very exciting. And the Mum Plus discussions are meaning that our mums are getting lots of support and help, in these tough early days.

Claire Boud has settled into her role really well. Baby Plus is a mix of sensory session for babies and chat with mums, it offers lots of support and a place to go to meet other mums. A real lifeline for those who come. Mum Plus allows mums to chat and ask questions and think through the different aspects of parenting.

Fellowship Lunch and Jamboree continue to provide a great opportunity to enable older members of the community to meet and spend time together. We find it a helpful place for those who have been bereaved to make new friends or to reconnect with others in the village. Fellowship Lunch has had some bumper months, with every seat full and extras everywhere! A big thank you to Betty and her team, and Kathleen and her team, they do a fantastic job!

In terms of pastoral care, St Pauls is a remarkable Church family, and a very great deal of friendship, help and visiting goes on all the time – long may this continue! But in particular, a huge

thank you to the pastoral care team, who do a fantastic job trying to make sure no one falls between the cracks wherever possible.

In addition, last year was particularly busy for weddings and funerals. Many of us were involved in terms of visiting, supporting and services – thank you so much; the feedback has been warm and very positive.

If you do know of anyone who might need help, support or prayer at any time – please do not hesitate to contact Claire.

A huge thank you to all volunteers at all our activities. We continue to get new people and visitors commenting on how welcoming the church is – keep it up!!

Update for April 2020 – Oct 2020

“Look how far we have come”

When we started 2020 we had no idea what we faced and the impact it would have. Covid-19 has been a challenge... and an opportunity.

As someone who doesn't really get on too well with technology, but knows it has its uses I have been taken out of my comfort zone. But found myself saying in a conversation that it feels like the church door has been flung open – which seems a such a contradiction to the reality of closed churches and locked doors.

We have had to stop so much that we value and rethink almost everything we do!

We are still in the midst of the pandemic, but at a point where there is real value in pausing and reflecting on how far we have come. It is so encouraging!

- Services quickly went online and we had more people than ever joining us in worship
- The added advantage of online meant that people could join us from around the world – and I know of people in Canada, America, Africa, New Zealand and France, as well as others joining us in various parts of the UK, including on the road!
- The local community has connected more than ever to the church through practical support groups and volunteering, as well as our facebook pages and our short facebook service
- The PCC, our volunteers and our wonderful congregations made hundreds of phone calls - thank you!
- We have had our first ever outside service!
- We have learned new skills... and new people have volunteered to help – for some it is easier when things are pre-recorded (though harder for others)
- Even the school harvest service this week was recorded and sent to every parent – whilst normally not everyone can attend the service as they may be working
- As a church we have been able to really make a difference with practical support via the food bank and local food parcels
- We have been able to connect with Balasz on the top of a mountain in Romania during a service and hear about the work we support via Blythswood Care (he is joining us again on 18th Oct – and has invited us to visit Romania!)

And we need to take time to look ahead, to see where God is leading. It feels a pivotal moment and we don't want to miss the opportunity. A simple "back to normal" feels increasingly unlikely and we need to keep reflecting on what the church should look like in the future.

Please keep praying – sharing ideas - volunteering where you can! And especially as we plan for Remembrance and Christmas.

Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the LORD your God will be with you wherever you go. Joshua 1 v9

3. Finance Report 2020

Treasurer: Greg Milne

Parochial Church Council of St Pauls, Tongham
Treasurers report for the 2019 financial year

The good news!

- the financial results for the year showed a net income of £208.80 in 2019

PLANNED GIVERS	2019	2018	2017	2016
Number of tax efficient planned givers	22	23	21	25
Number of other planned givers	15	15	12	5

- Breakdown of annual tax efficient planned giving

Annual giving range	Number
£0 to £500	7
£501 to £1,000	4
£1,001 to £1,500	3
£1,501 to £2,000	5
Over £2,000	3

- the church's bank balances have also increased - mainly down to restricted funds though

Bank balances	2019	2018	2017
CAF Bank - Deposit	15,612.61	9,779.84	35,199.94
CCLA - Deposit Fund	75,968.34	30,433.19	10,367.43
CCLA - Fabric Fund	26,620.28	26,377.01	16,291.25
	118,201.23	66,590.04	61,858.62

- restricted funds have increased mainly thanks to a very generous gift aided donation towards the ramp

Restricted funds	2019	2018	2017
Ramp	63,317.19	15,926.89	14,232.78
Other	8,343.33	1,998.18	12,950.09
	71,660.52	17,925.07	27,182.87

The not-so-good news

- the Parish Share is still going to go up and our church needs to be in a financial position to pay it.

Parochial Church Council of St Pauls, Tongham
Statement of Financial Activities
For the year ending 31st December 2019

		2019	2018
INCOME			
Voluntary Giving			
	Church Box	-	-
	Collection	4,806.28	3,937.49
	Envelopes Gift Aided	4,041.70	4,191.40
	Gift Aid Tax Recovered	-	15,791.60
	Ramp Appeal	41,831.00	2,015.44
	Other one off donations	2,918.44	3,261.34
	Planned Giving not Gift Aid	9,072.00	7,072.00
	Planned Giving with Gift Aid	27,939.00	27,151.80
Total Voluntary Giving		90,608.42	63,421.07
Grants		6,040.00	7,425.00
Interest		679.37	169.50
Church Activities Income			
	Childrens Work	1,024.36	541.40
	Church Groups	1,989.25	2,458.50
	Funerals	5,185.00	3,842.00
	Weddings	5,281.00	3,523.00
Total Church Activities Income		13,479.61	10,364.90
Activities to Generate Income			

Church Events	1,069.45	1,377.25
Ad-Hoc Hall Hire	1,635.25	992.75
Regular Hall Hire	9,304.00	8,256.25
Parking	1,232.00	1,837.00
Total Activities to Generate Income	13,240.70	12,463.25
TOTAL INCOME	124,048.10	93,843.72
EXPENSES		
Giving to Other Organisations	3,625.00	3,725.00
Parish Share	43,221.00	42,370.08
Maintenance		
Church Roof Repairs	-	18,376.91
Church Maintenance	1,041.48	1,370.59
Churchyard Maintenance	1,400.00	1,544.00
Hall Maintenance	1,957.92	2,090.53
Total Maintenance	4,399.40	23,382.03
Resources	727.51	477.36
Running Costs		
Baptisms	68.79	105.82
Communion Expenses	123.35	68.16
Incumbent Expenses	1,212.65	1,119.69
Insurance (Church and Hall)	2,920.24	2,841.68
Kitchen Consumables	631.40	654.18
Wake Up and Shake Up Expenses	50.51	43.81

Weddings and Funerals	3,326.40	2,675.04
Bank charges	60.00	60.00
Total Running Costs	8,393.34	7,568.38
Staff Costs (includes admin, cleaner, verger)	4,273.50	4,070.30
Training	30.00	37.40
Utility Bills (includes Gas, Electricity, Water)	4,591.89	4,371.92
Admin (sundries, postage etc)	503.05	337.08
Fund Raising Expenses		
Church Groups	1,241.26	1,214.22
Children and Youth Work Expenses	1,217.90	937.17
Special Events	95.20	478.90
Total Fund Raising Expenses	2,554.36	2,630.29
New Building Work	730.81	321.33
TOTAL EXPENSES	73,049.86	89,291.17
OVERALL TOTAL	50,998.24	4,552.55
CURRENT BANK BALANCES		
CAF Bank - Deposit	15,612.61	9,779.84
CCLA - Deposit Fund	75,968.34	30,433.19
CCLA - Fabric Fund	26,620.28	26,377.01

118,201.23	66,590.04
------------	-----------

OF WHICH RESTRICTED FUNDS

Ramp	63,317.19	15,926.89
Other	8,343.33	1,998.18
UNRESTRICTED FUNDS	46,540.71	48,664.97

4. Deanery Synod Report 2020

Unfortunately this year we have had all but one of our meetings cancelled, and the meeting that did go ahead had no main agenda item to feedback, so no additional notes for this one – sorry! Usually each meeting starts off with a short time of worship led by the hosting church, and some news on the opportunities and challenges faced locally. There's then an opportunity to hear about things going on in the Deanery and also updates from Diocesan and General Synod meetings.

Sally Banks
Kay Tauschwitz

5. Safeguarding Report 2020

I completed my training in November 2019. Since then Covid has changed the way we are going about church.

All volunteers have been emailed and relevant job descriptions have been provided and many Confidential Declaration forms completed.

Training by the diocese is now virtual with the exception of all Domestic Abuse training as that does not translate to the virtual environment.

Since September 2020, I have taken the role of DBS and Safeguarding Coordinator with the Diocese.

We continue to do an annual safeguarding audit and ensure that we are constantly reviewing and improving our policy and procedures.

Julie Gadsby

6. Electoral Roll Report 2020

At the time of the APCM last year there were 84 names on the Church Electoral Roll. There are now 88 names on the Church Electoral Roll.

Wendy Blight