

**St John the Divine Selsdon**  
**Annual Parochial Church Meeting**  
**Sunday 8th May 2022**



**Rector**

Revd Canon Younis Francis

**Hon Clergy**

The Rev'd Dr Stephen Wright

The Rev'd Michael Skinner

**Churchwardens**

Martyn Brown

Debbie Brown

**The Parish of St John the Divine, Selsdon**

**A meeting of parishioners\* to elect churchwardens  
will be held on**

**Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> May 2022 at 11.30am**

**Agenda**

- 1) Minutes of the meeting held on Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> April 2020
- 2) Election of Churchwardens. Nominations received

Debbie Brown	proposed by Janet Brown seconded by Robin Orchard
Martyn Brown	proposed by Penny Cook seconded by Eunice Sinclair

- 3) Appointment of Deputy Wardens by the newly elected Churchwardens

Nominations remain open until the meeting commences. For further nominations to be valid they must be received in writing by the priest-in-charge before the commencement of the meeting.

*\*For this purpose, "parishioners" means those whose names are on the electoral roll of the parish, **or** those persons resident in the parish whose names are entered on the register of local government electors by reason of such residence*

The Parish of St John the Divine, Selsdon

**Minutes of the Annual Parochial Church Meeting  
Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> April 2021**

Susan Tilley, Vice-Chair of the PCC welcomed everyone and opened the meeting.

**Annual Meeting of Parishioners**

**1. Minutes of the meeting held on 27<sup>th</sup> September 2020.**

These were agreed to be an accurate record and Sally Thomas proposed they should be accepted as such; June Mason seconded this motion.

**2. Election of Churchwardens**

There were two nominations for the two positions –Martyn Brown and Debbie Brown. There being no other nominations, it was unanimously agreed that they be elected.

**3. Appointment of Deputy Wardens by the newly elected Churchwardens**

Debbie Brown advised the meeting that the current Deputy Wardens, Monica Turton, Andrew Hicks and Judith Coleman had agreed to serve for the forthcoming year. She thanked them all for their help and support which had been invaluable during a difficult year.

**The Parish of St John the Divine, Seldon  
Annual Parochial Church Meeting  
Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> May 2022 at 11.30 am**

**Agenda**

1. Prayers
2. Apologies
3. Minutes of the APCM held on 25th April 2021 (pages 5-8)

**Review of 2021**

4. Presentation of the Statement of Financial Activities of the PCC for the year ending 31<sup>st</sup> December 2021 (pages 10- 21)
5. Report on the proceedings of the PCC (page 22)
6. Report on the Electoral Roll (page 22)
7. Report by the Churchwardens (including comment on the fabric, goods and ornaments of the church) (page 23)
8. Report on the proceedings of the Deanery Synod (pages 24-26)
9. Other reports (page 26 -37)
10. Parish Priest's Report (pages 38 – 42)

**Elections for 2022 onwards**

- 11. Elections for lay persons to serve on the PCC**
- 12. Appointment of sides persons**
- 13. Appointment of independent examiner to the PCC**
- 14. Any other business**

*There will be a short meeting for all PCC members straight after this APCM – both those currently serving and those newly elected.*

## **Minutes of the Annual Parochial Church Meeting – 25<sup>th</sup> April 2021**

### **1. Prayers**

The meeting opened with prayer led by the Rev'd Stephen Wright.

- 2. Apologies for Absence** – Julia Bailey, Sarah Parsons, Kathleen Holt, Margaret Rutland, Margaret Rapp, Suki Puttock, Marion Gordon, Maureen Jupp, Ian Geddes, Ann Woods, and Alice Hicks.

### **3. Approval of Minutes for APCM 2019**

The minutes were agreed and accepted as an accurate record. This was proposed by Andrew Hicks and seconded by Robert Thornton and agreed unanimously.

### **Review of 2020**

### **4. Presentation of the Statement of Financial Activities of the PCC for year ending 31<sup>st</sup> December 2020**

The Report and Statement of Financial Activities for the year ending 31<sup>st</sup> December 2020 were available at the meeting.

Susan Tilley, PCC Treasurer addressed the meeting

The accounts for 2020 are still with the independent examiner. However, I am sure there will not be any alterations to the figures in the APCM booklet.

You will see that we only paid two thirds of our Parish Share in 2020. The Standing Committee met with the Archdeacon and finance representatives from Southwark to discuss the issue. The decision was taken, as our income had been reduced considerably because of Covid, not being able to rent out the hall and not having events such as quiz nights, barbecues and Christmas fair. Our income is down by £20,000 from 2019 and our expenditure is reduced. We have also paid off a further £8,000 from the interest free Diocesan loan. We have maintained our reserves at approximately £40,000 which includes £8,000 for the boiler fund.

Once again, my thanks go to Amanda Sinclair, Jim Gordon and Michael Lishmund for the work they do and also to all of you who contribute to the finances for the church.

Susan invited comments or questions –

Dudley Mead queried that, whilst the Diocesan interest free loan to cover Garden Room costs was being repaid as agreed, the balance sheet in the annual accounts does not reflect this. Susan had raised this with the Independent Examiner but had been told this was correct, though she agreed with Dudley that it was not a true picture. After some discussion, Andrew Brown proposed

that the meeting do not accept the accounts as they stand and that Susan seeks further advice on this matter.

It was also agreed not to agree reappointing the Independent Examiner in the light of the above.

**5. Report on the Proceedings of the PCC**

Helen Lishmund had submitted a report included in the APCM booklet outlining the proceedings of the PCC during 2019.

**6. Report on the Electoral Roll**

The electoral roll had been revised and Janice White had reported that there were 194 on the electoral roll, 3 members had passed away during the year, 10 people had moved away and 1 member had asked to be removed from the register.

**7. Report by the Churchwardens (including comments on the fabric, goods and ornaments of the church)**

In addition to the report included in the APCM booklet, Debbie Brown wanted to thank Martyn Brown for agreeing to stand as Churchwarden and she welcomed having his experience and support.

She thanked Ian Harley for his support as a fellow Churchwarden and, whilst he was standing down, he had indicated that he was happy to help and support in the background.

Debbie also wanted to thank Amanda Sinclair, our Parish Administrator who had gone over and above that role in supporting the parish and services throughout the pandemic restrictions. Peter Crocombe had been wholly responsible for Liturgy over the past year and had kept services running through lockdown. Michael Lishmund had continued to organise salaries and Gift Aid and had organised the gardening team and kept the grounds in good order. Ian Brentnall had kept music going despite there being no choir (and had shown his bell ringing skills). Jim Gordon, in addition to taking care of the cash and baking, had kept us warm by managing the heating system and delivers our donations to the New Addington food bank. Maureen Jupp as Sacristan has kept silverware and linen in good order. Gill Sharpe had taken responsibility for the books in the church library and those donated by the Walford family. The Brown brothers (Martyn and Andrew) had taken care of flags and crosses on the tower, dealing with building issues and builders and setting up microphones etc. to record services in addition to overseeing the church hall. She also thanked the Standing Committee including Susan Tilley and Helen Lishmund for their support.

Last but by no means least, she thanked Stephen Wright and Michael Skinner for their support in keeping services going through a difficult time in an interregnum with pandemic restrictions.

There are many others to thank – not least the Deputy Wardens and Sidespeople – for their support.

It was hoped that with the coming summer and the lessening of restrictions we could be back to church as normal with coffee after the service.

#### **8. Report on the Proceedings of Deanery Synod**

A written report on the proceedings of the Deanery Synod could be found in the Annual Report and Accounts. Susan Tilley thanked Alice Hicks who is Lay Chair for the Deanery.

#### **9. Church Building and Maintenance Report**

A written report had been submitted and was included in the APCM booklet.

#### **10. Church Hall Report**

A written report had been submitted and was included in the APCM booklet.

### **Review of 2020**

Susan Tilley gave the following review –

It is a strange 12 months to review. This time last year we were just months into the first lockdown. Jenny was about to leave us which was then postponed to the beginning of June, when the Interregnum official started.

We have managed to continue with our services thanks to technology. We started services with people recording at home and Amanda cleverly putting it all together. We were able to open for Private Prayer and eventually services with social distancing. We also managed to stream services from church, again with Amanda's technological expertise.

Finally, we are back together again in church, albeit socially distanced, which is really great.

Debbie Brown set up a telephone 'buddy' system which kept parishioners in touch with what was going on and was greatly appreciated.

The PCC met twice in person and the rest of the time on Zoom which has been a new experience for all of us. Helen became our risk assessment queen.

Thanks go to Stephen, Michael and all our visiting clergy who have kept our services going. Thanks also to Peter Crocombe for putting together covid safe services, to Martyn Brown for arranging priests and to Ian Brentnall for the music.

The Standing Committee, PCC and Interregnum Steering Group have worked hard to keep us on track.

The Diocese have commissioned the redecoration of the Rectory ready for our new priest, Younis, who hopefully will be joining us in July.

The Brown brothers have been able to engage the builders working on the Rectory to repair the lightning conductor, clear out the gutter on the tower and replacer the tower pointing which is badly damaged. This is much needed work which has been on the PCC agenda for at least a year and Andrew and Martyn will be glad to put the matter 'to bed.'

We look forward to 2021/22 when we welcome Rector Younis and family to St. John's and to worshipping together and having coffee and socialising again.

Finally on behalf of the Standing committee and PCC I thank you all for your support in what has been a very strange year.

## **Elections for 2021**

### **11, PCC**

There was 1 nomination for the PCC and Ian Brentnall was duly elected.

### **12.Appointment of Sides people**

Sidespeople

The full list of sidespeople is -

Janet Brown, Sue Condon, Penny Cook, Barbara Goldsmith, Libby Lawrey, June Mason, Brian Miller, Wendy Moulton, Sue Tilley, Eunice Sinclair, Lesley Taylor, Sally Thomas.

### **12. Appointment of Independent Examiner**

Held in abeyance

### **13.Any Other Business**

Barry Cockerell gave a general thank you to all those who had kept us going through a difficult year and commented that it was nice to be back together event under difficult circumstances.

Ann Skinner thanked Debbie Brown for all her hard work over the year.

There being no further business Susan Tilley thanked everyone for their support and contributions and the closed the meeting with the Grace.



**Annual Parochial Church Meeting  
THE PARISH OF ST JOHN THE DIVINE,  
SELSDON**

A Meeting of the  
Parochial Church Council  
will be held on  
Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> May 2022  
directly after the APCM

**AGENDA**

1. Appointment of a Vice-Chairman of the PCC
2. Appointment of an Honorary Secretary of the PCC
3. Appointment of a Treasurer of the PCC
4. Appointment of Standing Committee
5. Appointment of Electoral Roll Officer
6. Dates of meetings 2022/23:

## **Nominations for lay persons to join the PCC**

### **Lesley Taylor**

Nominated by Penny Cook, Seconded by Jean Arkwright

### **Joanna Sands**

Nominated by Hilary Richardson,  
seconded by Ingrid Richardson

### **Lawrence Slattery**

Nominated by Helen Lishmund,  
seconded by Michael Lishmund

### **Janice White**

Nominated by Helen Lishmund,  
seconded by Debbie Brown

### **Judith Coleman**

Nominated by Debbie Brown, seconded by Sue Tilley

### **Jim Gordon**

Nominated by Sue Tilley, seconded by Michael Lishmund

### **Ian Harley**

Nominated by Debbie Brown seconded by Sue Tilley

## **REPORT FOR THE PROCEEDINGS FOR THE PCC**

The PCC met on seven occasions since the last APCM.

Apart from receiving the usual reports from officers of the PCC, PCC groups and working parties and Deanery Synod representatives, the PCC considered and approved the following -

- Arrangements for Licensing
- Parish Support Fund
- Guide Hut Lease
- Opening up Church and Covid restrictions including risk assessments
- Church Boiler issues and Project Warm Church
- Access to the Church car park
- Charitable Giving
- Church Garden project
- GDPR
- Hall Rents
- Staff salaries
- Parochial fees
- Arrangements for APCM

Agreed minutes of PCC meetings are held at the back of church.

Helen Lishmund  
PCC Secretary

## **ELECTORAL ROLL REPORT**

The Electoral roll started this year with 194 members and ended with 191 members. 3 people very sadly passed away, Rosalind Harley and Margaret Rapp and Richard Woods.

One in every six years the preparation of the new church electoral roll takes place, which means that everyone must come off the roll and re-apply. The next occasion for the preparation of the rolls is in 2025.

New people are always welcome to join the electoral roll, please talk to Fr Younis or Janice White.

## **CHURCH WARDENS REPORT**

It has been a busy and challenging year. Ian stepped down for personal reasons. He was a tremendous Warden and is much missed. Thankfully Martyn was kind enough to step up for a third term

Negotiating our way through lockdown in an interregnum was not without its challenges and we are very grateful to the whole congregation for their patience and understanding. We have tried hard to make the right decisions and we were extremely grateful for the wisdom of the Interregnum Steering Group

July was a joyous month as we welcomed Younis and Nancy to St John's. After a long period with little to celebrate Younis's Induction and Collation was an evening of great ceremony and happiness. Bishop Jonathan and Archdeacon Rosemarie attended, and everyone enjoyed the outdoor celebrations afterwards

Since then, we have been trying hard to get back to normal and to lift the tiresome restrictions necessitated by Covid. As we went into autumn the heating broke down but, enter the Brown Brothers and Younis who dug up the floor, found the leak and ensured that we kept warm throughout the rest of the winter

We are pleased to report that the fabric of the church remains in good order. On March 19th we had the Archdeacon's Visitation where our records etc were inspected. We are pleased to say that we passed with flying colours

There is much to do, the heating being our overriding priority. We are well on the way with both researching the best and most suitable system and with fundraising. We are most grateful to all who have given of both time and money for this most essential project

We need to thank our anonymous benefactors for the beautiful new carpets at the High Altar and in the vestry. It was a very generous donation which has made a dramatic improvement to the look of the church

St John's, like most churches would not function without the support of an army of volunteers who provide their time and talents to our ministry in Selsdon.

Far too many to thank by name in this report but a massive thank you to you all. However, we will mention one name. Peter Crocombe is stepping down from Head Server after many, many years of recruiting, training and organising our very professional team of Servers. Thank you, Peter for your sterling work

Debbie Brown and Martyn Brown  
Church Wardens

## **DEANERY SYNOD REPORT**

### **14 June 2021**

This was a Zoom meeting After the usual apologies, minutes of previous meeting etc. the Area Dean, Debbie Forman, spoke about the need for people to stand for Diocesan Synod. I was a rep. but am not going to continue and so far, no-one from the Laity has stepped forward for election. The main topic of the meeting was a good presentation by Hazel O'Sullivan, Vicar of St Francis and St Mary West Wickham on Living in Love and Faith, the initiative from the Church of England on identity, relationships, sexuality, and marriage (The PCC is supposed to be looking at this!) The meeting closed with Compline.

### **3 November 2021**

The meeting was held at St Francis of Assisi, West Wickham.

The Treasurer reported that we were still owed some money (@£400) from Amanda's time as Deanery Secretary. The Area Dean, Debbie Forman, spoke about the very good response to the pledges for the Parish Support Fund, with most churches in the Deanery maintaining or improving their pledge. The main subject of the evening was a talk, illustrated by slides and video, by Nicola Thomas, the Director of the Department of Justice, Peace and the Integrity of Creation at the Diocese. This was a very pertinent subject in view of COP26. After an interesting and informative session, we split into small groups to talk about what we could do to improve our churches eco standing. Several churches in the Deanery have registered for the Eco Church scheme and some have achieved bronze standard. On the general subject of climate change and our response, our group from St John's concluded that there were no simple answers, and it was easy to fall into the trap of unintended consequences for the poor and for developing nations. The meeting closed with compline.

## **21 February 2022**

The meeting was held at our church, St John the Divine.

Once again St John's had its full complement of representative's present - a wonderful example to other parishes who aren't so dedicated! As always, the meeting began with refreshments in the Garden Room at 7.30, followed by worship led by Father Michael.

In our Deanery we now have a representative on the General Synod, Paul, who gave a brief report of his experiences at his first meeting. The title of the meeting was 'Blue Sky Thinking' led by Revd Debbie Forman, the Area Dean, who opened the meeting by asking us to think about the direction of the Deanery over the next 3 years. She asked us to dream dreams and think outside the box.

The following points were made during a plenary session following group discussions.

- We need to get to know each other, social events would help with this
- Joint activities such as tree planting, rubbish clearing, youth work etc.
- Joining together to help with issues that affect our lives, ie the economic situation
- A Deanery magazine, website and/or Facebook page
- Joint services for festivals, also open-air services to attract more non churchgoers
- Sharing information about help available from the Diocese and other organisations

Debbie announced there will be a Deanery pilgrimage round the parishes, and I informed the meeting that our next speaker in June will be Nellie Misenga, the Diocesan Development Officer who will probably be speaking about poverty and the economic situation.

Alice Hicks

# **BUILDING AND MAINTENANCE REPORT**

**Presented at the APCM – May 2022**

## **Church Heating**

During the summer water was found to be running into the make-up tank in the tower, the cause of which was identified as a significant water leak in the heating system, somewhere under the floor of the church. The leakage rate was estimated to be around 1000 litres/day. The system was shut down. A specialist company was employed to find the leak and was found under the north aisle of the nave. The cause was a severely corroded steel elbow. In October a repair was carried out by our heating contractor, Thermoserve, and the system was recommissioned in time for winter.

The system breakdown confirmed what had previously been agreed, the need for a new heating system for the church. Not only is the boiler itself becoming unreliable; it is over thirty years old, but the pipework is over eighty years old and there may be other unknown areas of corrosion and further failures in the making. An additional factor is the inefficiency of the present radiator system. On a cold day even with the boiler on for four or five hours the temperature in the church fails to heat the church to a comfortable temperature. The repair therefore buys time as alternative systems are investigated, but that time is borrowed.

## **Project Warm Church**

A small project team was formed to investigate alternative systems. The brief for the project is to have a cost-efficient system that will heat the church to a temperature, so the congregation are comfortable. Advice was sought from the DAC and the DAC Heating Engineer. Specialist commercial heating companies have been invited to provide proposals and costs. These covered a range of technologies: -

- Replacement gas boiler and new pipework and convector radiators.
- Electric Infrared heaters
- Gas convectors heaters
- Air source heat pumps
- Electric radiator
- Solar panels

Costs for these systems vary between £35,000 and £120,000 and if electric is chosen may necessitate an improved campus electricity supply. We are now at the stage to assess the proposals though this has been complicated by a number of factors: -

- the rapid changes in both gas and electric fuel costs.
- substantial increase in material costs in the last six months.
- the desire of the diocese, where possible, to convert to green electric energy systems as these are more likely to attract grant funding.

A Warm Church fund has been set up and thanks to generous donations from the congregation and from fundraising events, now stands at £32,000.

### **Lightning Conductor**

Scaffolding was erected at the East End to gain access to the roof to re-fix the detached conductor. This work was carried out by Format Construction. At the same time the opportunity was taken to carry out repointing of the brickwork on the tower and gulley. The gutter was cleared, and pigeon deterrent devices installed.

Once this work was complete EES Ltd were engaged to carry out an inspection. The inspection failed at both ground earthing points and remedial works carried out by inserting more ground rods. This was successful and the system passed the relevant requirements.

### **Planned Maintenance**

All routine maintenance has been carried out in accordance with the schedule.

Andrew Taylor carried out the 5-year electrical inspection without issue. The quinquennial inspection due in 2020 has been delayed due to Covid restrictions and unavailability of the inspecting architect. Contact has been established with the architect and by mutual discussion, this is expected to be completed in 2022.

There is awareness of building fabric issues for which estimates of work have been obtained. It is the intention that these will be discussed with the inspecting architect to see if everything has been captured. This will give evidence to form a plan of attack for prioritizing tasks in most need of completion.



Now that COVID 19 restrictions have abated we expect to engage further maintenance tasks not previously tackled.

Martyn Brown and Andrew Brown  
Building and Maintenance Team  
April 2022

**St John's Church  
Church Hall Report for 2021  
Presented at the APCM May 2022**

For the first part of the year the hall was closed to hirers and only from July onwards were we open for business. Regular hirers started to return and one off parties picked up in September.

Income was down though our fixed maintenance costs were unchanged. Income in 2021 at £16,432 was up 43% over 2020 though we are still down 30% compared with 2019, the last normal year. Hopefully we will return to normal levels this year. Hire rates were reviewed and increased in line with inflation.

We lost a number of regular hirers in 2021 but pleased to say that this has been offset but a good number of new hirers including Slimming World and a karate class.

Amanda organised a team to refurbish and redecorate the MCR.

Many thanks to Amanda for efficiently running the diary, organising the marketing of the hall and dealing with potential hirers. We must also thank those on the 'meet and greet' rota looking after hirers on the day and Neetha who keeps the hall clean and tidy.

Andrew Brown, Martyn Brown, Amanda Sinclair  
Hall Management Team  
April 2022

## **MAINTENANCE OF CHURCH GROUNDS**

2021, some normality returned, and we were able to have successful sessions thanks to the stalwart band of helpers – you know who you are!

All hands-on deck to make sure everything was well kept in time for our new arrival! Father Younis has been very supportive in our endeavors, and we have trouble keeping up with the Rectory front garden.

We do rely upon the grass being cut on a regular basis and wish to thank Graham Jennings and Jim Gordon for keeping the grass and hedges in trim which is no mean task.

Graham has taken a particular interest in developing the grounds with eco-friendly ideas and we look forward to its development. However, nothing will happen without volunteers so please look out for notices of future sessions.

Michael Lishmund  
0208 651 2760

## **PRAYER CIRCLE REPORT**

“The voice of prayer is never silent nor dies the strain of praise away”

What a comfort it is to sing these words and know that there is nothing that can prevent the ministry of prayer. Even when we are unable to meet together the prayer continues.

At the moment we are praying for about 50 families and individuals, but we are still able to include others you may wish to be upheld in our daily cycle of prayer if so please contact us.

Barbara Woodhead Tel: 0208 6573790

## **SUNDAY SCHOOL REPORT**

We are very pleased that we now have an established Sunday School at St John's.

In November Sunday School was introduced in the garden room during the 10 am service. We have had a range of ages from 1 to 13 years joining us and make sure all children enjoy themselves.

Children have enjoyed lots of craft activities linked to each Sunday's service. We are developing children's confidence to share with the congregation what we have been up to during the service and encourage children to speak in front of the congregation after communion whether it is talking about what we have been up to or reading the prayer we have shared in Sunday School. Numbers have varied from week to week, but it has been lovely seeing lots of children returning to Sunday School.

Katie Notaro

## **TODDLER GROUP REPORT**

After being closed for most of 2021 we reopened our doors in September after a thorough clean of the toys we opened to an apprehensive group of adults and tots.

Our numbers were small to start off with and grew each week. They are still random week to week, but we have some regulars who we see every week which gives the group a lovely feel.

The group is kept going with our helpers on the craft table Diana Ogg and Heather Jeffries and in the kitchen Helen Lishmund , Monica Turton, Ann Crocombe, Janet Brown, Fiona McSorley, June Mason and Anne Woods who helps with singing at the end of the sessions. We are grateful to them for providing a friendly welcoming face to all those who attend.

In December we managed to hold our annual Christmas Party. Over 40 people attended and we had a lovely festive morning with a visit from Father Christmas (thank you Peter Crocombe) and a friendly elf who provided entertainment and a disco.

We managed to open again in January and have had a great start to the year. We had a mini–Mother’s Day singing session and gave out Mother’s Day flowers. Thanks to the helpers who arranged the flowers the group really appreciated them.

We plan to hold a Jubilee tea party on June 6<sup>th</sup> and look forward to another Spring/Summer term with the group.

Amanda Sinclair

## **SERVERS’ REPORT**

Our enthusiastic and reliable team of Servers have successfully completed another year of duties. But this has been a challenging year like no other – a year ago we were assisting with the Parish Communion with only one server on duty because of all the Covid restrictions, we then had two servers assisting at Fr Younis’ Induction and Installation Service, and we have recently gone back to three servers assisting at our 10.00am Parish Eucharist and one server at our 8.00am Said Communion service. Following the arrival of Fr Younis, we also made a number of changes to the way in which we serve, to suit Fr Younis and to get back to something like the “new normal”!

Compiling this report just after Easter, we should be very grateful for the efficient and unobtrusive way that our Servers have supported all the Holy Week and Easter services – well done everyone involved.

One of the key aims of our Servers is to play our role in the smooth running of our services, without actually being noticed or becoming intrusive – simply contributing to the worship of the whole Body of Christ here at St John’s.

We currently have fifteen Servers – in the last year Sue Tilley and Tracey Dougan have joined our ranks, and Judith Coleman has joined us to serve at our 8.00am Sunday morning Communion service. John Rapp is due to start serving very shortly. In addition, Paul Oakes, Karen Cass and Derek Parsons have all been trained up to undertake the MC/Crucifer role. Unfortunately Sophie Jennings and Bobby Cass have stood down from serving - we wish them well for the future; and Chris Samuels is still on sabbatical.

On a personal note, I have been a Server for approaching 64 years, including 36 years at St John's, and after long thought and consideration I have decided that it is now the right time for me to stand down as a Server and as Head Server. I would like to thank all the servers at St John's who have supported me over the years

*Peter Crocombe*

## **DRAMA GROUP REPORT**

We have again, been unable to present any productions during the last year due to COVID and the subsequent restrictions in social interaction.

Like many drama groups, the return to relative normality presents issues regarding personnel available to both perform and support possible activities.

In order to discuss the future direction of SJDS, Caryl Rapps and I met with the Rector, whom we are delighted to welcome as our new president, and a subsequent meeting with both committee members and interested parties indicated a willingness to produce a joint Christmas venture in partnership with the Church and other local groups, probably to be held in the hall over a weekend in late November.

We look forward to sharing out plans with the local community ..... watch this space!

Hilary Richardson

Hon Treasurer  
St John's Dramatic Society

# **MUSIC REPORT**

## **A. The Choirs**

### **A.1 The SATB choir**

Our robed choir continues to provide vocal leadership of our services, including a Communion Anthem, on the 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> 3<sup>rd</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday mornings of each month as well as a full Choral Evensong on the evening of (generally) the 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday. As previously reported, week by week we continue to operate with limited numbers of sopranos and basses but the quality of the singers we do have remains exceptional for a parish church choir, as indeed is their loyalty.

Our monthly Choral Evensongs continue to offer an opportunity to welcome singers from within our church and further afield who are glad to share their talents with us but with a limited commitment. We have been very encouraged to note the number of singers who continue to show an interest in this service during the course of the last year, as this number continues to grow steadily. With the modest numbers available Sunday by Sunday the repertoire of pieces we are able to tackle is naturally somewhat limited. However, our full choral services allow for a broader range of music to be offered in worship and this is a vital component in our efforts to retain our SATB choir. We will continue to extend and develop our repertoire during the course of this year.

We continue to rehearse on a Thursday evening between 7.30 pm and 8.30 pm, 30 minutes before each morning service and an hour before Choral Evensong.

Last year the choir sang at the Diocesan Confirmation Service in November and are due to sing Evensong at Rochester on 30<sup>th</sup> April, COVID permitting.

I want to pay particular tribute to Professor Timothy Orchard for very generously stepping in to look after that music whilst I was indisposed due to illness. The choir and I are so very grateful for his expert direction of the choir, particularly during Holy Week and Easter. We could not have been more fortunate to have been able to call upon him for help.

## **A.2 The Come and Sing Choir**

Our Come and Sing choir provided an enthusiastic, effective and joyful musical leadership of the main morning service on the 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of each month, rehearsing before the service from 9.30 am. The Come and Sing choir membership is not formally counted or noted and varies according to who is available. There is a pool of singers currently standing at about 12 people and more would always be welcome to come and join this happy group.

## **B Instruments**

### **B.1 The Organ**

The Organ continues to provide reliable service to the church; tuning should take place twice each year but we haven't needed a tuning visit this winter as the organ has largely stayed in tune. We don't anticipate any serious maintenance issues.

I would once again raise the issue of the possibility of installing a Closed Circuit Television system to assist the organist. In days gone by, when services were conducted from the chancel and the high altar, visibility was not too much of a problem. However, now that most of our services are conducted at the nave altar it is extremely difficult to see anything helpful, with little visibility of anything happening to the west of the chancel arch except for what little can be seen using a free-standing mirror. Such systems are not expensive these days, have been installed in a large number of churches with similar visibility problems and it would assist very much with the smooth running of services and St. John's, especially those when a choir isn't present to tell the organist to stop playing! Unfortunately, this has not moved any further forward, but the need remains and it is hoped that we will be in a position to move forward with this as soon as possible.

As always, we continue to count ourselves profoundly fortunate that we continue to rely upon the exceptional skill, musicianship and friendship of Jonathan Musgrave our organist. We are truly blest to have him.

## **B.2 Pianos**

We have three pianos on site, the Steinway grand in church and two upright instruments, one in the choir vestry and another in the Hall. All three instruments have been tuned and maintained during the past year.

## **C Music and Robes**

### **C.1 Music**

The music library at St John's is substantial, containing many of the standard works of the choral repertoire which one would expect to find in the library of an active church choir. However, much of the stock is in extremely poor condition due to extensive use in the past and deterioration brought on by the former damp conditions experienced in the Choir Vestry. I am delighted to report that the PCC kindly agreed to a small music budget which has allowed us to purchase some new music for the library. We are slowly working to building the contents of the library and to replace dilapidated copies of frequently used pieces.

### **C.2 Robes**

As we welcome more people to be part of our Sunday-by-Sunday group and our Choral Evensong group, the need for additional robes continues to challenge us. Again, the PCC have very kindly agreed to provide funds for the purchase of robes to replace the ones stolen from the Vestry five years ago. Measurements have been taken and an order will be placed shortly.

## **D. The future**

The challenge of maintaining the high standard of music in worship which St. John's enjoys continues to test us, particularly the shortage of voices available for Sunday morning services. It is unreasonable to expect every member to be available for every service, as the commitments of work and family also need to be taken into account. However, we are working hard to extend the warm hand of welcome to any who are interested in being part of the musical scene at St. John's. The support of the congregation for our music and our choirs in particular continues to encourage us to do all we can to perpetuate good quality music as a central part of our worship at St. John's for as long as possible.

Ian Brentnall  
Director of Music  
April 2022



## **CHURCH FLOWERS**

The Flower Team hope you have enjoyed the arrangements placed in church over the past year. We have managed to keep to a weekly rota of flower arranging, sometimes with a reduced number of arrangements during pandemic opening hours. Special thanks to all those who donate the flowers bought for arrangements and to Michael Lishmund and the Garden Team for growing flowers and foliage for cutting in the church garden.

At Easter we had arrangements of spring flowers and lilies. We provided a Lily Easter Tree to give people the opportunity to write the names of loved ones on remembrance cards to be placed on the tree with donations being used to buy the lilies for Easter in memory of those named.

Other special festivals during the year were the fruitfulness of Harvest and, with special thanks to Ann Orchard, our Remembrance Day celebration.

The theme for Christmas was “Let it Snow” and the flower team provided beautiful arrangements and made spectacular origami snowflakes to decorate the church!

In July the team were delighted to decorate the church for the Collation and Induction of our rector, The Revd Canon Younis Francis.

I would like to thank our talented team of Flower Arrangers who make all this possible and invite anyone who is interested in getting involved to talk to me or Helen Lishmund.

Gill Salter

## **Wives Report**

The popular wives' group were unable to hold the normal program due to covid restrictions and closure of the hall however we resumed with full gusto and enthusiasm in September with a huge number of ladies and new members which was thrilling to see. The first meeting was held in church for our opening service led by our new incumbent the Revd. Younis Francis whom everybody was keen to meet and chat to.

We held many various evenings of interest for our members and of course not forgetting friends and the congregation who joined us, the events provide very informative information and many activities to partake in. We have been very lucky to secure a line dancing teacher and all members plus the wife of the new rector joined in and was a fun evening.

The group were able to enjoy a Christmas meal at a local restaurant, but we were conscious of the number of the other customers due to infection caused by covid, but we were lucky and apart from a few other customers we mainly had the venue to ourselves. We were also able to hold our annual Advent Service in church led by Revd Younis Francis followed by warm mince pies. The Christmas market stall was a huge success, well stocked with many wonderful items supplied by members of the congregation and our stall alone made £206.00 which was added to the final healthy profit made on the day. The market was well attended by the public and I would like to thank the ladies for their time helping on the day of the market and evening before.

We do like to support charities whenever possible if speakers have a specific group, we like to donate money to their charity, plus we also hold a yearly Christian Aid evening raising much needed funds. I would like to thank clergy and all who have supported the group during this very trying couple of years. And not forgetting Amanda Sinclair in the office for all her administration work and printing, our excellent organist Jonathan Musgrave who keeps the less musical of us in line, of course our hard-working committee who plan and run the evenings and Revd Younis who has supported the group and even joined in on several occasions. We of course encourage our new members to join our exciting group where we can offer a warm welcome and friendly face. Please contact me for more information concerning the group.

Jane Guglielmi

## Rector's Report – AGM 2022

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As I write this report and look back, it is almost a year now since I moved to the parish of St John the Divine, Selsdon. As I have mentioned a few times to some members of the congregation I wasn't really planning to move from my previous parish at least for another two years. But as the scripture says:

*For my thoughts are not your thoughts, nor are your ways my ways, says the Lord. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts. For as the rain and the snow come down from heaven, and do not return there until they have watered the earth, making it bring forth and sprout, giving seed to the Sower and bread to the eater, so shall my word be that goes out from my mouth; it shall not return to me empty, but it shall accomplish that which I purpose, and succeed in the thing for which I sent it.*

Isaiah 55: 8 – 11

God has His own plans and works in mysterious ways in our lives. Somehow no matter what we think, he makes sure that His plans are fulfilled in our lives. I strongly believe that God has brought me and my family to St John's as a part of His plan for my life and the life of this parish.

Over the last year, we have seen many signs of confirmation of this through things that have happened and the blessings we have seen poured out on us and the congregation at St John. It is a very humbling experience to be able to minister in such a wonderful place.

Right from the very first day, we have been warmly welcomed with open arms and warm hearts. All I can say is that I feel very privileged to be here and remain excited and expectant about all that God wants us to do both with our church and in our community.

St John's Mission Statement states:

*St John's exists to worship God and show the love of Jesus Christ in Selsdon. We seek to be an accessible, inclusive, and welcoming Christian community, exploring ways we can serve Christ and share the gift of faith.*

In such a short time, apart from carrying on with our regular services and events, we have already done quite a lot in the following key areas of mission and ministry.

### **Outreach**

Quiz and Curry Night  
Lunch in the Pub  
Toddlers Group  
Lunch in the Pub

## **Discipleship**

Understanding Bible  
Lent course  
Sunday School

## **Worship**

Active participation of Uniformed Organizations in our services  
Introduction of lectionary readings and production of the new style notice sheet  
Some other occasional minor changes in liturgy and service to make them more relevant

We have also built a good relationship with the local schools and in the past six months have had a number of visits where the children and the staff came to visit the church and explore different features of the church and asked questions about the Christian faith and worship.

I very much hope that these relationships will continue to develop over the coming years.

The Rector's report is traditionally the opportunity to say, "thank you". I always worry about naming people to thank because I know I will miss someone out. Anyway, I still think it is important to mention some people, and groups by name for their hard work and commitment.

First and foremost, I would like to thank each and every member of this congregation for their prayer and service, for their dedication and commitment, for their gifts and talents, and for generosity both in serving through their time and talents, and the generous stewardship to support the mission and ministry of this Church.

I am deeply grateful for all you have done – in the past year and pray that we will all continue to move forward in sharing the love of God with others in the years to come.

A special note of thanks to Fr Michael, Fr Stephen, and Peter our SPA, for their time, commitment, wisdom, and vision for this Church. Thank you for your gentle way of advising, guiding, and supporting me in planning and meeting the pastoral needs of the community.

I would like to thank the churchwardens Debbie and Martyn, for their wisdom, commitment, and insights for making sure that life and ministry flows smoothly. As I thank you both, I also thank God for the gifts that he has given you. Thank you to all the PCC members, deputies, and duty wardens for playing such an important role in the mission and ministry of St John.

I am very grateful to Sue for her work as Treasurer, and those who assist – Jim and Andrew for all they do to help with banking, Michael with PAYE, pensions, and gift aid – gift aid makes such a difference to our income so if you're a taxpayer and have not opted into gift aid, please speak to Michael as soon as you can! But also, a huge thank you to you for your regular financial gifts to St John's which enable us to continue the mission and ministry here in Selsdon.

A special note of thanks to our Vestry Team, Maureen, and Andrew who carry on in an efficient way their duties making sure that everything is in order and ready for services, and I rely heavily on them! They anticipate the needs in the Church – even those the clergy sometimes are not even aware of.

Thanks to Ian, our music director, and Jonathan, our organist for their dedication to the musical life of this Parish and to the choir – together they produce excellent music! I would like to thank Tim for stepping in often at short notice to cover in absence of Ian due to some health issues.

Thanks to Janice our Electoral officer, PCC secretary, Helen, the Readers, Intercessors, Servers, Flower arrangers, Church cleaners, Gardeners, different rota teams, Welcoming team, Baptism Support team  
St John's wives and so many others who use their time and talents for the mission and ministry of St John.

Thanks to Amanda for all the hard work in looking after the church hall bookings, Toddler's Group, and all matters concerning church and worship.

Thanks to Katie and Nancy and all the helpers of the Sunday School for starting the Sunday school and enabling the children to learn the bible stories.

As a church, we entirely depend on the generosity of our members and other supporters of the church for the smooth running, upkeep, and maintenance. Besides regular giving, we are often blessed by generous donations to the church. I would like to express my heartfelt thanks to all those who have supported the "Warm Church Appeal" so generously. You must have noticed that the High Altar area carpet was replaced recently, and the new seasonal banners suddenly appeared in the church. Both the carpet and the banners were made possible due to the generous donations of members of the congregation. So many thanks to these great supporters of the church.

Peter Crocombe has decided to step down from his role as a head server and server after 36 of service at St John's. I would like to say a big thank you to him for his many years of dedication, and commitment to serving, preparing, leading, and encouraging others to participate in such an important ministry of assisting at services.

Although Peter has relinquished the role of server and head server, he has kindly agreed to take on the following important role of setting up the following groups:

Befrienders  
Pastoral Care Team  
Bereavement Group

I know almost everyone contributes to the mission and ministry of the church one way or another, some are more visible than others, and some just quietly do things without being noticed. So, a big thank you to each and every member of the congregation.

In order to keep this Church going and growing, our regular and prayerful giving to the church remains very important indeed. Our gift-aided giving remains important too.

Our numbers attending Services and other activities have been very healthy or rather has been increasing. In the past year, we have seen some new people coming through our doors.

In the past year we had some very successful services and events and courses namely:

- Harvest Lunch
- Remembrance Sunday
- Christingle service
- 9 Lessons and Carols
- Lunch in the pub
- Holy Week and Easter Services
- Passover Seder Meal
- Understanding Bible
- Advent and Lent Sessions
- Lent Meditations

We look forward to forthcoming events and services namely:

- Jubilee lunch
- Parish outing
- Faith and life matter

These are all encouraging signs that we are growing as a Church in our worship and fellowship. We need to continue growing inwards and grow outwards in our Worship, discipleship, Ministry, and Vision.

Our journey as a church will have its joys and pains. However, all growth includes these. Reaching out to all and ministering to all ages is a challenge but also rewarding. We need to be a church that is inviting, welcoming, compassionate, and real (this does not mean that we are not a welcoming Church).

Our calling as Christians is to make St John's attractive in all respects so that people from all walks of life are attracted to us because of our worship, ministry, fellowship, social events, etc. be they old, adult, young, youth, children or babies.

This is a continuous challenge for all of us. We can only achieve this with the grace of God and the support of each other. We need to be ever prepared to grow and reach out because there are still many people in our community who need to know that we are here to share God's love with them.

As we look at various possibilities of sharing God's love with others, we also need to be thankful to God for what has been achieved and look forward with hope and faith to continue serving God in this parish and sharing the love of God with all.

I am deeply grateful to God for the opportunity of serving Him and his people in this place, and for the gifts that each one of you brings to the ministry in the Church of God. Once again thanks to all, each and every member.

I do want to remind you that being a priest reminds me deeply of human frailty – particularly of my own. So, I offer my own apologies to you if I have in any way upset you or offended you, or not lived up to your expectations, or done things in a way you don't like too much. I am sorry, and I ask your forgiveness.

May God bless us all.

Fr Younis

April 2022