

st martin's DORKING

**The Parish of St. Martin's Dorking
with St. Mary's Pixham**

Annual Report 2017

**Annual Parochial Church Meeting
Sunday 29th April 2018**

Registered Charity 1133695

Achievements and performance

The Thanksgiving Service on September 29th to mark Mole Valley's farewell to the Defence Services Medical Rehabilitation Centre at Headley Court, for which we were honoured to be visited by HRH Countess of Wessex, was a reminder of the things which St Martin's as an important town centre church does exceptionally well. But it is also a reminder of the challenge we face in ensuring we have a sufficient core of active membership to make those big set piece occasions feasible. A similar picture emerges from the contrast between our very small but loyal Sunday morning choir and the choir for the Nine Lessons and Carols, for example, or a cathedral visit, when we call on additional resources in the shape, mainly, of previous choristers who have moved away but whom we have been unable to replace.

Our latest submission to the annual Church of England statistical exercise shows a further fall in the average Sunday attendance figure, but an upturn for both Christmas - particularly the Crib Service for families - and Easter. How do we turn that enthusiasm at a special festival and also the spiritual need of the many weekday visitors who come to light a candle and leave a prayer into a weekly commitment to want to share worship?

It was against this background that our Parish Development Plan highlighted the areas of growing disciples, time, talents and stewardship, publicity and communications, and updating the buildings. Progress has been slower than we would have liked but at the time of writing we have:

- Nearly completed our first run of the Christianity Explored Course - though it has appealed to existing members as a way to explore and deepen faith, we have yet to reach new members through it;

- Completely rebuilt our website in a new style more easily navigated on modern devices and continued to grow our social media presence as evidenced by Twitter followers;

- Carried out further work (thanks to the Friends of St Martin's) to restore the decoration in the Chancel of St Martin's; also redecoration of the parish room at St Mary's Pixham which has seen a very welcome upturn in wider community use.

One completely new initiative planned at the back end of 2017 and launched in January 2018 has been a new monthly café-style 4pm family service in collaboration with St Paul's Dorking and St John's North Holmwood. The first two months have been very encouraging but the challenge will be to turn it into a self-sustaining initiative able to exist without the heavy support from St Paul's (both clergy and lay) without which it would not have been possible. It has already necessitated considerable investment in new portable media type equipment. Though this may at first sight seem outside our heritage and tradition, there is no doubt we have to be prepared to meet people where they are if St Martin's, shortly to celebrate the 150th anniversary of the consecration of the rebuilt Chancel, is to survive for another 150 years. The 19th Century rebuilding (and even more so that of the nave a few years later) must at the time have seemed a huge wrench from the Intermediate Church, and yet our Victorian forebears embraced that change. As we start to look at the detail for new permanent Audio Visual equipment, for example, we need that same prayerful confidence to move forward.

Report from the Churchwardens

We shall start with an update on a couple of points from last year's report.

First it was the case that, sadly, the original two nautically-inspired wooden candle holders from the High Altar could not be traced but, on a much happier note, we were most grateful to Peter Westermann, who made the originals, for making and donating perfect replicas. The new ones are made from historic oak from a redundant bell frame. (For more on this story see the magazine article last July/August).

Second, the spire inspection recommended by the church architect was carried out last year and revealed no serious problems - certainly none needing scaffolding access. Inevitably in a 140 year old structure there were minor bits of maintenance required - mainly repointing in lime mortar (done by abseil!) and applying protective paint to the metal

safety ties on the corner saints and to the fixings of the weather vane. This work had to await suitable weather but has now been completed and the access ladders removed. The task probably made our spire and the steeplejack team the most photographed combination in the country, but hopefully that just serves to reinforce St Martin's position in the consciousness of the wider community. Once again a huge thank you to The *Friends of St Martin's* for funding the work.

Another essential piece of "have to do" carried out in the winter was the steam cleaning of the paths; apart from brightening the appearance hugely, the anti-slip benefit in damp weather is very noticeable. Sadly it was an accident involving a visitor which highlighted the need for the work. Yes, there is some repointing now required to finish the job but it is a huge improvement. Again thank you to FoSM for contributing to the work. Keeping the area swept of

yew berries etc will be important to ensure the effects are as long-lasting as possible. That is probably a good time to express thanks again to our Rotarian friends for helping with the annual churchyard blitzes - keeping the lime tree suckers trimmed back and strimming / tidying the rest of the borders etc.

In the "want to do" category the roundels of the Evangelists in the Chancel have been cleaned. We and FoSM are now involved in planning the next stage of the chancel restoration - the walls and tiled floors. (Again see the current magazine for more on that.) The thinking is that if we get the chancel looking pristine again, we will be in a strong position to go out to the wider community with an appeal for funding to extend the impact by complete cleaning and re-limewashing of the nave. It is some fifty years

since that was done and would we expect the decoration of our homes to last that long without attention? We know the job will be expensive because we will need full height scaffolding to enable manual testing of the ceiling's plaster condition - some instances of localised decay in the side aisles (which have been made safe) suggest there could be problems.

For more on the audio-visual aspirations please see another article in the current magazine. St Martin's is a wonderful historic building and we are so grateful to all those who, in whatever way, help to keep it that way. However there are some areas where we need to move it forward if it truly to meet the needs of worship and the expectations of those we want to attract to join us in that worship.

Di and Peter

Minutes of the April 2017 Annual Meetings

Minutes of the Annual Meeting of Parishioners and the Annual Parochial Church Meeting held on Sunday April 30th 2016 in the Christian Centre starting at 11.40am following a service of Holy Communion in Church.

Present: The meetings were chaired by the Revd Derek Tighe. 29 other members / parishioners recorded their attendance.

Apologies for absence were recorded from 10 people including Peter Bunn (Churchwarden) and Di Sutherland (Churchwarden).

Derek opened the meeting with thanks to all who helped to put the report booklet together.

Page references are to the report published in 2017.

Annual Meeting of Parishioners

1. Report from the Churchwardens (see page 4)

Derek referred us to the report. There were no questions or comments on the written report.

2. Appointment of Churchwardens 2017-2018

In accordance with the Church Representation Rules, the Chairman had received two valid nominations before the meeting for the two places. These were for Peter Bunn and Diane Sutherland who were therefore declared duly appointed with acclamation.

Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM)

1. **Apologies for absence.** These should be recorded on one of the attendance forms that were circulating.

2. **Minutes of the April 2016 APCM (starting on page 5).** The minutes were approved and signed by the Chairman.

3. Matters Arising

There were no matters arising.

Reports

4. **Church Electoral Roll Officer's Report and Appointment** for the coming year (page 7). The report from Elizabeth Dobson showed 137 names including 17 for Pixham, net reductions of four and one respectively. Elizabeth had nothing further to add. Derek expressed his thanks to Elizabeth.

5. **Report on the proceedings of the Deanery Synod (page 7 onwards).** Peter Bruinvels advised there is a plan to change the boundary. There were no further questions or comments on the written report.

6. **Annual Report of the Parochial Church Council (page 8 onwards).** Derek highlighted the marvellous work Nick has done on the archives for St Martin's, many thanks to him.

There were no questions or comments.

7. **Receive the Reports** from our Ecumenical Partner, Clergy, Task Groups and other Church Organisations (page 10 onwards). Brian Smith commented that thanks should be made to clergy, task groups etc, as they keep us together. Derek echoed the thanks to the clergy and churchwardens etc. Anne Brown thanked all for the donations of Easter eggs for Send prison.

8. **Election of representatives to the Deanery Synod.** Nominations had been received for Peter Bunn and Nick Hands-Clarke who were therefore declared elected. Our elected representation was reduced from 3 to 2 because of fewer people on the Electoral Roll. Canon Peter Bruinvels is *ex-officio* on Deanery Synod by virtue of his place on General Synod. All were welcome to attend Deanery Synod meetings.

9. Election of representatives to the PCC

Four people have come to the end of their three year term of office: Christine Francis, Linda Friend, Brian Smith and Elisabeth Gaunt. Elisabeth Gaunt had decided not to stand again and was thanked for her contributions to the work of the PCC. Nominations had been received from Christine Francis, Linda Friend, Brian Smith and also Alan Roome for the four places to serve from 2017 to 2020. In the absence of further nominations and with the acclamation of the meeting, it was declared that all four were duly elected. No nominations had been received for one place to serve from 2017 to 2018.

10 Appointment of Sidespeople

The meeting agreed that anyone on electoral roll could be invited to serve. All were encouraged to consider supporting services in this way.

11. Treasurer's Report (page 21 and separate documents)

a) Management Accounts for 2016 and Budget 2017.

Nick summarised the difference between these accounts and the more detailed consolidated financial statements. Again the budget for 2017 only included routine expenditure on fabric. It is expected that development works including works arising from the quinquennial will be funded by the Friends of St Martin's.

It was confirmed Pixham is a grade 2* listed building which would help with grant applications and eligibility for VAT relief.

Stuart Peace highlighted that it is not obvious where visitors can make a donation.

b) Consolidated Financial Statements.

The statements for 2016 were approved. Many thanks to Nick for the considerable work involved in the accounts.

12. Appointment of Independent Examiner

Nick proposed Messrs Hayesmacintyre. This was agreed.

13. Churchwardens' Report on Fabric and Furnishings (page 22).

Nick Hands-Clarke added that NADFAS have been doing surveys at Pixham, which have been completed and handed over. Their surveys for St Martin's were currently on hold but will hopefully restart soon.

14. Announcement of election vote results

No announcement needed.

15. Matters of General Parochial and Church Interest

Peter Bruinvels reported there are plans for building of flats and a restaurant on the site of Barclays Bank. Peter Bunn has submitted a letter of objection listing our concerns, mainly regarding parking and deliveries.

Karen Borrett has recently been appointed as organ scholar by the William Cole Church Music Trust.

Christine Francis highlighted problems of St Martin's car park being misused frequently. Could locking the gate be looked into?

Christine also suggested we encourage an association with the new football stadium at Meadowbank which would be a good form of outreach.

Elizabeth Dobson highlighted the forthcoming Bible Month. Further details will be available in the May issue of the magazine.

It had been reported that the Cubitt Chapel at St Barnabas is of national importance and Courtaulds have shown an interest.

16. Vicar's closing words and prayers

Many thanks to all who do so much and especially our lay ministers and churchwardens.

Derek referred to the goals of Transforming Church, Transforming Lives.

The meeting closed with The Grace at 12.45pm.

Proposed date of the next Annual Meetings: Sunday 29th April 2018 (to be confirmed).

Electoral Roll & Deanery Synod Reports

Electoral Roll Report

The annual revision of the electoral roll was completed on 11 April 2018. It contains 137 names, of whom 17 worship principally at St Mary's Pixham: this is the same number as reported in 2017.

Four names were added in the present revision. Since April 2017, two roll members have died, and two are now worshipping elsewhere.

Elizabeth Dobson

Deanery Synod Report

There were four meetings in 2017 under the chairmanship of Rev'd Alan Jones - the Area Dean.

Though not all of your lay representatives (Peter Bruinvels, Nick Hands Clarke and myself) could make all of the meetings, at least one of us was at each. Very sadly Simon Barnes, the Secretary, recently passed away after acute leukaemia, and our thoughts and prayers are with his family. Graham Everness, the Treasurer, has temporarily assumed the duties but we desperately need a new Secretary to step up.

In February at North Holmwood the main focus was a presentation from the Diocese's Community Engagement team on how to foster local community partnerships. As ever one of the most useful dimensions of Synod meetings was to break into small groups to share what our own churches

are doing by way of reaching out to meet the needs of the wider community.

In April at Capel there was a presentation by the Diocese stewardship adviser, Juliet Evans, on stewardship. There are no magic answers, but Juliet sought to position the issue in its wider mission and theology context. She produced some very challenging figures on the demography of givers and the disparities in weekly giving (St Martin's is behind the Deanery and Diocese averages, though above the national figure), and gave some very useful pointers on potential resources for campaigns etc.

In June at St Paul's the theme of sharing experiences was taken a stage further by beginning a programme of looking at the Church Development Plans of different parishes; the first three in the frame were our own, Newdigate and Westcott. Bishop Jo was the highlight of this meeting with a really engaging talk about Renewal and Reform, starting by taking us all back to the courage (and challenges) of the early church in Acts.

Finally at Priory School in September we looked at the plans of South Holmwood, Capel and Abinger/Coldharbour, but the main part of the meeting was a joint session with Heads and Chairs of Governors (CoGs) of our church schools on the theme of schools and churches working together. I confess I thought this was a missed opportunity - not at all helped by all the synod reps sitting in one row and all the HT/CoGs in another with "never the twain shall mix" when it came to the breakout session. Michael Hall the Deputy Director of education had tried to cram far too much (albeit interesting) background into his opening presentation but thankfully Lorraine Abbott recued matters with an excellent talk on how faith underpinned the Priory School values of Community, Dignity, Hope and Wisdom. At the local level my impression is that individual schools (particularly at primary level) and their churches have a very strong relationship, but somehow the attempt to pull this together at Deanery level didn't do justice to those relationships.

Peter Bunn

Annual Report of the PCC for 2017

Aims and purposes

The primary object of all PCCs is the promotion of the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to the doctrines and practices of the Church of England. The PCC Measure 1956 states the PCC "is to co-operate with the minister in promoting in the parish the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical". The PCC also has responsibilities for the daughter church of St Mary's, Pixham.

Under a Union of Benefice Measure (1960) the parish is linked to that of St Barnabas, Ranmore which has its own PCC and is independent.

Objectives and activities

Mission statement

St Martin's and St Mary's are open, living, Christian communities, seeking to worship God and to enrich the life of Dorking and the world. We seek to celebrate and share the love of God for all:

- in prayer, reflection and action;
- by listening, learning and growing together;
- through serving others and the wider world.

Our Core Values:

Worshipping - Growing - Serving

St Martin's and St Mary's are friendly, inclusive, welcoming churches which don't fit easily into a particular ecclesiastical type. We try to express ourselves in evangelical, catholic and liberal ways, which welcome people from all sections of the community to engage with church life, whatever their needs.

We encourage speaking out against injustice and making peaceful protest. We aim to build relationships with other faith groups in our area and to develop wider links within our local community.

Worship is at the heart of our church life. We seek to provide a varied pattern of services that reflects the Christian year and serves all of our worshipping community. We strive for worship that is insightful, uplifting and connected to real life.

The development of faith is essential to the life of our Christian community. We believe in faith as a journey and aim to develop learning opportunities so that people may explore their spirituality and their relationship with God.

Children and young people are an essential part of our life and we want to build good relationships with all our local schools, and especially our church school. We want to include children and young people in our community of faith, to nurture their spirituality and to ensure their safety by complying with the law and following best practice.

We are responsible and committed to managing our finances efficiently, graciously and with strategic foresight. We seek to be worthy stewards of our financial and material assets to the service of our community and the wider world.

We are custodians of a well-equipped site and are blessed with an amazing location. We work hard to maintain our buildings and grounds. We want to explore new ways of developing and using our space to the benefit of our community and those with whom we share our site.

We are a church with an ecumenical heart and long for a closer working together with our Methodist partners so that St Martin's can genuinely be a 'shared church'. We are a committed member of Churches Together in Dorking.

We aim to ensure that pastoral care is available to all, not just those with obvious vulnerabilities. We specifically try to make the idea of inclusion real at every level of our life together.

Achievements and performance, ctd

Church Attendance

2017 was a mixed bag in attendance terms. The attendance at major festivals (Christmas and Easter) was slightly up but the usual Sunday attendance continued the slow long-term downward trend. The October count figure continues to be an unreliable measure of overall health because of the distortion caused by Harvest (including the related school service, much as we of course welcome it). Baptisms were markedly lower in 2017 compared with 2016 but 2018 looks much better.

What does all this tell us? I still think it is that usual Sunday attendance figure which is crucial and is so worrying. Those big set piece occasions look deceptively positive but without that week in, week out core commitment to regular worship, we will not be sustainable for the longer term. That is why trying new approaches like the 4pm family service is so vital. Not every such initiative will be as positively received but we need to keep trying. Every one of us has a role in evangelising however ill-equipped we may think we are. We live in a world where people see a local church not as something which is every bit theirs as much as yours and mine, but as something to which they need an invitation. Do we yet reflect that reality and keep issuing those personal invitations?

Peter

During the calendar year 2017, the full PCC met 5 times and the Standing Committee met 7 times. Standing Committee members also met with Methodist Colleagues for two Joint Church Council meetings. Topics covered during the various meetings include:

Outreach and Public Benefit

- Churches Together and Foodbank
- Local Schools and School Governors
- Churchyard improvements
- Civic Services
- Sunday 4pm Family Service introduction
- Public defibrillator at St Mary's Pixham
- Website refresh

People

- Derek, our Incumbent and Authorised Methodist Presbyter
- David Cowan, our Associate Minister
- Chris Watts, Stuart Peace, Terry Ellis

- Pastoral Assistant Training
- Our Church Administrators
- Director of Music arrangements
- Discipleship
- Pew Bible provision

Sharing Arrangements

- Worship patterns and single faith community
- Local Covenant details
- Christian Centre developments

Governance

- Safeguarding arrangements including training
- Finances and Parish Share
- Letting of a 'buy to let' flat
- Data Protection including GDPR changes

Fabric & Church Yard

- Diamond Jubilee memorial
- Church Quinquennials
- Reredos cleaning and repairs
- Financial support from Friends of St Martin's

Anglicans and Methodists

On 31 May 2009 as part of the shared Pentecost morning service, St Martin's Anglicans relationship - a further step on the road begun with the building sharing agreements over 40 years ago. The Covenant now consists of a simple covenant statement since a supplementary document is now thought to be unnecessary.

The St Martin's Dorking Covenant:

Believing that the unity of the Church is the will of God, we the members and ministers of the congregations at St Martin's Dorking, Methodists and Anglicans, hereby covenant upon the foundation of the recognition that we have one Lord, one Faith, one Baptism; for we share a Gospel which effects reconciliation between God and humankind and between nations and people.

Travelling as pilgrims on a journey that has already started and which will lead we know not where, we are pleased to place our trust in God, in whose hands the future lies, and to be led forward by Him.

In order to proclaim the Gospel by common witness and service in the community and the world, and in obedience to God's call, through the power of the Holy Spirit, we therefore joyfully covenant with each other:

- to work together in love
- to pray, and care for one another and for our neighbour
- to serve together the community of Dorking
- and to live together in fellowship
- to the greater glory of God

We also commit ourselves:

- To enact and fulfil such matters as our church councils shall determine by common consent.

Associate Minister's Report

Because of personal circumstances the last year has been something of a time of consolidation although not without its encouragements. It hasn't been possible to restart Holiday Havoc (although it is great to see the 4 o'clock service at St Martin's which has a number of the same hallmarks). We have continued with the same mix of traditional and very informal services. Whilst we do not meet as a regular home group week in week out throughout the year, we have run two series. The first was on the book of James at the same time as this was being studied at St Martin's. We had the benefit of the excellent "Book by book" DVD which contains in depth teaching with a lightness of touch. Currently we are enjoying a somewhat delayed Lenten group considering our Lord's seven sayings from the cross.

Our services have recently been enhanced by the purchase of the 2014 edition of Mission Praise and the expanded repertoire seems to be appreciated. We are most grateful to all who play at Pixham, particularly Veronica and also Richard and Jackie Good who have very much become part of our fellowship. Now that David and Colin Bassett have moved to Ashted, inevitably we see less of them but we are most grateful to them for the part they have played in the past and also glad that we continue to be in touch with them. Needless to say the support of Derek, Stuart, Mike, Chris and Elizabeth at Pixham is invaluable.

We all owe a great debt to Julie Mellows, who is such an integral and prayerful part of our fellowship, for all she does to hold things together and likewise to her and all the others who look after the lovely church at Pixham, especially Tony and Betty Hall and Peter Shelley. There is concern that a considerable amount of work needs to be carried out at Pixham Church and, whilst maintenance is not the same as mission, without proper maintenance mission will inevitably be severely hampered!

We continue to have Bring & Share lunches from time to time and it is noticeable that about three quarters of those who attend the service that morning stay for the lunch. This is perhaps indicative of the fact that whilst our numbers have not grown there has been something of a growth in depth and we would value prayer that that continues alongside a growth in numbers. In particular please pray that those who live in Pixham and those who don't will be able to make more intentional and valuable contacts with members of the community.

We are all very grateful to Anne Brown for all that she and Mary do with the children (not least her own grandchildren who are there pretty well every week! A very large personal thank you from me to Mary for all that she does. At the beginning of every month without fail she has prepared a new notice giving details of the services for that month and she makes sure that as many people as possible are personally

invited to the more informal services. She also contributes in a whole host of other ways and I could not begin to manage without her and nor could St Mary's!

May I also take the opportunity to thank Derek very much for his continuing fellowship and encouragement of my ministry which is much appreciated?

It is obviously tempting for us at times to be discouraged so it is good to remember the words of the apostle Paul (2 Corinthians 4 v 1, 16) "Since we have been entrusted with this ministry, which we owe entirely to God's mercy, we do not lose heart!" We do now have a prayer meeting once a month at Pixham. Clearly alongside preparation and proclamation of the Gospel, prayer is absolutely vital and perhaps I could end this by praying that we will keep on praying more and more for the people of Pixham, that they may recognise both the claims of our Lord Jesus Christ and their need of Him.

I should add that we continue to be involved in the Prayer Pastor's group praying for Street Pastors and that meets regularly at our house once a month. We are also hoping to start a regular monthly prayer meeting for persecuted Christians who should never be out of our thoughts and prayers.

Thank you to everyone for your friendship and fellowship.

In Christ

Dave Cowan

Pastoral Assistants' Team

The Pastoral Assistants continue to be a very small band but during the year we have again been meeting with the Methodist Pastoral Visitors together with Mary Cowan who runs the Quiet Garden and looks after the Pixham congregation, and Diana Burgess who oversees baptismal visits. Rowan Nunnerley is also a very valued member of the pastoral team as Centre Chaplain. We meet once a month with the churchwarden and vicar. We are also very pleased and encouraged that Cathy Merrikin is doing a pastoral assistants course this year and will be joining the team later in the year.

We are available to take home communion when requested and when asked assist in visiting those in sheltered accommodation. If you would like, or know of anyone who would appreciate a call from one of us please do let us know. We are very grateful to those who do keep us in touch with other people's needs during the year.

We continue to send cards to various people within the church each year and again this year there have been nearly 100 cards sent out on your behalf. Although many go to members of the Church Family in St. Martin's, a considerable number go to people outside the Family - for weddings, bereavements, in hospital etc. This is just one way in which we are

trying to communicate Christ's love to others and reach beyond our own borders.

We also provide filled shoe boxes for Rumanian families in the Link for Hope Shoebox appeal. We have a coffee morning in October when we invite everyone to help filling boxes with items we have collected over the year and last year we filled 50 boxes which were so appreciated by the recipient families - another way we communicate Christ's love to others and reach beyond our own borders.

Thank you for your support over the last year.

Pastoral Team

Structure, governance & management

The Parochial Church Council (PCC) is a corporate body established by the Church of England. The PCC operates under the Parochial Church Council Powers Measure, and registered with the Charity Commission as a Charity in January 2010.

The PCC includes representatives from the congregation and the clergy. The appointment of PCC members is governed by the Church Representation Rules. The 2004 APCM agreed that there should be an extra lay place for a representative from the daughter church of St Mary's, Pixham.

The PCC complies with diocesan requirements with regard to safeguarding issues and risk assessment. Our latest safeguarding statements bring together Anglican and Methodist best practice. The PCC complies with statutory requirements with regard to employment, access and health and safety.

Under the 1973 Agreement, the Church Building is shared with the Dorking Methodists, and there is a parallel agreement with the Dorking Methodists for sharing use and responsibilities for the Christian Centre. Under the current financial arrangements, each denomination is liable to pay a notional £100 per annum to the other for the use of its facilities.

The Sharing Agreement provides for a Joint Church Council (JCC) consisting of equal representation from the PCC and from the Methodist Church Council (MCC). The JCC met twice times during 2017.

The Parochial Church Council (PCC)

The PCC and the Incumbent share the responsibility for taking forward the work of the parish.

The PCC is supported in its work by its Standing Committee which usually meets in those months (except August) when the PCC does not and which has power to conduct any urgent business that would

normally fall to the PCC. The Standing Committee has had a particular role in matters affecting finance, staffing and fabric. There is also a Pixham Committee, normally chaired by the Associate Minister, which meets to consider matters relevant only to St Mary's. There are no other permanent committees but from time to time the PCC has convened time-limited Task Groups looking at specific aspects of church life.

PCC Membership

During the year ending 31st December 2017, the following served as members of the PCC:

Incumbent:	Derek Tighe	
Clerk in Holy Orders:	David Cowan	Note 1
LLM (Reader):	Chris Watts	
Churchwardens:	Peter Bunn	Note 2
	Di Sutherland	
General Synod:	Peter Bruinvels	Note 3
Deanery Synod:	Peter Bunn	
	Nick Hands-Clarke	Note 4
Pixham Rep:	Julie Mellows	Note 5

Elected Members:

Deborah Bunn
Diana Burges
Christine Francis, Secretary
Angus Frazer, to December 2017
Linda Friend
Elisabeth Gaunt, to April 2017
Mike Gibb, from April 2015
Alison Harding
Christine Lawrence
Alan Roome
Brian Smith
Anne Whibberley

Note 1: Rev'd David Cowan was granted 'Permission To Officiate' (PTO) status within the Diocese of Guildford from his 70th birthday in July and ceased to be licensed specifically to the Benefice. Rev'd Stuart Peace has PTO status. Both are regarded as part of the clergy team but do not act as members of the PCC or as Charity Trustees.

Note 2: Peter Bunn also serves on Deanery Synod.

Note 3: Canon Peter Bruinvels is *ex officio* on Diocesan and Deanery Synods

Note 4: Nick Hands-Clarke also serves on Diocesan Synod.

Note 5: The Pixham Representative has not acted as a Charity Trustee.

Children and Young People

Baptisms

Only 6 infants were baptised in St Martin's in 2017 - the lowest number since I have been Baptism Assistant in Dorking - and there were none at St Mary's Pixham. The average over the previous 5 years has been 15, which also occasionally included adults, when one of the parents chose to be baptised at the same time as their child.

In 2017, 2 of the children were brothers and 1 was the youngest of a family who had previously lived in Dorking but are now in Tadworth. Sadly there were 2 baptisms which were arranged but were postponed for various reasons and did not take place. Only one baptism was done within a normal Sunday service, the others were at separate ceremony later and all were conducted by Revd Derek.

I have noticed recently that not many parents are both baptised and fewer confirmed and although it is officially a requirement that godparents be confirmed as well as baptised, this is often not the case. I have even been asked 'What is Confirmation?' when helping a parent complete the Baptism Application Form with the names of their chosen godparents!

So not a very encouraging picture as regards immediately increasing the numbers of worshippers at St Martin's, but we pray that all those attending baptisms, especially the parents and godparents will cherish and remember what was said and done during the service and we pray God will bless and guide them in the future, wherever they live and worship.

Already in 2018 in the first 6 months there are 8 baptisms booked, so we look forward in hope that God is calling more young parents to consider baptism for their children and will help them to a better understanding of the Christian Faith, as they raise them. As well as a Bible for the child being baptised we do also give the parents a booklet called 'God with Us' about famous parents in the Bible which we hope will be an encouragement.

Diana Burges, Baptism Assistant

Messy Church at Pixham

Nothing to report

Safeguarding

There has been quite a shakeup of the safeguarding guidelines over the past year

In April 2017 it was agreed at the Diocesan Synod to adopt the New National Safeguarding guidelines. All PCCs were then asked to adopt the Diocesan Safeguarding Parish Implementation of Safeguarding Policy 2017. It is slightly more complicated in relation to St Martin's church as we share a Safeguarding Policy with the Methodists as well.

At the PCC meeting in July 2017 St Martin's adopted the Church of England "Promoting a Safer Church" Policy Statement, and their national policies which includes a Joint Practice Guidance with the Methodist Church and Practice Guidance of the House of Bishops and supporting diocesan safeguarding protocols.

"Promoting a Safer Church" sets out the Church of England's commitment to making the church a safer place for all.

The Policies and Practice Guidance applies to all Church bodies and officers and under new legislation all authorised clergy, bishops, archdeacons licensed readers and lay workers, churchwardens and PCCs must have due regard to safeguarding guidance issued by the House of Bishops.

The Policy Statement, Policies, Guidance and Protocols are available to view on the diocesan website at

www.cofeguildford.org.uk/safeguardingpolicy

As a PCC we are committed to the support, nurture and protection of all in our church community.

In July 2017 the safeguarding team at the diocese launched a new e-learning training module CORE O, which was directed at those people who needed a basic level of awareness relating to safeguarding or as a precursor for other training. This is now under review and the diocese has meanwhile brought in another e-learning module CORE 1 which will replace any face to face training.

In November we offered a Parish Safeguarding training session, which was very popular, and we had a very engaging and informative trainer. Having "in house" sessions saves a lot of people's time by not having to travel over to Guildford to attend a training session.

All the relevant guidance, forms and updates are now only available on line, which means that it is now accessible to everybody, and that anybody who has a concern about safeguarding or what course they should be doing can access it easily.

Having safeguarding training accessible through e-learning does make it generally more convenient for people, but it is important to remember that talking to other people and sharing ideas and experiences are also an invaluable source of training and reflection.

*Anne Whibberley
Safeguarding Lead (St Martin's Church)*

SMURFS (St Martin's Under FiveS)

SMURFS has continued to evolve over the past year, as new ideas have been tried and tested and some old favourite activities have stood their ground. We currently welcome an average of twelve children each week. Our Facebook page continues to provide a forum to publicise events and term dates, and respond to questions from parents. We have also seen some new families as a result of publicity from staff members at the Christian Centre.

We have continued to provide a fruit snack for children each week, and, whilst this has proved more time-consuming and costly, it has been welcomed by parents. We have also invested in some new craft resources and sorted through some more tired-looking toys, some of which have found new homes as they were no longer suitable for use at SMURFS.

In November we thanked Marie-Noelle for her help over the last eighteen months, as she stood down from a coordinating role to have her second baby in December.

Ailis and Amy continued to co-ordinate the group alone until January 2018, when they formed a small team of volunteers to help. Two volunteers now help each week, meaning that Ailis and Amy are able to have some Fridays off, which is welcome!

Co-ordinating the group involves organising the volunteers' rota and ensuring that supplies of craft materials and tea/coffee/biscuits, etc. are kept up to date. As our volunteers are new to the role of setting up/packing away, we are also making sure that a more experienced volunteer is present whilst new volunteers are finding their feet. As co-ordinators, we also keep an eye on the kitty, enabling us to ensure that there is enough money for our activities, toy maintenance, etc. We hope that this arrangement can continue in the short term, although in the long term, as Ailis and Amy look to increase their working hours and their children get older, the responsibility will need to pass to St Martin's.

We feel we must emphasise that it is not a prerequisite that someone who has young children helps with SMURFS! On the contrary, we have found that having our children at the session often makes the job rather harder for us, as we are supervising them in addition to overseeing the session and helping others. We would welcome any members of the congregation who would like to come along, even just to sit and chat to parents, drink tea and eat biscuits; this all contributes towards creating a welcoming atmosphere for people.

We would also encourage staff to consider other, similar, playgroup models which run weekly with support from a congregation and parents. For example, Small Fry (on Wednesdays at the URC) and groups at St Paul's. There is much that may be learned from them. It is possible that a joint

enterprise could also be set up between churches in order to maintain the presence of SMURFS.

We have faced some further challenges at SMURFS this year, as we have found the hall space is sometimes neglected. Whilst we have greatly enjoyed the new floor in the hall (the room is cleaner and fresher, and a much nicer space to be in!), we were saddened by the filthy floor tiles which were dumped on the side for several weeks, alongside rusty nails and even a discarded knife blade. This was a huge health and safety issue, which was largely ignored. It was, in fact, Ailis who quietly and singlehandedly brought her car, loaded up the tiles and took them to the tip. There was also a broken cupboard door for several weeks, which simply needed re-hanging (not ideal when running a playgroup with small children), and a further door continues not to close properly.

At our Christmas 2017 and Easter 2018 playgroup sessions we welcomed some of the clergy at St Martin's. We hope to forge firmer links here, so that SMURFS may be integrated more into Church life. The representation of Church staff also led to a feeling that the group was recognised and valued more by St Martin's, which our coordinators appreciated.

We would like to thank formally the staff at St Martin's and the Christian Centre for supporting us: office staff for liaising with Clergy and Church staff, managing hall bookings and helping us know when we can come in at additional times to sort toys, etc.; staff in the kitchen for their help in providing us with hot water for our teas and coffees; and other staff in the Christian Centre for providing us with a jug of cold water each week.

Our aims for the upcoming year:

- To continue to grow the team of volunteers and coordinators to ease pressure on each member, and to accommodate absence through illness, etc.
- To continue to improve links with St Martin's Church in order to integrate the playgroup more into its daily life, providing families with information and offering support.
- To liaise with St Martin's to devise a long-term action plan to ensure the continued running of SMURFS in the long term.
- To continue to sort through the existing resources and prioritise which toys, etc. are suitable and of most use. (This will consequently facilitate packing away the toys, as space is limited!)

Amy Ward

St Martin's Primary School

Inspiring children to be the best they can be

At St Martin's, we continue to strive to present a broad and engaging curriculum as well as to ensure that increasingly more children leave our school, at the 'expected standard' or beyond.

Our delivery of Forest Schools continues to give every Year 2 child the opportunity to enjoy the delights of Ranmore Common. The aims include developing independence, working co-operatively, risk taking and problem solving. Children return to the classroom with renewed confidence and a greater determination to be successful.

We continue to build in 'Wow Days' every half-term, as a way of capturing the children's imagination and ensuring that they really engage with and enjoy their learning. These days have become an embedded feature of our school and the children speak very highly of the experiences which they enjoy. We continue to keep our link with a school in Shanghai going, and our deputy head and two children visited the Chang Zheng Central Primary School at the end of March. We also enjoy the huge benefits of working with Bible Explorers, who do such an amazing job of tripping our Y5 and Y6 children through the Old and the New Testaments.

This year we have also invested more in our wonderful outdoor area, building in an all-weather track and some other activities including a small climbing wall and a range of challenges so that the children to enjoy more active break-times.

Our IT provision is now particularly strong and we are able to provide more frequent access to Chrome Books. As we have, with the help of The Friends of St Martin's, been able to purchase 3 cabinets plus a small selection for children with SEND to work with. We have much to thank the parents for as they work hard throughout the year to help us to continue to provide resources which we are no longer able to provide easily ourselves.

St Martin's enjoyed a number of successes in a range of sporting events, achieving a GOLD MARK, winning the District Sports outright and securing a range of other silverware, which we provide proudly in the entrance to the school.

Jane Gorecka

St Mary's Junior Church

Junior Church continues to encourage more children to attend church through personal invitations sent out by Mary Cowan. Although usually only two children attend for the first two Sunday's of the month, at least 4 and sometimes six attend the family services. The Rise and Shine and Pixham Praise services are very family friendly and it is hoped that this will encourage more families to attend.

Pixham reaches out to the local community and promotes the services and other church activities e.g. barn dance, through the local area email system. It is hoped that the large number of local families that come to the annual crib service on Christmas Eve will be encouraged to attend other services throughout the year and that their children will come to Junior Church.

Junior Church takes place every week and whenever a baptism take place all the children in the congregation are invited to take part in that week's activity. At the end of the service the children are invited out to the front to show and talk about the related Bible activity that they have been learning about. This is always popular with all the children and the congregation are always very generous with their praise or tasting any offerings, even if they are burnt or under cooked!

I would like to thank the children, congregation and the clergy for their continued support of Junior Church at St. Mary's, Pixham.

Anne Brown

1st Dorking (St Martin's) Rainbows

1st Dorking, St. Martin's Rainbow unit meet on a Thursday afternoon in the Christian Centre. We have 15 Rainbows (Girls aged 5-7 years) and we try to plan the program around the Girlguiding Rainbow themes of Look, Learn, Laugh and Love. The unit supports the 12 church goals by Nurturing education - we have good fun, but learn key values whilst at Rainbows..... respect for each other and for the wonderful world in which we live, being polite, being caring, working individually and in groups with our friends. We are very grateful to the Christian Centre who provide our meeting place.

We are blessed with a new regular helper at Rainbows, Erin, and we are all looking forward to lots of exciting activities this term as the weather gets warmer!

Bobbie Everson
Rainbow Leader 07896116710

1st Dorking (St Martin's) Scout Group

It has been a busy and exciting year for the 1st Dorking (St Martin's) Scout group.

For many years we have been saying that we would like to open a second Beaver Colony and Cub Pack and so in September 2017 with the help of Claire Morris, the County Development officer, we took the plunge and started the process to open the new sections. On the 16th January 2018 we formally opened the new sections with a mass investiture of leaders and young people. At this year's St George's Day Parade, we will dedicate the flags for the new sections to the memory of Vic Viner who was our Honorary Group President.

1st Dorking (St Martin's) Scout Group celebrates in 110 birthday this year and we will be holding a group

camp in September to celebrate this remarkable achievement.

The varied and interesting programmes for our Beavers, Cubs and Scouts have included a wide range of opportunities and training, both indoors and out, focused on the purpose of Scouting “to contribute to the development of young people in achieving their full physical, intellectual and spiritual potentials”.

We participated in the annual Rotary Club Swimathon raising money for Cancer Research Dorking and our own Group funds.

None of this would have been possible without the dedication of all our leaders who give up their time to ensure all the young people in the group can flourish.

David Collett
Group Scout Leader
1st Dorking (St Martin’s) Scout Group

9th Dorking (St Martin’s) Brownies

Last year I reported that we had a lot of older (10year old) girls in the unit - these girls all moved on (many to Guides) during the summer term, and so for the last few terms our numbers have been relatively low. However, Brownies continue to be popular and we have recently welcomed a number of new younger brownies, bringing our numbers back up again.

In the summer we worked for the (local) cultures badge, and a special ‘neigh’ challenge badge (all

about horses). These included a visit to Dorking Museum, and Bocketts farm (including a pony ride). We also spent an evening exploring the church, and finding out about Ralph Vaughan Williams and counting how many ‘horses’ we could find in the church (most involved St Martin!)

During the autumn term, we worked for our Friend to Animals badge and repeated the popular Chocolate challenge again. This included our ‘Chocolate Brownies’ harvest festival display in church and prompted the first of my sermons on a chocolate theme! We were delighted to hold a brownie holiday weekend again this year at the Guiding site in Cobham, including a visit to the neighbouring Painshill Park.

With changes to the Guiding programme coming soon, this last term we have been finding out about Brownie Traditions. This included trying on some old uniforms, and finding out what Brownies used to do, but thinking about what we would like to do in the future. We also held a joint Sleepover with the URC brownies to celebrate World Thinking day.

Once again I would like to thank all those who help make brownies so successful: for the time and care that goes into providing a fun and beneficial environment for all our young people. We do always need additional help at our brownies and other units in the area. Please contact me for more information.

Di Sutherland (Brown Owl)



Church Related Organisations

Bible Reading Fellowship

I ordered and distributed Bible study notes to six people three times in the course of the year.

Sally Lowe

Choir and Music Team

Over the past twelve months the choir has continued its efforts to provide a meaningful contribution to worship at St Martin’s in keeping with its longstanding tradition and to the high standards encouraged by our Directors of Music over the years, each in his own style.

We were sorry to say goodbye to Martin Hall after our Nine Lessons & Carols at the end of 2017; our thanks to him particularly for the introduction of some beautiful 16th century anthems previously unknown to us. Last autumn our choral scholar Delphine, whom we all miss very much, went up to university but like so many of our young people in the past, loyally swells the ranks during vacations when she can.

Since December we have again been supported both for services and choir practices by our freelance organist friends, in particular Ed Sutton, Kathryn Leeke, James Stanton and John Philpott. They have

ensured that we not only have someone to play the hymns for you on Sunday mornings but that we also sing anthems and keep up our Choral Evensongs - please support us!

Highlights of the year included two cathedral visits - one with Martin Hall to Southwark last summer and more recently to St Paul’s Cathedral with Martin Ellis, ably accompanied at the amazing organs in those glorious buildings on both occasions by Ed Sutton. Singing Bach’s Cantata for Palm Sunday as part of our evening ‘Choral Devotion for Palm Sunday’ under Kathryn’s direction was also a lovely experience, particularly with the soloists and instrumentalists she had gathered together.

We now await a new Director of Music, one of whose objectives over time will be to recruit some trebles again for the front row -you may remember when we had a dozen! Do get in touch with me meanwhile if you know of anyone whose children might be interested.

Debs Bunn

Churches Together in Dorking

The success of CTD can be seen equally in events and initiatives organised under the CTD banner and in the level of cooperation between Christian congregations and individuals in Dorking and the surrounding villages. The most well-known of these is perhaps the Foodbank but at the United Service at the URC in January we heard about various joint initiatives in our town including e.g. 'Be Me' courses for vulnerable young people, Christians Against Poverty and a number of other examples as well. The reaction over coffee afterwards of many who were there was "I didn't know about that". Of course there have also been CTD-umbrella events e.g. the Walk of Witness on Good Friday, and the Great Get Together last summer: a family fun day which attracted members of the public as they walked through the churchyard.

An information gathering exercise has been performed whereby each church has completed a questionnaire giving details of its activities for e.g. different age groups. The results showed gaps and also areas where we could cooperate more. (Many thanks to Rowan Nunnerley for collating all the information.) As potential areas are considered, the intention is that we:

- celebrate what we, the various congregations do, both together and separately. As part of this there will be a joint service on the evening of Sunday 29th April at St Joseph's. Please come!
- pray for each other. At that service a 'prayer schedule' will be launched where all the congregations in Dorking are invited to pray for a particular congregation each week.
- reflect on our mission together possibly in cross-congregational prayer groups in Advent or Lent.

In this way CTD can continue to help us celebrate unity, not uniformity and work more effectively together in God's service in the town and area.

Debs Bunn

Flower Arrangers

Not a great deal to report from last year but would firstly like to thank all those on the rota who arrange and donate the flowers for the high altar. Unfortunately these are decreasing in number and this means some people cover two or three times in the year. Please let us know if we could add your name to the list.

In order that everyone could be involved for the Easter decorating - a very simple idea which needed no flower arranging expertise - we prepared covered jars with paper and then the daffodils and tulips could be popped into them. We would like to thank those who came and helped with this. Special thanks go to Andrew and his family for the beautiful Easter garden.

Again, thanks to all who come and help decorate the church not only at Easter but at all the festivals throughout the year.

Sandy Hine and June Chapman

Friends of St Martin's Church

The principal activity of the Friends of St. Martin's Church is the preservation, maintenance and renewal of the building of the Church of St. Martin's, Dorking, and its fabric, furniture and fittings. Before 2008, the Friends had to raise money to fund this work but, during 2008, the Trust received the bulk of a legacy, in the region of £500,000, from Miss Lambourne. This has transformed the financial position of the Trust. The Trustees believe that the most prudent course is to keep around half of the legacy on deposit for future needs of the church, and use the other half both to support the church in its maintenance needs and to contribute a major scheme in memory of Miss Lambourne.

During 2017, the Friends helped to pay for an inspection of the tower and steeple which revealed that some immediate repairs are required but that in general the tower is good condition. The repairs were carried out in March 2018. The Friends also shared the cost of the church architect's fees with the Parochial Church Council.

In February 2018, the four evangelist heads set in the walls above the choir stalls were cleaned and restored by Cliveden Conservation. It is worth looking at these carvings through a pair of binoculars since they really are splendid. April 2018 will mark the 150th anniversary of the dedication of the chancel.

Further cleaning and restoration of the chancel and the cleaning of the encaustic floor tiles is planned for later in 2018 and into 2019.

We would welcome new members. If you are reading this and not a Friend of St. Martin's, then please do consider joining - forms are available at the back of church.

Andrew Dorman, Secretary

Julian Meeting

The Julian Meeting, when at full strength, currently has six members. We meet in one of the upstairs meeting rooms of the Christian Centre at 7.30 pm on the third Tuesday of the month. The meeting starts and ends with a reading, and in between we have half an hour of silent, contemplative prayer. The object is to encourage one another in the practice of silent prayer and to strengthen our prayer life (an aspect of making disciples, to use the language of 'Transforming Church, Transforming Lives'). There is always room for more, and new members are welcome, but, with only six regulars, it sometimes happens that there aren't enough of us to make the meeting viable, so if you are thinking of trying us out it may be a good idea to check with Chris or Veronica Watts at 01306 640 775 first, just to make sure.

Chris Watts

The William Cole Church Music Trust and Lunch Time Recitals

The William Cole Church Music Trust has nurtured education over the years by helping many organ and choral scholars achieve their potential, enabling them to read music at Universities and making very successful careers in music.

We have also reached beyond borders by encouraging a wide audience to come to our Music at Midday recitals, on the first Saturday in each month.

During this last year we have seen a successful and varied programme given by many very generous recitalists who perform for us without payment. We have another exciting programme for 2018.

In July we are celebrating Vaughan Williams' 60th anniversary of his death. On Saturday 7 July we are very fortunate to be able to hear Dan Collins from "The 16" singing at the midday recital and this will be followed in the evening by a concert by the Martineau Singers, together with Dan Collins. Dan has performed for us before and we are very grateful to him for giving his time.

We said goodbye to Delphine Boagey, our Choral Scholar in the summer. Delphine is now reading Music at Bristol and is hoping to spend the autumn term of her 2nd year in New York, furthering her studies and experience.

We are also indebted to Martin Hall, for his input during his time as Director of Music and wish him well in his new post at Redhill St. John. We also were sorry to say goodbye to Karen Borrett, our Organ Scholar, who sensibly and understandably translated to Redhill with Martin.

It is important that we maintain our choral traditions at St. Martin's and so please do support us on the first Saturday of the month when we are sure you will enjoy the wide range of recitals.

Judy Peace

The Magazine Team

Our magazine is a brilliant form outreach and continues to publish eleven issues a year. We intend to update the layout during the coming year. Many thanks to our regular contributors who send in articles and make the magazine such an interesting and varied publication. Thanks to the advertisers, committee and the distribution team. Many thanks also to Anne Brown for invoicing and sourcing new advertisers. We would appreciate more advertisers, so if anyone knows of a business that might be interested, please encourage them to contact us. Whenever you use one of our advertisers remember to mention the magazine.

The editorial team would love to hear from our readers with suggestions for improvements, articles and letters.

Christine Francis

Quiet Garden

The Quiet garden has adjusted to the new layout of our new home and is now back to the twice monthly pattern of alternate Fridays. We have a loyal core of 10 ladies representing different church backgrounds and at the moment are finding a series of DVDs very helpful on the 7 laws of spiritual life. Any new member would be most welcome, especially as we have lost 2 members through their deaths last year. The morning starts at 11.00am and finishes after lunch at about 2pm. Contact me on 01306 885341 for more info.

Mary Cowan

St Martin's and Ranmore Bell Ringers

The 12 Goals are

1. Making disciples
2. Increasing believer numbers ✓
3. Growing ministry to youth and children
4. Developing lay leaders
5. Recruiting more clergy
6. Cultivating community partnerships ✓
7. Reaching beyond borders ✓
8. Nurturing education ✓
9. Encouraging generous giving
10. Sharing expertise ✓
11. Communicating effectively ✓
12. Improving church buildings ✓

I am pleased to say that we rang for all our services. We are a band split between St Barnabas and St Martin's, usually ringing at St Barnabas on the second Sunday of the Month. I feel we are one of the most obvious ways in which we call and encourage parishioners to the service. It is also important to realise that some of our parishioners who are unable to attend do find comfort in the sound of the bells.

Unfortunately we lost two good ringers when they moved away. This has focused us on the problem of recruitment. As part of our recruitment, I would like to teach 2 or 3 practising parishioners to ring, perhaps retired and looking to do something new. I hope that the idea that ringing allows gentle cardiovascular exercise and promotes mental agility, two things that are being mentioned as important in the news, will encourage interest. Later on in the year I intend to try and attract ringers who are not part of the church, perhaps with the hope of them then joining in church activities. Ringing can be enjoyed by a wide range of ages and we are set up to help teach and interest youngsters. A good band has a range of ability and of ages: we fulfil the former but our average age is quite high with over half our band being retired. Retired people are very useful because they have time to be able to ring and are

around during the week to ring for weddings and are, in general, quite organised.

Lastly, I would like to say that the community of ringers does mean that we are involved in working in wider environs, visiting other churches and sharing expertise both on a local and regional level.

We were able, just under 20 years ago, to replace a heavy 8 by a lighter 10 - all the money was raised by the ringers and it means that there is less money needed from the church. It also means that the sound control was put in and we can ring the front 6 for a service and it sounds nice!

Paul Beeken, Tower Captain

St Mary's Church, Pixham

Looking through the calendar for the past year at St Mary's work has gone on which I will cover under three different headings:

Worship

Our pattern of services is now well established and meets the need for a balance between the more formal Holy Communion and informal family-friendly Pixham Praise or Rise & Shine. We are grateful for worship led by Derek, Stuart Peace, Chris Watts and Dave Cowan as well as Elizabeth Dobson on occasion, combining it with managing her Traidcraft stall. Attendance numbers have been variable but always maintaining a core of regular worshippers who have grown in fellowship and benefitted from biblical teaching. Christmas services such as Carols by Candlelight and the Crib Service went well though with numbers probably down on previous years.

Events

Another successful Heritage Open Day took place on 9th September with much work put in by Peter Shelley to augment the usual displays of the church's history and its place in the Pixham community as well as organising music from piano and French horn.

The now annual Barn Dance was held on 3rd February thanks to Ann Brown's enthusiasm and hard work. We are also grateful to her for again collecting and delivering Christmas gifts and Easter eggs to Send Prison.

The church has now been used regularly during term time by the Surrey Academy of Ballet who have increased their hours to a total of 10 on two separate days. This has helped to increase church income by about £150 per week.

Fabric and Buildings

The appearance of all the church rooms including vestry, kitchen, toilets, lobby and main meeting room has been greatly enhanced by a complete redecoration which took place in November last year. A large unsightly cupboard on the north wall was also removed, helping to enlarge the space and make it more attractive for use by outside groups

such as an Alpha day course which took place in January.

Long-awaited work on the guttering and other rainwater goods is finally taking place as I write and we look forward in due course to repairs to stonework in order to keep this Lutyens designed and listed building in the condition it deserves. Recommended electrical work is also pending which we hope can take place in the next few weeks.

We continue to be grateful to Peter Shelley for his persistence in tackling the heating of the church which now reaches a comfortable 68 degrees Fahrenheit on Sunday mornings with the help of fan heaters and early turning on.

Although a sad note to end on, we greatly miss Alison Lanning who died last October after many years of faithful worship at both St Barnabas and St Mary's. Her funeral was held at St Martin's and attended by well over a hundred people.

Julie Mellows

Traidcraft

During 2017 the Traidcraft stall was open for business on 18 Sundays at St Martin's, and 9 at St Mary's Pixham, as well as at 2 Christian Centre coffee mornings (one during Fairtrade Fortnight in February and one in November). In addition I continued the arrangement with the Dorking Quaker Meeting, taking the stall there on four Sundays, at roughly quarterly intervals, and in addition selling some Philippines-made products at the Women's World Day of Prayer service (which last year came from the Philippines, and was hosted by the Quakers).

Our stall's turnover with Traidcraft plc during 2017 was £3376.89 (2016 £3919.85), down slightly on last year. Including the individual orders as well as takings at the stall, sales to St Martin's totalled £823.08 (2016 £808.26); to Pixham £341.80 (2016 £383.03); and to the Quakers £815.09 (2016 £1059.47), out of which £57.95, representing the 10 per cent average profit margin from the stalls at the Meeting, was given to the Quakers to allocate as they saw fit. Over the course of the year sales to the Christian Centre totalled £272.11 (2016 £140.08) (supplied at cost price). At the two Centre coffee mornings £618.35 worth of goods were sold (2016 £441.25), and orders from friends outside the church came to £62.75. In addition my family placed orders through the stall totalling £604.88 (2016 £944.03). At year end the cost price of the stock held was £1091.11 and cash in hand £1346.70 (a substantial proportion of the cash has since been invested in new stock during January and February).

In the course of the year donations totalling £283.97 have gone to Traidcraft Exchange (the associated development charity) from the coffee mornings. The work of Traidcraft and Traidcraft Exchange continues to make a very real difference to the lives not just of the farmers and craft workers who actually produce

the goods sold, but of their whole communities: hundreds of thousands of beneficiaries. And it is genuinely the case that Fairtrade done the Traidcraft way goes a great deal further than either the

supermarkets' or the multinational brands' versions. So please keep purchasing!

Elizabeth Dobson

Finance

Treasurer's Report

A cursory look at the accounts gives the impression that St Martin's is well off financially with £1M of assets at year end. This is somewhat misleading. These accounts are consolidated financial statements of St Martin's Church with St Mary's Pixham and a number of related charities.

Charity / Fund	Unrestricted	Restricted	Endowment	Total Funds
St Martin	129,509	120,145	410,139	659,793
Other Charities	-	-	344,907	344,907
St Mary	23,024	2,797	-	25,821
TOTAL	152,533	122,942	755,046	1,030,521

St Martin's Church general expenditure in 2017 exceeded its income once again. This is despite the significant new income stream from the rent of the buy-to-let flat totalling £9,940 after management expenses and routine maintenance costs. The tenants have extended their lease for 2018. The flat was bought as the result of a generous large legacy to St Martin's Church. Other legacies, large and small, have provided significant funds over the past 15 years amounting to a little over £200K to St Martin's, and a further £14K to St Mary's. The general fund deficit is sustainable in the short term. Efforts in 2017 remained more focussed on growing the church numerically - and spiritually - rather than grow income directly from current members. It is intended to hold a Time & Talents / Stewardship campaign shortly in mid 2018. It was again a good year for the stock market and thus the year end value of market linked investments. Some of the gain over recent years in an un-restricted fund was capitalised during the year whilst the stock market was high. Without this about

80% of the fund value at year end would have been exposed to market fluctuations. Once again bid values rather than mid market valuations have been used to value funds.

Parish share for 2017 was up slightly on the 2016 level and the full amount requested was paid during the year: the matter of the unpaid element relating to 2011 (£23K) remains open with the Diocese and is not included in the figures shown in the accounts. There is a further small increase in share for 2018 bringing the annual total to £65,674. Guildford Diocese recently issued figures showing roughly what the share would have been for 2018 on the new basis planned for 2019: this shows an increase of £1,707 or 2.6%.

We remain most grateful to Friends of St Martin's (a separate registered charity number 283966) for their continuing support in undertaking works and providing funds for projects for the upkeep of church fabric. This is enabling restoration and improvements to be undertaken without the need for fund-raising. At some point the main church building will need re-decoration, last done over 50 years ago: the cost of this will be such that specific fund raising will be needed. It remains the case that routine maintenance items should normally be funded from the church's own resources.

St Mary's also made a further loss on general funds (£4,795) but much of this is because of the cost of redecorating the parish room. A new regular booking boosting income started in 2017 and continues in 2018. Some significant repairs were identified in the most recent quinquennial inspection. Progress is being made identifying contractors and costs for these and it is expected that fund raising will be needed to complete them. Unlike St Martin's there is no 'Friends' organisation to provide funds.

Nick Hands-Clarke

Report from Revd Derek Tighe

2017 ... where on earth did this year go! As in previous years I am going to begin by addressing the situation as it relates to music in our worship. Unfortunately, 2017 saw the departure of our most recently acquired Director of Music, Martin Hall. Both during his tenure and since his departure, our musicians have continued to provide the musical lead for our worship at St Martin's and, although I have said this before, I would remind everybody that this does not just happen - behind this apparently

effortless continuity there are people, without whom, such a steady musical lead could not be maintained: we continue to be very grateful indeed to all of those who have carried out, and continue to carry out many of the practical duties of a Director of Music for us during the run up to our next appointment: training the choir, conducting them and playing at services. And then there are those that we regularly call upon to accompany our worship from the organ console. But, of course, they and our singers are the more visible face of music at

St Martin's. None of this happens without a great deal of unseen work on the part of Thurza, the choir's librarian, and Debs Bunn, without whom we would not have the proper personnel in place when we need them—amongst other things. To all of those who have worked so hard to maintain the musical opus at St Martin's during the past year we all owe a debt of gratitude ... as indeed we do to those who maintain the musical accompaniment of worship at St Mary's Pixham and at St Barnabas' Church, who also saw the retirement of their Director of Music during the year.

And then, as always, there those working tirelessly in other ways within our wider faith community, without whom the benefice would certainly struggle to maintain its activities: our wardens, deputy wardens and stewards, treasurers and PCCs at both St Martin's and at St Barnabas' churches, the MCC, the JCC, sides-persons, pastoral assistants and pastoral visitors, not to mention those who ensure that our churches are safe places to be—comfortable, tidy and well maintained, and always well stocked with flowers appropriate to the season and the occasion; those who ring our bells; those who ensure that our magazines appear every month, those who ensure that our churches have their consumables to hand when they need them, and those who strive to ensure that the mountain of paperwork that a benefice such as ours both receives and generates is dealt with swiftly and properly ... on which topic we were delighted to secure the services of Michelle Lelliot during the past year, whose role is to share the administrative workload with Vicki giving us 5 days' coverage in the office. I have absolutely no idea how I or the faith community at large would manage without this small army of dedicated souls.

But I am also aware that much of this work is still falling to a relatively small group of people within the benefice, none of whom are getting any younger. We do need to be thinking now where the next generation of people who will ensure that the work of the benefice in spreading the Gospel of Jesus Christ continues are to be found. And I know that many of you will realize that this is much the same message that I gave exactly a year ago and, oddly enough, a year before that! More so than ever now prayer must be at the centre of all that we do in this benefice. For, whilst we continue to deal very successfully with the maintenance of our buildings - no mean feat in the current economic climate - we are, as a benefice, still faced with the now all too familiar ticking time bomb scenario common to many churches: the age spread of our regular worshipping congregation and the almost total absence of young families. Even more so than ever we have to face up to the reality that we are not growing the faith community - we are not succeeding in the task given us in the great commission ... the task of making Jesus known to those who do not as yet know him. And, whichever way you cut this deck of cards, the

result is the same: this has to begin with us - the existing faith community. During this coming year we really do have to ask ourselves the question, "are we a community that really knows Jesus, or are we a community that knows of Jesus?" If we do not truly know and love Jesus, we cannot possibly excite others about the beauty of our faith in Jesus Christ.

However, having reiterated all of that, I am delighted to be able to report that we continue to make progress in a number of practical areas, not least amongst them the work being carried out upon the West Tower. We also continue to work with our church Architect, Mr Robin Nugent, on a number of projects that we hope to progress and bring to fruition during the coming years. Perhaps most notable amongst these projects is the desire to see designed and installed a sympathetic audio visual system. In a 21st century where flexible media capability is the norm it is completely unrealistic to see a thriving place of worship without access to such capabilities.

Again, amongst the successes of the past year I must list the continued use of St Martin's church building as a focus for the enormously successful appeals for aid for Syria when, yet again, the south side of the church housed ever growing mountains of clothes, shoes, blankets and other items generously donated by the people of Dorking in an effort to help Syrian refugees facing an appalling situation on the road or in refugee camps. I remain deeply moved by the generosity shown during these appeals, and I expect there to be more during the coming year ... a thought which, on the one hand, heartens me greatly whilst at the same time saddening me deeply: when will the time come, I wonder, that God's children cease to be treated in such appalling ways that this sort of help is necessary?

The realities that I spoke of twelve months ago are still with us: we have run discipleship courses, and will now continue to do so. However, perhaps one of the biggest achievements of 2017 has been the inception of a new act of Family Worship, taking place on the 3rd Sunday of each month in St Martin's at 4pm. This act of worship is aimed squarely at families of all ages and is quite unlike any other worship that we offer in St Martin's. Perhaps the major feature of this new service is that it is a joint venture between St Martin's, St Paul's and St John's churches. Through this particular act of outreach we are focussing not only on the relative absence of younger families in our worship, but also how the church extends its welcome to those who do not yet know Christ. Moreover, through the way in which we focus, in these services, on the Value for the Month at St Martin's School, we continue to seek to actively strengthen our links with our local schools.

St Mary's in Pixham (St Martin's daughter church) does a marvellous job, through the ongoing work of Dave and Mary, of offering families with young children in the Pixham community and beyond fun

and exciting opportunities to find their way into fuller membership of the faith community in Pixham. Dave and Mary also continue to offer their regular pattern of Sunday worship: Holy Communion, Morning Prayer, Pixham Praise and Rise and Shine. On a more practical note, however, we still are aware that this is not an easy building to heat and, like all of the buildings which we are privileged to be custodians of, it is a building that requires continual care to be lavished upon it. It is all too easy to focus on the team of people that keep the St Martin's show on the road; we should also be mindful of the team of people that perform similar duties at St Mary's ... to whom I extend my deep gratitude.

St Barnabas Church continues to provide the benefice with a place of worship that focuses on worship drawn largely from the 1662 Book of Common Prayer (BCP). St Barnabas, just like St Mary's, has a faithful and committed congregation of regular worshippers and is very much noted for the warmth of its welcome, particularly as it continues to open its doors to couples who wish to be married there (for a whole variety of reasons) and also to offer its popular Afternoon Teas during the summer months, its summer Cherry Fair and Christmas fair. However, I would be failing them if I omitted to

mention the fact that the community of worshippers at St Barnabas has also invested a great deal of time and effort in the creation of family focussed service there at 4pm once a quarter. This is no mean feat and I congratulate them on this.

Both as a benefice and as individual churches, we have challenging years ahead and I ask for your prayers for me and all the leadership team and those who minister to us day by day - my colleagues The Reverend Dave Cowan, The Reverend Stuart Peace and The Reverend Mike Stewart ... those step in from time to time to reinforce the line and our Licensed Lay Ministers Chris Watts and Terry Ellis, and Mary Cowan.

There are many more that I probably could and should mention (including all the 'other halves' who, I know, put up with so much), but I have written far too much already! To all who minister in whatever way to this faith community, I extend an inestimable 'thank you' for all that you do. May all our work during the coming year be for God, of God and blest by God.

The Reverend Derek Tighe



INDEX

Achievements and performance.....	2	9 th Dorking (St Martin's) Brownies.....	12
Report from the Churchwardens.....	2	Church Related Organisations.....	12
Minutes of the April 2017 Annual Meetings.....	3	Bible Reading Fellowship.....	12
Electoral Roll & Deanery Synod Reports.....	4	Choir and Music Team.....	12
Electoral Roll Report.....	4	Churches Together in Dorking.....	13
Deanery Synod Report.....	4	Flower Arrangers.....	13
Annual Report of the PCC for 2017.....	5	Friends of St Martin's Church.....	13
Aims and purposes.....	5	Julian Meeting.....	13
Objectives and activities.....	5	The William Cole Church Music Trust and Lunch Time Recitals.....	14
Achievements and performance, ctd.....	6	The Magazine Team.....	14
Anglicans and Methodists.....	6	Quiet Garden.....	14
Associate Minister's Report.....	7	St Martin's and Ranmore Bell Ringers.....	14
Pastoral Assistants' Team.....	7	St Mary's Church, Pixham.....	15
Structure, governance & management.....	8	Traidcraft.....	15
PCC Membership.....	8	Finance.....	16
Children and Young People.....	9	Treasurer's Report.....	16
Baptisms.....	9	Fabric and Furnishings.....	Error! Bookmark not defined.
Messy Church at Pixham.....	9	Churchwardens' Report on Fabric, TC,TL Goal 12	Error! Bookmark not defined.
Safeguarding.....	9	Report from Revd Derek Tighe.....	16
SMURFS (St Martin's Under FiveS).....	10	Space for Notes.....	19
St Martin's Primary School.....	11	Agenda for the April 2018 Annual Meetings.....	20
St Mary's Junior Church.....	11		
1 st Dorking (St Martin's) Rainbows.....	11		
1 st Dorking (St Martin's) Scout Group.....	11		

Space for Notes

Agenda for the April 2018 Annual Meetings

Annual Meeting of Parishioners

1. Report from the Churchwardens (*page 2*)
2. Appointment of two Churchwardens 2018-2019

Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM)

1. Apologies for absence
2. Minutes of the April 2017 meetings (*starting on page 3*)
3. Matters Arising

Reports

4. Church Electoral Roll Officer's Report (*page 4*) and Appointment for the coming year
5. Report on the proceedings of the Deanery Synod (*page 4*)
6. Annual Report of the Parochial Church Council (*page 5*)
7. Receive the Reports from our Clergy and other Church Organisations (*page 7 onwards*)
8. Election of representatives to the PCC:
 - a) One LLM (reader) place
 - b) Four members to serve for three years, 2018 to 2021
9. To agree that, "for the APCM in 2019 and in accordance with rule 14(g) of the Church Representation Rules, the minimum number of representatives of the laity will be 12".

Note: the number of representatives is determined by the number on the electoral roll. The rules specify 9 reps for 51-100 on roll, and 12 reps for 101-200 on roll. There is a risk that the new electoral roll next year will be below 100. Agreeing to this proposal allows time for managing the situation.
10. Treasurer's Report: (*page 16*)
 - a) Management Accounts for 2017 and Budget for 2018
 - b) Consolidated Financial Statements for 2017
11. Appointment of Independent Examiner
12. Churchwardens' Report on Fabric and Furnishings (*page 2*)
13. Appointment of Sidespeople:

To agree that anyone on the electoral roll may be invited to serve
14. Announcement of the results of any election votes
15. Matters of General Parochial and Church Interest
Comments and Questions
16. Vicar's closing words and prayers

Proposed date of the next Annual Meetings:

Sunday 28th April 2019 (to be confirmed).

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