

# st martin's DORKING

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

Annual Report 2018

## Annual Parochial Church Meeting Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> April 2019



Registered Charity 1133695

## Achievements and performance

In reviewing the past year and particularly milestones against the Parish Development Plan, it is easy to overlook the regular core worship and ministry life in which both St Martin's and St Mary's are rooted. Almost without exception each month sees up to 20 formal Sunday and Wednesday services across the two churches. Throughout the week probably hardly one hour passes without someone coming into St Martin's to light a candle, say a prayer or simply experience 'holy space'. Our pastoral team supports the needs of many in our community through periods of ill health or other challenge. To these regular occurrences are added the big occasions like the St George's Day service, the end of term school services, Remembrance Day (which had a particular resonance 100 years from the Armistice) and Nine Lessons and Carols when St Martin's large capacity comes into its own. But as we have observed in previous year's reports, the sustainability of those occasions relies on our ability to grow the core week in/week out faith community from present levels.

As this report goes to print we have embarked on a new stewardship, time and talents exercise. In approaching the current membership we are conscious that already many are giving generously of both money and time so expectations there must be realistic. Growing our numbers remains the central challenge. For that, it is notable that 2018 saw the launch (heavily assisted by colleagues from St Paul's) of our new "Fresh expressions" monthly 4pm family service - deliberately designed to appeal to those for whom Sunday morning services may be impractical due to other family commitments and in an informal style that may reach others for whom traditional liturgy is not attractive. Numbers have fluctuated (eg lower when coinciding with half terms etc) but

there is the kernel of a new congregation, though yet to become self-sustaining without that external support. Numbers at other services are still just about flat year-on-year but if one looks at a longer time frame of 5 or 10 years the challenge is obvious. However there are some encouragements; Choral Evensong/Choral Eucharist numbers seem to have picked up again since the recruitment of our new Director of Music in the Autumn. Baptism numbers in 2018 also bounced back after a low figure the previous year. Major festivals do continue to attract good numbers.

In terms of physical milestones, our Chancel is now looking much fresher after redecoration and restoration of the floor tiles in the stalls area; once again we are most grateful to the Friends of St Martin's (FoSM) for making that possible. FoSM also funded the necessary, but thankfully relatively modest, spire repairs following the survey carried out in the previous year. Also encouraging has been physical support from the community in the shape of our Rotarian friends who have helped to conduct several spring blitzes in the churchyard in recent years and which now see it in better condition than for a long time.

Organisationally, a new development at the end of 2018 was the entry into force of a new Dorking Group ministry comprising St Martin's with St Mary's, St Paul's, St Barnabas, Ranmore and St John's North Holmwood and designed to further enhance the existing co-operation evidenced by the 4pm family service, for example, and to offer mutual support in ministry. This had its origin in the desire to promote stronger mission in the Dorking area and will we hope help us meet the challenge of renewal and growth.

## Report from the Churchwardens on Fabric and Furnishings

The main area of progress last year was the chancel where we completed the repair and cleaning of the tiles between the choir and clergy stalls, and in two phases carried out the cleaning and redecoration of the walls - the latter requiring full height scaffolding. Once again we are indebted to the skills of the team from Cliveden who did the work and to The Friends of St Martin's who funded it. The opportunity was taken of the scaffolding across the east end to have experts assess the condition of the main East window. Thought not an imminent danger, this revealed a degree of distortion and pressure cracking of the lower lights - probably due to inadequate strength in the horizontal tie-bars which take much of the strain of the weight of lead and glass. This will need to be addressed before long. Though the problem is confined to the lower level, it will have major cost implications.

At the time of writing we are in the public consultation phase of the faculties (Diocese permissions) sought for:

- (1) removing the sanctuary carpet and restoring the very colourful Victorian tiles there and for laying up another Royal British Legion Standard, and
- (2) for exposing a small trial area of the stencil design which used to decorate part of the chancel walls.

The Diocesan Advisory Committee recommended grant of the faculties so, once we complete the legal process, we hope this work will be carried out in late May. We will also be seeking Archdeacon's permission at the same time to replace the carpet on the chancel extension area with a more sympathetic (and easier to keep clean) colour; that extension carpet is laid on utilitarian timber boarding, not

tiles, which is why relaying the carpet is the only feasible option.

Another item in the “need to do” list concerns the external west door. This looks very shabby to anyone approaching from Church St and, more importantly, the door has suffered a degree of decay at the bottom as well as being extremely difficult to open and close. Unfortunately the door is of an unusual design whose strength depends on the splayed ironwork rather than on an internal framework. Cliveden’s timber experts together with the Church architect have carried out an initial appraisal of the restoration options but the indicative costs were very high and have led us to want competitive approaches from others. The objective is not simply to make the door appear better, but to make it more feasible to use it for special occasions without requiring two persons and a ladder to make it secure again afterwards!

We have recently had the full multi-annual electrical inspection carried out - this revealed a number of relatively minor issues which will need addressing to achieve re-certification. Also due later this year is the lightning conductor test (it is required every two

and a half years by our insurers). This is a reminder of how a 140 year old building does require a constant cycle of maintenance even before one gets on to the major “want to do” improvement items where the highest priority remains the upgrade of the lighting (which is increasingly vulnerable to system failure as well as being very energy-inefficient) and installation of some modern audio-visual capability; the latter would be very much appreciated by schools as well as by concert hirers of the building and also add to the flexibility of worship. At present it is notable that for our 4pm services (which last one hour) a significant number of people have to spend up to two hours in setting up the worship space and up to another hour dismantling it and returning it to storage. I hope we will be able to report some progress on that front in 2020.

At the moment there is a more immediate issue of succession planning to be met. Now who feels inspired by the *Sign me up* campaign to step up?!

*Di and Peter*

## Minutes of the April 2018 Annual Meetings

*Page references are to the report published in 2018.*

Minutes of the Annual Meeting of Parishioners and the Annual Parochial Church Meeting held on Sunday April 29<sup>th</sup> 2018 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.

### Annual Meeting of Parishioners

#### 1. Report from the Churchwardens (see page 2)

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

#### 2. Appointment of Churchwardens 2018-2019

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 Di Sutherland who were therefore declared duly appointed with acclamation.

### Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM)

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

2. **Minutes of the April 2017 APCM (starting on page 3).** The minutes were approved and signed by the Chairman.

#### 3. Matters Arising

Canon Peter Bruinvels reported that plans are out for consultation for a change in boundaries affecting the benefice of Ockley, Okewood and Forest Green and also Capel in the Surrey Weald team. Peter explained that the parishes discuss with the archdeacon how to make the plan work. It then has to be approved by the Deanery committee, the Diocese and by the Church Commissioners. A notice will be put on doors of churches involved.

Diana Burges highlighted it is still not obvious where visitors can make a donation. Nick Hands-Clarke has put a large yellow notice on the slots in the wall. The current range of available donation points is not sufficiently secure for un-manned situations such as ours, but the technology is being developed.

### Reports

#### 4. Church Electoral Roll Officer’s Report and Appointment for the coming year (page 4).

The report showed 137 names including 17 for Pixham, the same numbers as reported in 2017. There were no questions.

Elizabeth Dobson was nominated and declared duly appointed as Electoral Roll Officer for the forthcoming year with acclamation and thanks.

**5. Report on the proceedings of the Deanery Synod (page 4).**

There were no questions or comments on the written report.

**6. Annual Report of the PCC (page 5 onwards).**

There were no questions and the reports were accepted.

**7. Receive the Reports from our Clergy and other Church Organisations (page 7 onwards).**

There were no questions and the reports were accepted. Peter Bruinvels expressed thanks to all clergy and to Dr Chris Watts, our LLM.

**8. Election of representatives to the PCC**

a) One LLM (reader) place. Chris Watts was willing to serve and was duly appointed.

b) Four members to serve for three years, 2018 to 2021

Two people have come to the end of their term of office, Diana Burges and Mike Gibb, and there are two vacancies. Nominations had been received from Diana, Mike and from Judy Peace. In the absence of further nominations they were declared duly elected and the vacant place was left unfilled.

**9. PCC Membership**

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".

It was explained that the number of representatives is determined by the number on the electoral roll. The rules specify nine reps for 51-100 on roll, and twelve 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.

This was AGREED, but hopefully enrolment will be encouraged.

**10. Treasurer's Report (page 16 and separate documents)**

**a) Management Accounts for 2017 and Budget 2018**

Copies had been distributed. Nick Hands-Clarke explained the parish share charts and pie charts on expenditure and income. It is a stark reminder of the financial challenges. Nick encouraged us to use the advertisers in the magazine and encourage new

advertisers as they are very important to the income for the magazine. Nick also expressed how grateful he is to the Friends of St Martin's. He also explained how important bequests have been over the past 20 years.

**b) Consolidated Financial Statements.**

Nick has had confirmation from the independent examiner, and he will be visiting them next week for formal sign off. The statements were received.

**11. Appointment of Independent Examiner**

Nick proposed Messrs hayesmacintyre. This was AGREED.

**12. Churchwardens' Report on Fabric and Furnishings (page 16 onwards).**

After inspection of the spire, there is nothing serious adrift. We need to update the audio/visual and lighting system in church. There is an article in the church magazine giving further details. Peter encouraged us to look in other churches we visit to report back on things we like and dislike.

**13. Appointment of Sidespeople**

The meeting AGREED that anyone on the electoral roll may be invited to serve.

**14. Announcement of election results**  
No announcement needed.

**15. Matters of General Parochial and Church Interest**

Elisabeth Gaunt commented that the newly cleaned paving stones look better and much less slippery. We have entered an objection to the proposed Wetherspoons at the north end of St Martin's Walk on the grounds that it is too big. Colin Burn's plan to create a civic space, involving the churchyard, in the town is still active. Colin has been in touch with Bishop Jo who referred all enquiries to Derek.

Alan Roome suggested the benches near to church be moved to the perimeter of the churchyard to avoid debris.

**16. Vicar's closing words and prayers**

Derek expressed many thanks to the many who do so much. He encouraged us to support the 4pm Family Services. There will be a full stewardship campaign.

The meeting closed with The Grace at 12.50pm.

Proposed date of the next Annual Meetings: Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> April 2019 (to be confirmed).

## Electoral Roll & Deanery Synod Reports

### Electoral Roll Report

A new electoral roll has been prepared this year. It contains 93 names, of which 9 worship principally at St Mary's Pixham. *Elizabeth Dobson*

### Deanery Synod Report

There were two meetings in 2018 as two further planned meetings had to be cancelled at fairly short notice. Synod meets under the joint chairmanship of the Area Dean, Alan Jonas, and Lay Chair, Graham Everness. Graham is currently also acting as Synod Secretary. During 2018, at the end of a three year training program, Graham was licensed as a Lay Minister. In that capacity he has led worship at St Mary's Pixham.

The **April** meeting at Holmbury St Mary featured the Archdeacon of Dorking, Paul Bryer, leading discussions on the challenges and celebrations of "Being Church".

The **June** meeting at (South) Holmwood heard a presentation by Jens Mankel about increasing new believers. A few weeks later Jens gave a similar talk to Diocesan Synod.

At both of these meetings development plans for one or two of the churches were presented and briefly discussed.

The February Synod was due to have a talk from Mark Godson, Rector of Holmbury and Wotton, but he was ill.

The meeting planned for September was to take the form of Safeguarding training (Core 1) but was cancelled through lack of numbers from churches within the Deanery.

Deanery Synod members took part in Diocesan Synod elections to serve from 2018 to 2021. Lay representatives are now Canon Peter Bruinvels, Graham Everness and myself with Clergy reps Ruth Bushyager, Noelle Coe and Liz Richardson. The subsequent Diocesan Synod elections saw Ruth Bushyager and Graham Everness joining Peter Bruinvels on Bishops' Council, and Ruth Bushyager and myself elected to the Vacancy in See Committee (which only meets in the event the position of Diocesan Bishop becomes vacant).

*Nick Hands-Clarke*

## Annual Report of the PCC for 2018

### Aims and purposes

The primary object of each Parochial Church Council is the promotion of the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to the doctrines and practices of the Church of England. The PCC (Powers) 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 St Martin's 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. The Bishop of Guildford implemented a Pastoral Order under Section 17 of the Mission and Pastoral Measure 2011 with effect from 1<sup>st</sup> December 2018. Under this a Group Ministry was established for the benefice of Dorking St Paul, the benefice of Dorking with Ranmore and the benefice of North Holmwood St John the Evangelist.

### 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. The new 4pm Sunday Family Service started in January 2018 with significant support from the clergy and congregation of St Paul's Dorking and continues into 2019.

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 and actively promote and support the Dorking Area Foodbank and the recent Dorking Community Fridge initiative.

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**

Rather like in last year's report, there was a marked contrast between what happened at major festivals and regular Sunday attendance. The latter does seem to have bottomed out but it remains well below what could be regarded as healthy for a major town centre church and well below what we would have expected a decade ago. On a more positive note, attendance at Choral Evensong/Evening Choral Eucharist has increased markedly since last Autumn when our new Director of Music introduced regular post-service "wine and nibbles" - is this simply correlation or really causality?! More seriously we know that some of those people have come through specific personal invitation and others through more modern "marketing" devices like [choralevensong.org](http://choralevensong.org); both channels are what we must increasingly be about. Also very encouraging has been the major increase in numbers of baptisms - many coming about through Derek's profile at St Martin's School.

One disappointment against the otherwise bright picture on major festivals was the decision by the town to drop its early December Gala Night in favour a new late-November gala afternoon. Falling before even Advent Sunday, that really falls too early for something like the Live Nativity which had in

previous years proved such a popular event for bringing the wider Community inside St Martin's. It is a reminder that we need always to be on the lookout for new opportunities to share worship with those we don't currently have as part of our core membership.

One such opportunity in 2018 was the Armistice Centenary which very much raised the profile of Remembrance Sunday. The associated concert with a rollcall of the fallen was a very moving and well-attended occasion, and the display put on in association with Dorking Museum brought many people into St Martin's over the following days. It is a reminder that St Martin's is not just about Sunday morning numbers; the loyal Wednesday congregation and the large numbers who come in during the week to light a candle and say a prayer are in a real sense part of the wider picture on attendance.

As this report goes to press a number of us are involved in the ecumenical Lent Groups which are using the Paula Gooder study book "The Joy of the Gospel" based on Pope Francis' reflections on mission and evangelism in his book of that title. The book challenges the notion that evangelisation is something to be left to "the professional evangelists"; rather it is something we are all charged with doing in whatever way we are comfortable with and equipped for. Growing our numbers is a task for all of us.

*Peter*

During the calendar year 2018, the full PCC met 7 times and the Standing Committee met 6 times. Standing Committee members also met with Methodist Colleagues for Joint Church Council meetings on three occasions. Topics covered during the various meetings include:

### **Outreach and Public Benefit**

- Churches Together and Foodbank
- Local Schools and School Governors
- Links with other faiths
- Remembrance commemorations
- Sunday 4pm Family Service introduction
- Heritage Weekend
- Gala night / afternoon
- Public defibrillator at St Mary's Pixham
- RVW 60 anniversary weekend

### **People**

- Derek, our Incumbent and Authorised Methodist Presbyter
- David Cowan, our Associate Minister
- Chris Watts, Stuart Peace, Terry Ellis
- Director of Music recruitment
- Our Church Administrators
- Church Architect
- Discipleship

### **Sharing Arrangements**

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

## Governance

- Formation of a Group Ministry
- Safeguarding arrangements including training
- GDPR and Data Protection
- Finances and Parish Share
- Electoral Roll Renewal

## Fabric & Church Yard

- Church Quinquennials
- Chancel repairs and restoration
- Financial support from Friends of St Martin's
- Developments of adjacent buildings

Nick

## Anglicans and Methodists

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On 31<sup>st</sup> 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.

## Methodist Report

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Around the Dorking and Horsham Circuit 2018 was a year of some change. Cobham United Church came into being in the spring: Cobham Methodist Church and Cobham United Reformed Church joining in a single-congregation ecumenical partnership, using the URC building; the Revd Linda Russell left Leatherhead, and the Revd Jan Hofmeyr was welcomed in the autumn.

In Dorking, we had the privilege of welcoming the Revd Conrad Hicks, Assistant Chair of District, to lead the Church Anniversary service, with a suitably festive roast lunch afterwards, kindly provided by Sue Jamieson.

During the year we sadly lost Doris Kent and Joyce Peters, both for many years key members of our congregation - in Joyce's case life-long. Further sad news came from Kingston shortly before Christmas, of Shirley Kellett's death. All three will be greatly missed. James Cotton, another staunch Methodist of long standing, moved to Dorking, to Nower Care, in the late summer, but suffered a series of infections that led to his death at Christmas.

Conversations are continuing about the future of Dorking Methodist Church and the governance of the Christian Centre, in view of our declining membership, and we expect to take a proposal to the circuit meeting in September. In the meantime the work of the Christian Centre continues as ever.

The Centre cook, Veronica, who had suffered a serious back injury in May 2017, came to the reluctant conclusion at the end of 2017 that she was not going to be in a position to return. A new cook, Jason, was appointed, and is just coming towards the end of his first year in post. Michelle, the Saturday cook, resigned in February, and since then Hayley has taken on that role. Rowan, the Lay Chaplain, has continued to provide a pastoral presence, as well as running several courses; the circuit has agreed to extend the funding for her post to the end of August 2020. In the building, the floor in the Small Hall was sanded and sealed, which broadens the range of potential hirers for the space; and new CCTV was installed (funded by the JCC) to improve security and safety. The Community Fridge has continued to expand both in the number of outlets from which it collects and in the number of people coming in to see what is on offer, and we are glad to be able to provide them the space. The monthly Care & Repair Café has also brought in a great many new faces.

Many thanks are due to the managers, Janette and Clare, and all the many volunteers who give their time and talents to help the Centre, whether serving in the café, helping in the kitchen, carrying out maintenance, acting as Listeners, serving on the Resources and Finance Committee, or simply being a friendly face. And Dorking Methodist Church would have ceased to exist some time ago were it not for the continued faithful service by Sue Jamieson and John Oborn. A final particular thank-you to Phil Slack, who has for many years been a valued member of the RFC, and has secured us considerable grant funding, but now feels it is time to step down.

*Elizabeth Dobson.*

## Associate Minister's Report

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This report is, of course, supplementary to my main report about Pixham but it gives me the opportunity to focus on two other areas of ministry. The first is "Quiet Garden" which provides much needed fellowship and sharing and hospitality provided by Mary alongside some excellent teaching material on DVD. This is an absolutely vital ministry for many who attend. If you would like to join you are warmly encouraged to contact Mary. Can I reassure you that I am almost always entirely noticeable by my absence!

Secondly it is a great privilege to continue to be involved alongside Derek, Stuart, Mike, Chris and others in the ministry at St Martin's. This is a crucial town centre ministry and we have a unique opportunity to proclaim the gospel, both in formal services as well as to visitors to the church and those who visit the churchyard (sometimes somewhat the worse for wear) as well as those who attend the Christian Centre.

We have a unique privilege and responsibility both to bring the needs and requirements of our fellow citizens to the Lord, but also the Lord's requirement of each one of them and us. The challenge as always is to both comfort the afflicted and afflict the comfortable!

Last, but not least, I would see the challenge for all of us, both at St Martin's and our other two churches, to seek to love and teach the truth and pass that truth down to the next generation who will succeed us. (2 Timothy 2: 2)

*Dave Cowan*

## Pastoral Assistants' Team

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The Pastoral Assistants continue to be a very small band but we are so pleased that Cathy Merrikin has joined us. A group of us went to support her authorisation at Guildford Cathedral in November which was a very moving occasion. 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 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 Romanian 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 47 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

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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 1956, 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, privacy 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 three times during 2018.

### 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 31<sup>st</sup> December 2018, the following served as members of the PCC:

**Incumbent:** Derek Tighe  
**LLM (Reader):** Chris Watts  
**Churchwardens:** Peter Bunn  
Di Sutherland  
**General Synod:** Peter Bruinvels Note 2  
**Deanery Synod:** Peter Bunn  
Nick Hands-Clarke Note 3  
**Pixham Rep:** Julie Mellows Note 4  
**Elected Members:**  
Deborah Bunn  
Diana Burges  
Christine Francis, Secretary

Linda Friend  
Mike Gibb  
Alison Harding  
Christine Lawrence  
Judy Peace  
Alan Roome  
Brian Smith  
Anne Whibberley

*Note 1:* Rev'd David Cowan and Rev'd Stuart Peace have 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:* Canon Peter Bruinvels is *ex officio* on Diocesan and Deanery Synods

*Note 3:* Nick Hands-Clarke also serves on Diocesan Synod.

*Note 4:* The Pixham Representative has not acted as a Charity Trustee.

## Children and Young People

### Baptisms

There was a marked increase in the number of infant baptisms in 2018, 14 compared with 6 in 2017, which is good news.

13 infants were baptised at St Martin's Church and 1 at St Marys, Pixham and included a set of twins, 4 were babies with an older sibling who had been baptised a couple of years earlier at St Martin's or St Marys and all the baptism families, except one, were resident in Dorking. This family had, in fact, previously lived in Dorking and returned from Worthing, as their first child had been baptised at St Martin's and the parents had been married in Dorking.

More baptisms in 2018 were conducted as part of the 10am Sunday Service (8) than privately at 12noon or 12.30pm (6). Revd Derek baptised 9 infants and Revd David 5.

The church continues the tradition of giving each child a baptismal candle, a children's bible and a welcome card, made with love by members of our church congregation and the parents are given a helpful booklet about famous mothers and fathers in the Bible. Older siblings are not forgotten - they are given a small gift too, usually a bible story sticker/colouring book.

With no Sunday School running present, the Toddler group SMURFS now only meeting once a month and Messy Church not running at Pixham, I pray that someone with a love of teaching will come forward soon to help our younger children hear the stories in the bible and learn about Jesus, on a regular basis once more.

*Diana Burges, Baptism Assistant*

### Safeguarding

As Charity trustees all PCC members are responsible for ensuring good safeguarding practices in the parish and that safeguarding is a governance priority. This is upheld by updating and renewing the Parish's Safeguarding Policy and Policy Statement each year.

At the moment the key emphasis is on ensuring that we follow the National Training Guidance, under which from May 2019 it will be mandatory that all PCC members undertake the recommended training as set out by the House of Bishops Guidance. This has already been actively promoted and in the majority achieved. The training needs of other members of the church body are also promoted in order to follow the recommendations.

In order to ensure a safer environment for all, there is now an increased emphasis on ensuring Safer Recruitment Practices are undertaken, and that Risk Assessments and Self Audits are completed. The purpose of the Audit is so that PCCs in consultation with other activity and group leaders can review safeguarding procedures and identify areas where perhaps some advice and support might be useful from the safeguarding team.

Now that all DBS checks are completed online this makes life much easier for both the person being checked and the checker. Whereas before it could take many weeks for the form to be processed, now it will usually only take a matter of days for the form to be activated once it has been submitted online.

Safeguarding has become much more "in the news" now, particularly because of the historic failures of institutions like the church to investigate the abuse of children. Consequently procedures and practices have tightened up quite significantly since I took on

the role as St Martin's Safeguarding Representative back in 2009. As a church we cannot afford to be complacent and have a duty to ourselves and the members of our church family to ensure that we all work together in ensuring that we continue to maintain that safe environment always.

*Anne Whibberley*

### **SMURFS (St Martin's Under FiveS)**

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I have been helping with this group since July of last year in response to their appeal for help and support from St Martin's congregation.

When I started helping, the group met weekly, but was on the point of closing because the two mums who had been running it had been doing so for quite a long while and their children were on the point of outgrowing the group and moving on to school.

Eventually, just as Ailis and Amy were finally about to give up, back in the autumn, two of the mums volunteered to run the group, once a month on the first Friday of the month. In fact there are now three mums helping to run the group with getting out the toys and putting everything back etc.

This has proved successful so far with about a dozen or so mums meeting on each occasion. It is a cheerful group where mums can sit and chat with a cup of tea or coffee and the children have free play with various pieces of equipment and toys, dressing up, books, crafts etc and a sing-song. The children also sit down and have a healthy snack before the end of the session.

The mums are a lovely bunch of people, as are the children. Feel free to come and visit us on the first Friday of the month (between 10 and 12) in the Christian Centre. Your visit will be appreciated and you will be warmly welcomed, as a continued link with St Martin's church is to be encouraged.

*Cathy Merrikin*

### **St Martin's Primary School**

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*Inspiring children to be the best they can be*

We have enjoyed a successful year at St Martin's and continue to try to build in as many exciting experiences into our curriculum as we possibly can.

This year we have added a curriculum project for the older children - Business Enterprise - which was delivered by a group of local business minded professionals. The children learned about how to manage their money and engaged in a project where they had to create a small company, designing, marketing and selling their products, with the aim of making a profit - an excellent lesson for life!

We were proud to have won the District Sports again, against fierce competition from local schools and also enjoyed a number of other sporting successes.

We continued to encourage the children to raise money for people who are less fortunate than

ourselves through our annual Swimathon and a new Ranmore Ramble, which saw us walking nearly 5 miles in coloured T-Shirts, in support of the Rainbow Trust.

Despite a number of key staffing changes in September last year, the quality of teaching remains strong across all phases and we are continuing to focus very sharply on 'the whole child' and on supporting children to make the right choices in life.

Our Values led curriculum ensures that we routinely focus on - Trust, Respect, Honesty, Forgiveness and a range of other core values and we genuinely try to model them and live by them; always welcoming support from members of the Church - who lead our Collective Worship so ably - Thank you.

*Jane Gorecka*

### **St Mary's Junior Church**

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St. Mary's Junior Church tries to support 6 of the 12 goals of the Diocesan initiative "Transforming Church, Transforming Lives" ("TC:TL").

1. Making disciples
2. Increasing believer numbers
3. Growing ministry to youth and children
6. Cultivating community partnerships
8. Nurturing education
9. Encouraging generous giving
12. Improving church buildings

As the babies that have attended St. Mary's Church are growing, we have gained another Junior Church member with another couple on the way. We now regularly have at least 5 children taking part in the family services twice a week and sometimes more. This supports the initiatives 'Making disciples'(1), 'Increasing believer numbers' (2) and 'Growing ministry to youth and children' (3). Junior Church takes place every week so come and join us.

The children have also supported 'Generous Giving' by making 'Jolly Jars' to sell at the Table Top Sale and Christmas Fair as well having their own stalls. The money they raised went to the St. Mary's Church repairs fund to 'Improve church buildings' (12).

Junior Church has 'cultivated community partnerships' (6) by making harvest gift boxes and filling them with produce to give to the local community. Some of the children have also attended Pixham Fun Day and where the church has a stall to raise its profile in the community as well as raise funds for the church repairs. The children and their families have also donated toys/girls and Easter eggs to the children who have a mother in Send prison.

We hope that Junior Church is 'Nurturing education (8) in our young children and they will go on to disciples (1).

*Anne Brown*

## 1<sup>st</sup> Dorking (St Martin's) Scout Group

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

Just over a year ago we opened our second Beaver Colony and Cub Pack and we now provide Scouting to 100 young people and while the group is flourishing, we could do with some more adult help especially in the Wednesday Cubs and the Scout section.

1st Dorking (St Martin's) Scout Group celebrated its 110th birthday last year, 68 young people attended our Group Camp in September at Blackland Farm near East Grinstead to celebrate this remarkable achievement.

Last year The Scout Association launched its new vision #Skills for Life through the varied and interesting programmes our Beavers, Cubs and Scouts participate in and the 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". I believe we are achieving this.

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  
1<sup>st</sup> Dorking (St Martin's) Scout Group*

## 9<sup>th</sup> Dorking (St Martin's) Brownies

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It has been rather a quiet year for our Brownie group. We are getting to grips with the new Girlguiding programme which was introduced last year. Our numbers are currently quite low, which has been helpful for introducing the new programme - but we are expecting quite a few new girls to join us after Easter

We did not hold a brownie camp last year, partly due to breaking my arm in the summer, but we are hoping to join up with the URC brownies for a joint camp this year.

I was recently awarded my 30 years long service award - and would like to thank everyone for all the help and support I have received during these years.

*Di Sutherland (Brown Owl)*

## Church Related Organisations

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### Bible Reading Fellowship

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

*Sally Lowe*

### Choir and Music Team

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It seems quite an age since I took up the reins at St Martin's, although only last September!

We have already established a new look choral evensong - with wine and nibbles at the conclusion, and a slightly 'trimmed down' service, all of which combined with good quality singing from the choir has attracted larger congregations which is gratifying to everyone.

On my birthday (March 16th) we sang Evensong at Southwark Cathedral which was a splendid affair, with much approbation from congregation and supporters alike - my thanks to my dear colleague Richard Jenkinson for his supportive accompaniment.

Way back in September I performed an 'Organathon' - a 9 hour organ recital - the profits from which went to my Sahara Trek monies for St. Raphael's hospice.

The choir have responded so every welcome to my demanding standards, and rehearsals and occasionally services are peppered with shafts of humour, in which I delight thank you everyone!

I am going to introduce instrumental accompaniment to the two choral Eucharist services in the evening and more excitements are being nurtured!

PLEASE SUPPORT THE NEW PASSIONTIDE 'Come & Sing' - this year on GOOD FRIDAY Faure's Requiem and Cantique de Jean Racine - we already have over 80 singers - do support us!!

A huge thank you to Debs & Peter Bunn and Thurza - for their patience, input and support, and also to the whole choral 'mob'!

*Stephen Hope*

### Churches Together in Dorking

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As ever, there is a huge amount being done ecumenically in and around Dorking - full CTD Annual Report available on request! It presents a heartening picture.

Current initiatives include:

- An Ecumenical church visiting group. Peter Essex organised an initial visit to a service at New Life in February. (Contact him if you are interested in going on future visits.)
- Youth work under the Soul Connect brand, which is partially funded by CTD. A monthly Sunday night youth event at Crossways was launched in January. Ad hoc initiatives also take place at the Priory School.
- Ecumenical Lent groups. There are nine such groups running, organised by members of six churches and all studying The Joy of the Gospel

by Paula Gooder, based on an 'exhortation' by Pope Francis. The success of this initiative is particularly encouraging.

- Exploration of shared work on outreach to seniors in care homes. It was agreed that although there is already extensive pastoral work in place, there are gaps. A survey is being performed, led by Rowan Nunnerley, speaking to managers and activity workers. From her interim report, there is evidently both appreciation of current forms of support and also new suggestions. A final report and ideas for shared action will be discussed at the next CTD meeting after Easter.

The CTD Prayer Schedule, launched last year, continues in use so that all the congregations in Dorking pray for a particular congregation each week.

As well as our established ecumenical activities such as the Good Friday Walk of Witness, we have revived the 'fifth Sunday' ecumenical service hosted by various churches. These are proving popular.

As our Chair, Father Tony Milner, commented at the AGM, 2018 was a good year ecumenically in Dorking. We need to keep up the momentum.

*Debs Bunn*

### **Friends of St Martin's Church**

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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 2018, the Friends made good progress with our programme of restoring the chancel, and during the year the heads of the four evangelists were restored, most of the chancel walls were repainted and the encaustic tiles in the body of the chancel were repaired and re-waxed. We also supported the repair of the steeple and the cleaning of the paving outside church.

April 2018 marked the 150th anniversary of the dedication of the chancel and the church marked this occasion through a celebration at the morning service on Sunday 22nd April, with the Friends providing refreshments after the service and displaying before and after photographs of the work completed at that point.

In 2019, the Friends intend to continue the restoration of the chancel and also to repair the

West End doors so that they can be used more easily on special occasions.

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**

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The Julian Meeting, when at full strength, currently has five members. We meet in one of the upstairs meeting rooms of the Christian Centre at 7.15 pm, usually 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 five 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**

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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 2019.

In September 2018 we welcomed Stephen Hope as our Musical Director and we are hoping that in due course we will be able to support another choral or organ scholar.

In July we are holding an evening entitled "Face the Music with Hope" which will be a "Victor Borge" style evening. This will take place on Friday 12th July at 7.30pm in St. Martins Church. We very much hope you will be able to come and enjoy the evening which includes canapés and Prosecco.

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

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Our magazine has continued to publish eleven issues each year, containing a varied selection of articles and useful information. Many thanks to our regular contributors. Thanks also to the committee, advertisers and distribution team. We would love to hear from our readers with suggestions for improvements, articles and letters. The magazine is a brilliant form of outreach for our town centre church.

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.

*Christine Francis*

## St Martin's and Ranmore Bell Ringers

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I am glad to report that we rang for all scheduled services during the year, mostly at St Martin's but we try to cover one service a month at St Barnabas, usually the 2nd Sunday of the month. I have always felt that the Sunday Service ringing is our 'Performance' - ensuring that people know that there is a service in the church. Our worst turnout was 4 but happily we have been able to ring 6, 8 and, more often recently, the 10. I feel that ringing is a very important part of the outreach of the church. By ringing we can comfort those who are unable to make the service as well as call those who are attending to the service providing an invitation that is different to the day by day walking in Dorking.

Last year saw the 100th anniversary of the end of the 1st World War and was used to promote ringing across Great Britain. The aim was to encourage 2,400 people to take up ringing - we were lucky in that we now have two ringers who came to ringing through this route and both now are helping us ring on Sunday. We are also lucky that we have two ringers who have moved into area quite recently and have taken up ringing again. It gives me great pleasure to say that we have 15 members - the most that I have known in the last 30 years. Again, I would like to say that the band is strong because we now have a full span of abilities - from those who are learning to handle a bell, learning rounds, call changes and then simple methods and at the other end those who regularly ring quarter peals etc. It is a strong mix, made even stronger by the help given by those with experience to the learners.

In 2018 we rang for four weddings at St Martin's and eight at St Barnabas (some of which were on weekdays) and managed to raise a full band for every wedding. There were 7 Quarter Peals at each tower.

We hosted six district/branch events for the Guildford Guild and Surrey Association including

quarter peal attempts and Association practices and 13 sets of visitors between the towers.

We also went on our annual outing to towers in the east of Surrey, always an enjoyable day and blessed by beautiful October weather.

On 11th November at St Martin's we rang half muffled for the morning service and afterwards at 12.30 to commemorate 100 years since the end of the First World War. In the evening we rang up at St Barnabas for a short time after the beacon was lit.

I hope that it is obvious that our role is also to celebrate both happy occasions such as marriages and, especially this year, perhaps, the more sad occasions of those members of our congregation who gave their lives so that we have our freedom.

Ringling is an activity that provides gentle cardiovascular exercise (after climbing the steps, some ringers will suggest that it provides harsher activity!) but also develops concentration, team work, communication skills and the ability to help others. I am pleased that it progresses at both Dorking and Ranmore and intend to have an open day this year at both churches to try and attract new ringers and attract people into the church so that they can experience the beautiful architecture of both buildings as well as learn about the English tradition of bellringing.

*Paul Beeken, Tower Captain*

## St Mary's Church, Pixham

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It continues to be a great privilege to serve at St Mary's (as well as of course at St Martin's and occasionally at St Barnabas). It is always an inspiration to be reminded that the church was built as a means of bringing the good news of the Lord Jesus Christ to Pixham and I am conscious that we want to follow in the footsteps of those who have so faithfully served the Lord down the decades.

Sadly, we have had to say goodbye to David Bassett and his brother Colin as they have moved to Ashtead, although we hope still to see them from time to time. Likewise, the Mendes family are due to move to Portugal during the course of this year and we will very much miss them although we hope to see them on occasions. I would like to say how grateful we are particularly to David Bassett and also to Jennie Mendes for all they have done in different ways and they will be sadly missed. It was great that last summer we were able to hold a service for the baptism of Tomas and also that Jennie was able to put together a most impressive orchestra for Carols by Candlelight. We were also very grateful for all the musicians who assisted us on Open Day.

During the course of this year we have been able to purchase new Mission Praise hymnbooks which are greatly valued, and we have also expended money on updating electrics and repairing gutters and downpipes and fabricating some gutters where necessary. Peter Shelley who is now our deputy

warden resident at Pixham has done a great job in looking after the fabric of the property and in raising money and we are now anxious to raise a further £3,500. Peter has also attended meticulously to the heating of the building which is no longer the problem that it was. It is good that we are able to let out the building for ballet teaching and we would welcome further opportunities to both generate funds but also to bring people from outside into our church. It is important to remember that this church was specifically built to serve the community.

There have been various special outreach services including the 50th Carols by Candlelight (the original vision of Pat Hill in 1969) and the residents have also joined us in carol singing on a particularly cold evening! It has been great to see the way that community is engaged with us more and more and we hope and pray that this will grow. On Sunday 31st March we held our first ever Churches together in Dorking service at Pixham which was a good opportunity to let other Christians in Dorking know what we are doing in these parts! On Easter Monday we are due to be open for teas and scones as a further way of reaching out into the community.

Particular mention should be made of Anne Brown who does a magnificent job in running our little Sunday School and also to Julie Mellows who deals with a whole manner of different administrative matters including organising Pixham committee meetings and follow-up. Alongside this Tony and Betty Hall are, as always, stalwarts in a huge number of different ways.

Likewise, a big thank you to Chris and Veronica Watts who lead and play at Morning Prayer once a month and I know their ministry is greatly appreciated. Chris' fellow Reader at St Paul's, Graham, is also helping us out on a number of occasions which is very helpful. Please continue to pray for the future of the church and the future of its ministry once our current generation is not available! As always, I am very grateful to Derek for all his affirmation and support and encouragement.

We continue to be blessed with the help and presence of Richard Good and his wife Jackie which enables Richard to play for us frequently and also to be very much part of the fellowship.

We have made a deliberate decision not to hold a series of Lenten studies since so many are being held already but we are planning a series between Easter and Ascension, probably on the Psalms.

There are no doubt many others I should thank but I must pay particular tribute to Mary for all the wonderful work that she does and all the love and loyalty and encouragement she gives me. Every month she not only prints out a list of services but personally hand delivers them to all possible attenders. Without her vision and imagination (and special ability with children) and sheer hard work, it would be very difficult indeed for us to keep going!

We need perhaps to focus for prayer on three main areas. The **first** is that we grow in our understanding and appreciation and love for the TRUTH of the Gospel. May we realise more and more that there is no alternative but to turn to Jesus Christ and that all else is "sinking sand" (John 6:68). **Secondly**, it would be good to pray for increasing DEPTH, both of understanding of that truth and also in care for one another. There are signs that this is happening and the Bring and Share lunches are a particular feature of this thanks to Sarah Slade and others. **Thirdly**, we obviously need to pray for growth in BREADTH of our witness and contacts within Pixham. There are encouraging signs that this is happening more and more and a particular thank you to Anne for the way that she has assisted with this by always being present on Special Pixham Days.

With our gratitude in Christ to you all.

*Dave Cowan*

### **Traidcraft**

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During 2018 the Traidcraft stall was open for business on 12 Sundays at St Martin's, and six at St Mary's Pixham, as well as three Christian Centre coffee mornings. In addition I continued the arrangement with the Dorking Quaker Meeting, taking the stall there on four Sundays, at roughly quarterly intervals, and Holmbury St Mary church purchased some supplies for their new community café and cyclist stop.

Our stall's turnover with Traidcraft plc during 2018 was £3116.74 (2017 £3376.89), down slightly on last year. Including the individual orders as well as takings at the stall, sales to St Martin's totalled £452.17 (2017 £823.08); to Pixham £145.60 (2017 £341.80); and to the Quakers £608.99 (2017 £815.09). Over the course of the year sales to the Christian Centre totalled £322.30 (2017 £272.11) (supplied at cost price). At the three Centre coffee mornings £574.45 worth of goods were sold (2017 £618.35). In addition my family placed orders through the stall totalling £516.61 (2017 £604.88). Overall recorded sales came to £2706.27. At year end the cost price of the stock held was £1642.73 and cash in hand £1079.17.

In the course of the year donations totalling £168 have gone to Traidcraft Exchange (the development charity, which since early 2018 has been an entirely separate entity from the trading company) from the coffee mornings.

Last autumn the board of Traidcraft plc announced to general shock that the company was likely to cease trading at the end of 2018: a decision they felt they had to take while they were able to discharge all liabilities to suppliers and staff in full. There had been prolonged consultation with the staff, out of which came a proposal for Traidcraft to continue in greatly reduced form, on a new trading model. This proposal was accepted, and as of 1 January the new-look Traidcraft has been working hard to get the new

model in place. A new spring catalogue is due out next month, which will feature the core food range, and a selection of craft items from chosen trading partners. This first year will be critical for

Traidcraft's continued existence, so do please support it however you are able!

*Elizabeth Dobson*

## Finance

### Treasurer's Report

The past few years have seen unrealised gains in the value of our market-linked assets. However these values declined in 2018 by £37,201 and this was a big factor in the reduction of total assets to below the £1M level that was reported at the end of 2017. These accounts are consolidated financial statements of St Martin's Church with St Mary's Pixham and a number of related charities. It is quite easy to miss some key figures from the mass of information required to comply with the requirements of financial reporting. Accordingly it is worth providing an updated version of the summary provided in last year's report.

Charity / Fund	Unrestricted	Restricted	Endowment	Total Funds
St Martin	116,384	67,810	409,232	593,426
Other Charities	-	55,148	308,613	363,761
St Mary	19,444	4,184	-	23,628
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>135,828</b>	<b>127,142</b>	<b>717,845</b>	<b>980,815</b>

**St Martin's Church** general expenditure in 2018 (£110,633) once again exceeded its income (£98,647). The income stream from the rent of the buy-to-let flat totalled £8,670 after management expenses and routine maintenance costs. The tenants have extended their lease for 2019.

The continued general fund deficits are sustainable in the short term. Efforts in 2018 remained more focussed on growing the church numerically - and spiritually - rather than growing income directly from current members. One of the aims of the new 4pm monthly service is to foster a new and hopefully younger congregation. The plans for a Time & Talents / Stewardship campaign were deferred and this is now due to happen in March 2019.

Parish share for 2018 was slightly more than that for 2017 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. Parish share amounts for the period 2011 to 2016 remained almost the same, with small increases for 2017 and 2018. The amount requested for 2019 is for 2.9% more at £67,597 and it is projected to rise by a further 12% (£8,666) for 2023. Much of that increase is due to costs associated with the extra ordinand numbers needed soon to replace expected retirements over the next five to ten years.

We are grateful to St Paul's Church Dorking for their support for the new 4pm Family Services, in both people resource and for funding the capital costs of equipment being used. The running costs of the monthly services are being met by St Martin's.

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 (£98,666 in 2018) 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. This will be expensive and 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 Church Pixham** also made a further loss on general funds of £3,580. This arose through some exceptional expenditure items totalling £4,290, including repairs to gutters and downpipes identified in the quinquennial (£2,340), some electrical repairs (£1,290) and new hymn books (£466). The new regular booking which started in 2017 continued through 2018 and is ongoing. Slow progress is being made identifying contractors and costs for the stonework repairs identified in the quinquennial. A number of fund-raising events were held in 2018 to continue building up funds for such works bring the total to over £4,000. Unlike St Martin's there is no 'Friends' organisation to provide funds.

*Nick Hands-Clarke*

## Report from Revd Derek Tighe

This was not available when going to press,

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## Agenda for the April 2019 Annual Meetings

### Annual Meeting of Parishioners

1. Report from the Churchwardens including Fabric and Furnishings (*page 2*)
2. Appointment of two Churchwardens 2019-2020

### Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM)

1. Apologies for absence
2. Minutes of the April 2018 meetings (*starting on page 3*)
3. Matters Arising

### Reports

4. Church Electoral Roll Officer's Report (*page 5*) and Appointment for the coming year
5. Report on the proceedings of the Deanery Synod (*page 5*)
6. Annual Report of the Parochial Church Council (*starting on 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, 2019 to 2022
9. Appointment of Sidespeople:  
To agree that anyone on the electoral roll may be invited to serve
10. PCC Membership - to seek to retain a minimum of 12 elected places
11. Treasurer's Report: (*page 15*)
  - a) Management Accounts for 2018 and Budget for 2019
  - b) Consolidated Financial Statements for 2018
12. Appointment of Independent Examiner
13. Announcement of the results of any election votes
14. Matters of General Parochial and Church Interest  
*Comments and Questions*
15. Vicar's closing words and prayers

Proposed date of the next Annual Meetings: Sunday 26th April 2020 (tbc).

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