



PARISH OF ST MARTIN AND ST PAUL CANTERBURY
ANNUAL REPORT 2019-2020



The steadfast love of the LORD never ceases, his mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning; great is your faithfulness. 'The LORD is my portion,' says my soul, 'therefore I will hope in him.'

Lamentations 3: 22-24

PARISH OF ST. MARTIN AND ST. PAUL CANTERBURY

THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL 2019-2020

<u>Rector (Chairman)</u>	The Reverend Mark Griffin
<u>Curate</u>	The Reverend Hannah Thomson
<u>Churchwardens at St. Martin's</u>	Mr. David Stuart Canon Christopher Gower
<u>Churchwardens at St. Paul's</u>	Mrs Jennifer Llewelin Mr Samuel Keeler-Walker (until September 2019) Mrs Clarissa Read (from September 2019)
<u>Parish Treasurer</u>	Mr Gordon Craig
<u>Readers holding the Bishop's Licence</u>	Canon Rosemary Walters (ex-officio Diocesan Synod) Mr. Samuel Keeler-Walker Mrs Mary Butcher (PTO) Mr Christopher Robinson
<u>Deanery Synod Representatives</u>	Mrs. Doreen Laven Mrs Ruth Matthews Mr Henrik Schoenefeldt
<u>Elected Members 2017-2020</u>	Mr John Salmon Mrs Monica Walling Ms Jo Lawson (elected for one year 2019-2020) Mr James Sampson
<u>Elected members 2018-2021</u>	Mrs Jackie Curd Miss Anne Seller Mrs Susan Spillett Ms Zoe Manley(resigned March 2020)
<u>Elected Members 2019-2022</u>	Ms Ros Newington Mr Michael Keeler-Walker Mrs Clarissa Read (elected churchwarden September) Mr Richard Stanton Ms Felicity Bolton (elected to replace Mrs Read)
<u>Co-Opted Member 2019-2020</u>	Mrs Jo Luck
<u>Also in Attendance (non-voting in matters of legal resolution)</u>	Mr Dominic del Nevo (Choir Director)

WELCOME

Welcome to our 2020 Annual Report. This report was first drafted in March ready for an APCM in April. As the report was being finalised, we entered lockdown and Annual Meetings were postponed as our churches were closed. It was decided that in issuing this Annual Report it would give a snapshot of the parish looking back over the year from March 2019 to March 2020 rather than reporting on subsequent events in lockdown and our partial return to services and events since July. It seems important that although writing in September and much has changed since March, we needed to remember that a lot that happened for us over that year as these reports show and that there were many things to celebrate pre-covid, which could easily be lost in our changing situation.

In the Annual Report for 2021 we will hopefully have some perspective on the changes that the pandemic has brought and full reports on those things that did and did not happen during the year. My thanks go to the whole church- wardens, ministry team and each one of you- for the resilience and resourceful that you have shown in the journey that we have been on over the last eighteen months. Covid showed that as we adapted to our churches being closed and learned about on-line services, faith and our corporate life in church took on a new importance as much of life was stripped away.

My prayer is that we would be drawn ever closer as a community (allowing for social distancing!) but above all deepening our faith in the God who journeys alongside us amidst the unpredictability of the world. We walk with God not knowing where our journey will take us but continuing with hope in our hearts and a willingness to use our gifts to serve God and our neighbour.

Reverend Mark Griffin, Rector

INTRODUCTION

In 2019 we celebrated Hannah's ordination to the priesthood and Steve O'Connor's ordination to the diaconate as he moved to Walmer to begin his curacy. Jennifer and Clary became churchwardens during the year, and Sam stepped back from his role as a warden but following a sabbatical, continues to flourish in the contributions that he makes in so many other ways. There were many other highlights which you will read more about in the pages ahead.

Our successful PCC away day gave us all the chance to look ahead and to grow- to catch the promptings of the Spirit and make plans for the future.

On my appointment I was given three priorities to work with the diversity of the parish especially our friendships with the different estates, the development of St Martin's and the growing of a hub role at St Paul's. All three are happening but will be increasingly our focus as we put into practice that which God has put on our hearts even as we cope with the effects of coronavirus"

Reverend Mark Griffin, Rector

SIGNIFICANT DECISIONS MADE BY THE PCC 2019-20

The PCC met in May, July, September and November 2019, and February, July and September 2020. The July and September 2020 meetings took place via Zoom, owing to the Coronavirus pandemic which prevented large gatherings. The pandemic also caused the APCM to take place later than usual, October 2020, rather than April. The significant decisions listed here therefore cover the period April 2019 to March 2020.

Personnel

The PCC approved the following appointments in May 2019:

- Monica Walling and James Sampson – Deputy Churchwardens
- Gordon Craig – Treasurer
- Jo Luck – Secretary
- Rosemary Walters and Sue Spillett elected to Standing Committee
- Janet Robertson – Electoral Roll Officer
- David Hartwell – Ecumenical Representative
- Ruth Sibson and Anne Seller – Deputy Ecumenical Representatives
- Tess Hickson and Monica Walling – Safeguarding Officers
- Jackie Curd – Health & Safety Officer
- Jo Lawson and Felicity Bolton joined the PCC
- Sophie Gauden and Zoe Robinson – Chalice Administrators at St Paul's

Sam Keeler-Walker stepped down as Churchwarden at St Paul's in September 2019. Clarissa Read replaced him.

Revd Mark Griffin was appointed Area Dean in February 2020.

Zoe Manley left the PCC in February 2020.

Decisions

It was agreed that Church123 would continue to provide our website. When our online giving provider closed, we opted to use JustGiving instead.

A new Outreach Group was established to consider Parish giving and how best to promote the causes we support.

Faculties were received for:

- the lopping of trees at St Martin's;
- handrails at St Martin's; and
- CCTV at St Martin's.

The decision was reluctantly taken to reduce our Outreach Giving from 10% to 5% to other causes. It was agreed that one of our Christmas charities would be Pilgrim's Way Bursary Fund and the other would be chosen by young people.

Defibrillators were installed at St Martin's and at St Paul's, thanks to fundraising efforts.

The Parish supported the Catching Lives Winter Shelter between December and February.

Family lunches were provided at Querns and Spring Lane during the summer holidays 2019. A review was undertaken and it was agreed that a holiday club would be repeated during other school holidays.

Four Resolutions were agreed in relation to the organ at St Martin's:

- 1) The removal of the existing organ and associated fixtures.
- 2) Entering into consultation about the redesign of the back of the church.
- 3) The acquisition of an 18th-century freestanding chamber organ.

4) Entering into consultation about the redesign of the vestry.

Two new card machines were purchased to assist with donation processing.

It was agreed that the Vestry Roof at St Paul's should be replaced. Cost: approx. £900.

It was agreed that we should place a greater focus on 'green issues' and Sue White was appointed as the 'environment co-ordinator'.

New choir robes were purchased.

Following a PCC Awayday in November 2019, it was agreed that there should be more spiritual input in our PCC meetings.

The office broadband was upgraded to fibre optic. It was agreed to stay with our current printer provider, following a discussion about costs.

Jo Luck, PCC Secretary

FIGURES SUBMITTED ON THE ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP AND MINISTRY RETURN FOR THE YEAR:

ITEM	St Martin's 2019	St Paul's 2019	Parish 2019	Parish 2018 (For comparison)
Electoral Roll	See Parish figure	See Parish figure	142	160
Usual Sunday attendance*	23 Adults	89 Adults	112	110
	3 Child	10 Children	13	10
Easter Sunday Communicants	23	124	147	175
Easter Sunday Attending Church	35	158	193	240
Advent Special Services	76	650	726	532
Christmas (Eve&Day) Communicants	25	112	137	142
Christmas (Eve&Day) Worshippers	32	307	339	313
Worshipping Community**	3 aged 0-10	57 aged 0-10	60 aged 0-10	63
	2 aged 11-17	18 aged 11-17	20 aged 11-17	17
	30 aged 18-69	120 aged 18-69	150 aged 18-69	143
	19 aged 70+	123 aged 70+	142 aged 70+	140
	TOTAL 54	TOTAL 318	TOTAL 372	TOTAL 363
Baptisms (and age)	6 aged 0-1	2 aged 0-1	8 aged 0-1	4
	1 aged 1-4	0 aged 1-4	1 aged 1-4	4
	0 aged 5-12	0 aged 5-12	0 aged 5-12	3
	2 aged 13+	0 aged 13+	2 aged 13+	3
	TOTAL 9	TOTAL 2	TOTAL 11	TOTAL 14
Weddings	0	0	0	2
Blessings of Marriage	0	0	0	0
Funerals in Church	1	1	2	4
Funerals at Crematorium/cemetery	0	5	5	8

*These figures are based on an average drawn from Sundays when attendance is not unusually high (eg not Harvest) or unusually low (eg not the Sunday after Christmas)

** These figures include Sunday worship and all who worship with us at Messy Church, TeaTime, Pilgrimz, Home communicants and Services in residential homes etc.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT:

We use this term to cover a lot of the work that the church does outside of our buildings, often with people who rarely come regularly to Sunday morning services. What is shared here is official church engagement with the community that is done both with Hannah and with Mark and other members of the Ministry team, it doesn't even begin to touch on the amazing amount of community engagement that is done by many other members of our congregations.

Schools

Rosemary and Mark go in each term to do assemblies in Pilgrims Way School based around the major festivals and seasons of the church. Hannah is in the school weekly with some helpers to run our long running after school club Pilgrimz. Numbers fluctuate each term and this term we are full with 15 children on our register. Last Summer term we went through the story of the early church, in the autumn we looked at who Jesus is and this term we are looking at the disciples and what we can learn from them and their faith. If working with children is something you enjoy then we are always happy to have new helpers and the school are always happy to hear from people who might be interested in going in to help with reading.

As part of the deanery we also help occasionally with other schools in Canterbury. Hannah regularly takes collective worship and helps facilitate Prayer Days at St Johns, assisting Rev Phil Greig from All Saints, she also occasionally leads collective worship at Sturry Primary School. We are also involved with going into secondary schools as both Rosemary and Hannah lead collective worship sometimes at Archbishops School.

Our buildings also draw schools to us. We have had visits from Barton Court Students and St Stephens children to St Martins this year. We welcomed Pilgrims Way school in its entirety to St Pauls at Christmas for the nativity performance and Sturry Year 2 children are planning to come to St Pauls as part of their RE learning about salvation.

Youth Bus

Kent County Council run a youth bus that provides activities for young people. It runs at Howe Green on Monday evenings and Hannah helps out with the session for the younger youth each week. She also helps to occasionally cover other shifts on the bus when council staff are away. The glass jars that were so generously provided were for use at this club (thanks to your generosity we were able to supply this club and also Spring Lane and Querns, and use them for our own church activities! Thank you).

Spring Lane and Querns Centres

We continue to work closely with Spring Lane Neighbourhood centre. Hannah can be found there most weeks loitering in the café run there on Tuesdays and drinking Hot Chocolate - it is a good place to meet people. We continue to run a Messy Church in partnership with the centre around six times a year. Numbers are not massive but we have some regular worshipers with us and always seem to meet new people each time we are there. The council have said that they would like to see this grow and run more often but as always this requires help. If this might be something you might be interested in please speak to Christopher Robinson or Hannah.

This year we helped once again with the All for Fun week that Spring Lane and Querns operate jointly. This is a week of activities for children and youth in the summer holidays this week it included crafts, a trip to the beach and a wilderness day.

We partnered with both centres jointly again during the summer to offer free lunches. This was the first year that we did this and it was done in response to hearing about food poverty that occurs for families during school holidays when they cannot rely on the help of free school meals. We ran 2 meals at Spring Lane and 3 at Querns with varying numbers but they were well received and both centres are keen to partner with us in this again this summer.

Querns Community centre also runs a weekly lunch during term time for adults which Hannah and Mark attend most week. Anyone would be welcomed to join us for a large two course home cooked meal on Tuesday lunchtimes for £4. The lunch gives us the opportunity to meet with people and keep up with what is happening in the area. Querns also run a youth group during the year and this year, at the request of the leaders, the youth group plan to visit St Martins just before Easter to see the church and to hear the real story of Easter.

Holiday Club

This was run last October as a joint venture with All Saints, St Dunstan's, St Mildred's and St Peter's. While our premises were used this time round the helpers came from all of the churches involved, and the children came from around the city. This was a great opportunity to worship and teach children about the Kingdom of God as we learnt about building a Kingdom of Love, Justice and Peace. We had songs, games and lots of crafts and Lego building. The club was a great success and we plan to follow up with a Summer party at St Dunstan's and then another three-day holiday club next October, probably to be held at All Saints.

Kidz Klub

We continue to be support this charity as a parish as it continues to engage with a large number of children from our neighbourhoods. Mark is a trustee of the charity and Hannah helps out at the club most Saturdays during term time and visits a number of the families at home each week. The club is a Christian club that meets every Saturday during term for Bible teaching, singing and lots of messy games! Every child on the register gets a home visit each week to give them a colouring sheet for them to fill in and bring with them the next Saturday. At the moment a large percentage of the children who engage with the club most regularly come from within our parish and so this is a great way to engage with families in the parish.

Carol Singing

Once again we had a busy Christmas period in the community, in particularly with our community carol singing. The surprise election meant a bit of last minute date changing and an unfortunate downpour meant we had to cancel the singing at Howe Green. However we partnered with the Salvation Army and the neighbourhood centres for successful singing at Spring Lane and at Querns and we also had some willing volunteers to accompany Hannah and Mark into Highland House and Chaucer house for singing there as well.

Chaucer house and Highland house

These are both visited regularly by members of St Martins and St Pauls and Mark and Hannah go in each month to Highland House and twice a month to Chaucer House to take small services there which are much appreciated.

As well as all of this amazing amount of community engagement that so many of you help with, we also have members of our parish who help with other projects such as the Foodbank, Connecting Canterbury, Street Pastors and more. It is always exciting to me to see just how outward looking the parish is and how much we can impact our communities. Thank you for all of your work.

Reverend Hannah Thomson

CHURCHWARDEN'S REPORT: ST PAUL'S

We are delighted to report building on last year's exciting changes and developments and we particularly enjoyed the blessing of the Icon and participating in Morning Prayer in the Lady Chapel. We are also very thrilled to have the new alter frontal beautifully designed to match the lectern fall made by Gwyn Hartwell.

We are delighted that the church continues to be used by many organisations such as Diocesan House, the Cathedral Friendly sing, as well as for drama and music performances. St Paul's has also hosted the holiday club led by Hannah in growing partnership with the City Centre and All Saints churches. Hannah has really settled into her role as priest and the parish are revelling in her ministry, particularly with young people at Querns, Spring Lane and Pilgrims Way School.

Our regular services including Evensong and Supper and St. Paul's at tea-time are continuing to grow and be valued parts of our regular worship. Our Parish Eucharist is seeing good numbers with a variety of preachers and good quality music from an ever-growing choir with the addition of younger members and the quaver choir, organ and piano. The voluntary when played on the piano has added a new dimension to the stillness and reflectiveness in the church and has been appreciated by many. Our rotas are looking healthy but there is always room for more so please do come and see Clary or Jennifer or any of the other welcomers.

We are currently being challenged to become an eco-church and having been inspired by the talk given at St Paul's by Ruth Valerio on climate change, Hannah, together with the youngsters, have alerted us to be responsible about our carbon footprint in every sense of the word. To this end, we are thrilled that Sue White has agreed to head up a parish team to decide how to go about this.

We are very grateful to Monica for her help in her role as Deputy Church Warden and having a full contingency of church wardens has meant that the workload has been shared out. As we build up the body of the church our responsibility to you as churchwardens is that we can change other people's lives by having the conversations both inside and away from the church. Changing conversations changing lives is the message of the Diocese and we attended a conference to explore ways of taking this further in the mission of St Paul's. We welcomed the new Bishop of Dover – Rose and Ken into our parish.

For the future, we are hoping to develop Church sitting as a valuable ministry, aiming to open for 100 days a year and to be aware of the safeguarding issues that might arise from this. It is imperative that we keep safe and that we keep other people safe by looking after our neighbours. We want to use this opportunity to thank all of you who do so much to enable this church to flourish and develop within the fellowship of God in order to live out the Good News of the Gospel offering hospitality to all. We end our report with our gratitude for Mark's leadership and enabling style of encouragement.

Jennifer Llewelin, Clary Read and Monica Walling, Churchwardens and Deputy Churchwarden at St Paul's.

FLOWERS AT ST PAUL'S

We have benefited from the congregation's good financial support throughout the year which is most encouraging for the arrangers, enabling us to put on a good show especially for the festivals.

Currently there are six ladies who do 2 or 3 stints of 2 weeks each during the year, except at festivals when we all work as a team. My thanks go to them all for their work, and also to Yvonne Pearson our flower treasurer.

Anthea Rishworth (flower organiser)

CHURCHWARDENS' REPORT: ST MARTIN'S

To the question posed by many of our visitors, we are able to assure them that St Martin's continues to be a place of worship, week by week, as it has been since the days of Bertha and Augustine. Now that our architect, Jonathan Goode, has completed his Quinquennial Report and as we look to plans for the future of St. Martin's, the members of the Building Committee have been looking at the building, its condition, its history and its inventory, with ever-closer scrutiny. The recent flooding of the boiler room and the consequent failure of the boiler is a matter of concern. Through combined efforts we were able to hold the Eucharist at St. Paul's and we are especially grateful to Jennifer, Clary, Mike and Marylyn for all the trouble they took to make this happen so smoothly. On the plus side, developments over the past year have included the installation of CCTV and handrails in the porch and the cleaning of the East windows. This last significant work was funded by an anonymous donor. Following on from the tree report and the necessary permissions having been given, we are grateful to the Estates Department from Canterbury Christ Church University, under the leadership of Paul Sims, for the work done in the churchyard. Despite vandalism and drug misuse remaining a problem, this area continues to be lovingly cared for by Sophie Scott and friends. The day-to-day life of St Martin's could not be sustained without the dedicated work of our regular congregation, but especially John, Ruth, Doreen, James, Gordon, Judith, and Keith. Sylvia, with our supportive band of sitters, has made it possible for the church to be open four days a week through the busy season of the year. Mike Butler's work with the World Heritage Committee ensures that St. Martin's isn't left behind when the three World Heritage sites are under consideration.

The condition of the organ was included in our last report. We have consulted with Holmes and Swift of Fakenham who have estimated for the rebuilding of the present instrument and also for an alternative organ. David Flood, as Diocesan Organ Adviser, and now Adrian Bawtree, who has succeeded him in this role, have both visited the church to consider the options available. Following agreement between all of us we were able to recommend to the PCC that an eighteenth-century chamber organ, providing that it is tonally adequate, be installed at the West end of the church. The Diocesan Advisory Committee will be holding a site meeting in the church during the next two months and hopefully after that the necessary faculty applications can be submitted.

Mark and Hannah's ministry among us is enormously valued, as is the contribution made by our Readers, Rosemary, Mary, Sam and Christopher. The new booklets for the Eucharist were much needed and have been warmly welcomed by all members of the congregation. At Martinmas we were delighted to welcome Stephen Cottrell, the Bishop of Chelmsford as our preacher. After the service he kindly agreed to lead a question and answer session which was both stimulating and thought-provoking. Only a few days after his visit his appointment as Archbishop of York was announced.

Thanks to the work in the churchyard the vista from St Martin's is now open. We look forward to the remaining scaffolding coming down from the CCCU science building and to the eventual opening up of the walkway from our ancient church through the University.

How appropriate it was that on the day of the Bishop's Installation, the Archbishop and Bishop Rose were able to worship in St Martin's and as they left were able to look across to the Abbey and on to the Cathedral.

Dave Stuart and Christopher Gower, Churchwardens

FLOWERS AT ST MARTIN'S

A small number of us continue to arrange flowers in the church, and we are grateful for the money given to us from the Friends of St Martin's account, which helps defray the cost. There has been a dearth of weddings recently, but several are planned for 2020. Brides can choose to have the arrangements that we will have provided as usual, but if they want extra or particular flowers, we ask that they pay for them and leave them in the church after the ceremony. (Many Years ago the Rector had to chase after the party who thought they could take all of them off to the reception!)

Doreen Laven

FRIENDS OF ST MARTIN'S

On reading the list of visitors, it continues to amaze us how many countries are represented. The numbers this year have been slightly down on last year totalling 10,837. Group and single visits have continued to be arranged by Ruth Matthews. All have expressed their appreciation for the welcome they have received as well as commenting on the peace and simplicity of our historic church. Sophie Scott has remained in contact with our Friends and has let them know when they are being remembered at Thursday Mid-day prayers. We are, as always, grateful to our church sitters who have enabled the church to be kept open on four days each week. The Heritage Open Days in September were extended to include two weekends and were well attended. On several days the Priory was also open to visitors. We are immensely grateful to an anonymous donor who has paid for the cleaning of the three East windows. We hope that the next stage will be the cleaning of the windows on the North side of the nave.

Our preacher at Martinmas this year was Bishop Stephen Cottrell, who, following an inspiring sermon was kind enough to lead a lively question and answer session after the service. A week later came the announcement of his appointment as Archbishop of York!

Sylvia Gower, Friends Secretary

WORSHIP VISION GROUP

The group continues to meet three times each year and this year has been chaired by me. The group has an important role to play in the longer term planning of our worshipping life. As its name implies there is a forward looking element to the agenda but it is also a good group to review what has happened in our worship and to see where changes and improvements need to be made in future. We continue to offer our support to Evensong and Supper and to the growing choirs- young and not so young.

The last year has seen the arrival of a new hymn book at St Paul's which has been well received and enhanced our worship through its mixture of old and new hymns. The last of the new orders of service were introduced at Harvest, completing the liturgical set- although the group will continue the revision process in the future, it was felt they had simplified things and were right for our needs now. The new communion settings were now in place giving a choice of three which can now be rotated during the year.

The group has looked at Easter and Christmas patterns of worship, helping the Ministry Team to broaden the range while tweaking some services and pointing out those that need more thorough revision. Changes brought in during the last few years have been reflected on and embedded into our life as a parish. There has been continuing review of the 10.30 service, this year focussing on the peace and on the offertory hymn, as well as the anthem and the post communion hymn. Helpful adjustments to other regular services at both churches also came through the group.

The group has also been keen to encourage how we reflect inclusiveness in our worship.

As the chair of the group I'd like to offer grateful thanks to all who serve on the committee and to Brian Hogben our minute secretary.

Reverend Mark Griffin, Rector

FINANCE AND STEWARDSHIP REPORT

As expected 2019 has been another difficult year with expenditure exceeding income. However it was not necessary to transfer from our reserves, while we did transfer £15,000 in 2018. Stewardship income fell by 2.4% to £75,562. Newcomers were unable to offset the deceased and the movers. Since 2014 Parish Share has risen to £84,488 while Stewardship income has fallen to £75,562. This means that other costs have to be funded by other means. Some of these costs are significant, for example Insurance premiums amounted to £6968 and heating, lighting and water to £10,743. Stewardship income is likely to decline again in 2020 due to the age profile of existing participants. Donations increased significantly in 2019. This is possibly due to people giving donations as and when rather than giving regularly. It is difficult to be certain as many donors wish to remain anonymous.

2020 will be another difficult year with various one off payments. Parish Share is now £85,924 and I would expect Stewardship to be lower than last year. We need to increase income as regular costs are well controlled. As a result of the stressed financial position it was deemed necessary to reduce

the amount paid to Outreach from 10% of Stewardship to 5%. The aim is to reverse this as soon as possible.

I now come to the most important part of the report:- Saying thank you. I thank all Parishioners for their time, efforts and money. All are greatly appreciated. The tremendous generosity of Parishioners enabled Defibrillators to be purchased for both churches. The wider community will also benefit. Thank You!

Jane Neame is our Independent Accounts Examiner and also provides our payroll service. She is efficient and provides a good service. I recommend that she be reappointed for 2020.

Gordon Craig, Treasurer

MUSIC

In last year's report I advised of a surge in numbers, such that we were obliged to buy ten new gowns and folders to accommodate everybody. Overall the membership has been a bit more stable this year, though we have been delighted to welcome Angel, Reem and Matt (though sadly Matt has now moved to Tunbridge Wells, but we will ensure that he keeps in touch), as well as Maddy and Eleanor who have recently joined as junior members. Even though finding space for everyone is occasionally something of a challenge, nevertheless we are still recruiting (rehearsals on Friday evening from 7pm for juniors, 7.30pm for adults), and if anybody is interested they should speak to me or a member of the choir for more information.

Last year we also launched the 'Quaver choir', for primary school age children. The Quavers make a valuable and fun-filled contribution to the music of the Church; they have sung at the Tea Time service, alongside the gowned choir on Sunday mornings, and at the Christmas Tea Party. The Quaver choir (like the gowned choir) is always recruiting; rehearsals take place in the choir room at 12noon on Sundays (except the 3rd Sunday of the month when they rehearse at 3pm, before the Tea Time service. If you know any children of a suitable age who would be interested, please speak to me or Ros for more information (or turn up to try out a rehearsal).

After Easter we started using the new Ancient & Modern hymnbook. Over the summer we covered Choral Evensong in Canterbury Cathedral on two occasions, and in October I marked 10 years as choir director with a particularly self-indulgent Choral Evensong. Following the introduction of the Nardone Mass of St Cedd during Lent, we will soon begin to rotate service music alongside the service booklets (i.e. different settings for Ordinary Time, Festivals and Penitential seasons). Hopefully all three will be sufficiently familiar that nothing comes as a great shock, and I invite you all to use the congregational copies provided, and join in.

We aspire to be a choir that nurtures musical talent. In addition to the inauguration of the Quaver Choir, last year we engaged with the RSCM's Voice for Life scheme, which trains and supports singers of all ages with their musical development. We started with the younger members (with the generous support of the Evensong and Supper fund), four of whom – Sophie, Joshua, Eleanor and Maddy – completed the White level stage in February. The scheme is open to singers of all ages, and some of the adults will also soon be working through booklets appropriate to their experience and abilities. We enjoyed the challenge of learning Nicholas and Joshua Gawleys' compositions for Evensong in last Autumn. At Evensong on 14 June, which the RSCM has designated as 'Music Sunday' (celebrating the role of music in church life), the music will feature heavily compositions and arrangements by people involved with the music in our parish (more details to follow nearer the time).

As always, I am very grateful to everyone in the choir who gives so freely of their time and talent to support the music of this Church, and to the ministry team and congregation for their support.

Dominic del Nevo, Choir Director

SUNDAY ZONE

Our Sunday Zone, which meets each Sunday during the 10.30 Eucharist continues to flourish with a regular band of up to 8/10 children in our 2 groups. In the primary age group we listen to a Godly Play story, wonder about what we have heard, respond with drawing, painting or building, and finally share a feast together. It has been a privilege to hear their ideas about what is the most important part of the story or if we could miss out any of the story and have all we need. Stories have included Creation, Noah's Ark, the Parables of the Lost Sheep, Lost Pearl and the Good Samaritan as well as stories related to the church seasons – Lent, Advent, the Holy family at Christmas and Epiphany. We regularly hear about the pattern of the church year with its green and growing times, as well as times of preparation and celebration. Our beautiful Godly Play room is well used. There are plans to extend the range of resources available so we can reflect on more stories.

The Secondary aged group, led by Tess or Rosemary have given us plenty of food for thought, especially their letters as the Queen at Christmas. They have spent a significant part of the last year thinking about the Lord's Prayer.

We continue to celebrate our Children and Young People's Service once a term. This has become a strong part of our worship and there are a group of Young people who regularly take on the different roles in this act of worship.

Please continue to pray for our children and young people, as well as those adults who regularly work to teach and assist them in their spiritual journey.

Ruth Baker

ST PAUL'S@TEATIME

SP@TT is now in its 7th year. It is a lively afternoon service for young families. The numbers are growing and we have up to 30 children ranging from 0-14 attending.

We completely change the layout of the church so that on entering there are activities of interest to children. These are varied and centred around the theme which is often a Bible story.

Everyone is welcomed and our lively Curate captures the imagination with a very physical action song. This then leads into a quiet time with the story and prayers. Everyone is then invited to write a prayer to go on the church prayer tree, and these are kept for the month. Next comes the Church Search! The children search around the church to find something they can take home as a reminder of the afternoon. This helps the children to feel at home in the church and led to an interesting talk one Sunday on our church windows.

One of the highlights is of course Jackie's tea. A lovely array of sandwiches and cakes with a gluten-free range too.

When tea is digesting we have the Happy Birthday and Moment of the Week slots, before a last hymn/song and Blessing.

"The afternoon is planned by a small dedicated team and is a welcome to all, where love and friendship is shared within the love of God for all his people. The team are very grateful to those who come along to help during the afternoon as it could not achieve the relaxed and welcoming atmosphere without them, and those who come to help tidy up at the end are always greeted with a smile." Monica Walling, SP@TT member.

Sue Spillett

CHEEKY MONKEYS

Another happy and successful year for our playgroup. How fortunate we are to have Debbie Rogers and Sophie Loughlin lead the mornings, creating a warm, friendly and organised safe space for children and adults alike. As you will have seen from the board in the Parish Centre – the craft is simple and creative and is much enjoyed by the children. Structured play and craft is followed by refreshments and then the children go up to the Choir room for a story and singing. This part of the morning has grown considerably during the year, with music playing an important part. Sophie uses the Clavinova to accompany the songs and often there are "guest musicians" invited to play along, so introducing the children to different instruments. These have included clarinet, violin and French horn. It is then downstairs again for some more boisterous play.

It has been a delight to welcome Emma from Canterbury College Supported Learning for another term, and to see her grow in confidence and skill. Thanks to Debbie and Sophie for their kind nurturing and encouragement.

Last year I reported that the PCC had taken over the pay and finances of Cheeky Monkeys and this has been an enormous help to us. The twice yearly Nosh and Knowledges are a good boost to the funds and thanks go to Chris Cook for his generosity in being our question master.

Cheeky Monkeys has been an important part of Parish life for a long while and we hope it continues well into the future.

Sue Spillett Chairperson.

CHILDREN AND YOUNG FAMILIES COMMITTEE

This is the sub-committee of the PCC which oversees this area of work in our Parish. It meets 4 times a year and hears from those who organise the different areas of this work.

It has been good to see the growth in the young people and student involvement in the church.

The Godly Play has been enjoyed by our younger SZ and it has been lovely to watch Ruth Baker use this form of telling stories at SP@TT on occasions. How quiet the children and adults can be! We are still interested in finding someone who might like to be trained in Godly Play but as yet this has not been achieved.

We feel very blessed that our churches reach and touch the lives of many children and young people in a variety of organisations and activities. We are grateful to all who give their time in this field and hope that it will continue and grow in the year ahead.

Sue Spillett Chairperson

MOTHERS' UNION

Another good year for our branch.

In May last year we enrolled 7 new members into our branch and welcomed 1 from another Diocese. This was a joyous time and it has been a delight to get to know them and welcome into the Mothers' Union.

Meetings and Corporate Communion have been well attended and we have enjoyed some excellent social events too. There have been family parties, afternoon teas and the now important annual Fish and Chip evening on the slopes at Tankerton.

2 of our branch members helped at the AFIA holiday in August and the branch has played an important part in hosting many Archdeaconry and Diocesan events. We raised over £600 for the AFIA holiday with the Smartie tube appeal. Mark and Hannah kindly led a very moving service for the ending of the 16 days of Activism Against Gender Violence in December.

We have an active and enthusiastic committee who look after different parts of the branch's life and the branch would not function without them.

I must not forget to mention Fisherfolk. What an achievement it is to run a Baby and Toddler group twice weekly and what a happy place it is.

The Mothers' Union is an amazing organisation with over 8 million members in 84 countries, and we are just a very small part of that. If you are interested in knowing more about it do have a word with me.

Sue Spillett Branch Leader.

FISHERFOLK

Fisherfolk – the Baby and Toddler group run by the Mothers' Union continues to thrive. We are grateful to Jasmin Chiaramello-Hopker for her leadership and to all the volunteers who support her. We open two mornings a week during term time and offer play, chat, refreshments and singing. The happy chatter and high attendance gives us confidence that this group is much needed and offers a unique facility where the families can attend together and meet others for new friendships and playdates.

Jackie Curd, Fisherfolk Co-ordinator

OUTREACH

“Each one must give as he has decided in his heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver” 2 Corinthians 9:7

Our giving in 2019 followed the usual pattern of local, national and international organisations. There were no changes to the organisations that we supported; however, we did need to think about the amount that we gave. As a result of a reduction in income it was, with a heavy heart, decided to reduce the amount for Outreach Giving from 10% to 5%. The Trustees have a responsibility to protect the Parish’s resources, it was therefore the right thing to do.

Organisations we support

Local	National	International
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Kidz Club• Canterbury Christian Schools (Pilgrimz)• Street Pastors• Living Well• Kent Refugee Action Network• Age UK (Canterbury)• Catching Lives	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Church Army• College of St. Barnabas• Kent Refugee Help• L’Arche	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• A Rocha• Barnabas Fund• Cord• USPG/US

Looking to the future

Our intention was to review our Giving in 2020, a survey and conversations identified that there were two areas we should focus on:

- How to build and sustain engagement with organisations that we support through our outreach giving? And,
- What type of organisation should we support?

The renewal group sadly did not manage to progress this during 2020 for obvious reasons, we remain committed to continue the conversations and to make a sustainable change although it will be much slower than any of us would have wanted.

Dave Stuart

PAROCHIAL CHARITIES

The Rector and Churchwardens of the parish are ex-officio Trustees of the Cooper and Adkinson Almshouse Charity and the Adkinson Relief in Need Charity which are part of our community outreach. In our accounting year (April 2019 - March 2020) there have been four meetings of the Trustees who have the responsibility of maintaining the Cooper Almshouses in Lower Chantry Lane. They also have the pastoral care of the residents and are called upon to deal with problems as they arise.

During the year the Trustees welcomed Mrs Jennifer Llewellyn (Churchwarden of St. Paul’s) as ex-officio Trustee in place of Mr Samuel Keeler-Walker who was thanked for his services to the Charity. All Trustees and Officers are greatly valued for their services and at the Annual General Meeting we expressed our gratitude to Revd Michael Stace whose professional architectural expertise is of great assistance to us. The attendance of Trustees and Officers at meetings was good other than absence due to sickness or work commitments.

The Adkinson Relief in Need Charity exists primarily to help ‘generally or individually women resident in the former Ecclesiastical Parish of St. Paul, Canterbury, who are in condition of need, hardship or distress, by making grants of money or providing or paying for services or facilities’. The Charity Commissioners have agreed that ‘anyone who cannot afford the normal things in life which most people take for granted would probably qualify for help’ and a variety of practical assistance was given to qualifying recipients including a grant to the PCC to assist funding of the Winter Shelter in the Parish Centre; the Summer Lunches at Querns, and some needs identified through ‘Connecting Canterbury’. Anyone who has skills

which they think could benefit the work of the two Charities or may be interested in becoming a Trustee, is invited to contact the Revd Clive Barlow, Clerk to the Trustees, 5 Barton Road, Canterbury CT1 1Yg – Tel: 01227 784779.

Rector and Churchwardens.

THE EDUCATION GROUP

Something for Everyone: St Martin and St Pauls Education Group

The Education group has continued to produce a termly programme of varied activities.

This year we have enjoyed:

Meet, Eat and Explore: *Cressida Williams* from the Cathedral Archives *The History of St Pauls*
Prior Simon Lewis from The Anselm Community *Celebrating Community*
Archdeacon Stephen Taylor from the Diocese *Everyday Ethics*

Thanks to Jackie and Mel for the delicious food.

Discussion Groups

A Romp Through the New Testament with Rev Sue Woan
Discovering Paul with Mark
Community and Spirituality Various speakers pre-Advent
What is Healing? Various speakers in Lent

Theology Any Questions:

Your Questions Answered with a Deanery Panel

Quiet Day

Pastures Green: Reflections on Psalm 23 Paul Kelly-Moore

Film Group

Pope Francis: A Man of his Word

There are ***Advent and Lent Book Reviews*** in the Magazine and we support national Church of England initiatives such as ***Follow the Star*** and ***Live Lent***. Since Advent, a new feature '***Challenges from the Commentaries***' to stimulate reflection on the weekly Gospel Readings, has replaced the journalistic take on the Gospels, 'Not the Church Times' in the Magazine.

Exciting times ahead as the group is discussing plans for possible home groups next autumn and the Deanery Lay Readers are hoping to facilitate a Deanery wide Lent course in 2021.

Thanks to all the Group for their ideas and practical support. **TELL US** what you would like, we welcome new ideas.

Rosemary Walters

Deanery Synod

SUPPORT YOUR LOCAL SYNOD 2020

Over the past year Deanery Synod has worked together collaboratively and creatively to produce a Deanery Mission Plan which is both visionary and practical.

This began in **June at All Saints** where Rev Phil Grieg led us in a fascinating activity 'Communion by Numbers'. At each stage of our worship we asked questions about how faith informs the practical mission of our individual churches and how we can act together. In groups we considered what we can say about the Deanery in terms of:

Isn't it good that ..., Isn't a pity that..., Wouldn't it be good if ...

In order to follow this up we had two autumn meetings. In September at St Pauls the focus was on the very practical issues of financing ministry and mission. We were joined by Deanery Treasurers, Julian Hills, the Diocesan Secretary and Archdeacon Jo. John Morrison, our Deanery Treasurer, advised us that for the moment we will continue to apportion the total parish share the Deanery

contributes to the Diocese by using the current formula.

We met at a **Kings School chapel in November** to review and expand the results of both these meetings and make any additions to the priorities we had identified in the context of three main questions.

What is our purpose/reason for being a Deanery?

What do you believe God is calling us to be as a Deanery within the next five years?

Can you list three priority goals?

Responses were helpfully put together in word clouds by Phil Grieg. For the **February meeting at St Mary Bredin**. Phil and our new Area Dean, Mark, who was commissioned at this meeting, had worked together with the Deanery Mission and Ministry Committee to produce a draft Mission Plan for this meeting. Again we met in groups and on this occasion made individual responses to the draft plan, looking at these headings

Communications, Mission, Working Together, Partnerships, Ministry, Deanery Structure

So we look to the future with optimism, thanking Rev Kevin Maddy for his tenure as Area Dean and welcoming Rev Mark Griffin, Rev Phil Grieg as Assistant Area Dean and Rev Jo Richards working as a team. Thanks also go to Liz Morrison and Janet Bentley for their enthusiasm as Lay Chairs and John Morrison and Harry Macdonald for sterling work as Treasurer and Secretary respectively.

The new Mission Plan will bring us together in a variety of groupings which we have in common across our parishes, church wardens, treasurers, messy church leaders etc. Hopefully we will all find ourselves stimulated and better equipped for sharing Good News by sharing the faith and resources which make up our diverse and creative Deanery.

Remember, Deanery Synod elections take place at **your APCM**. In July there will be elections to General Synod and your reps will be voting. Synods are exciting places to be as the life of our national church and our parishes moves forward in worship and service to the communities around us. **Your Synods need you!**

Rosemary Walters

PILGRIM POST

Editor – Revd Clive Barlow Advertising – Parish Office Circulation – Judith Griffiths

Our Pilgrim Post ‘editorial policy’ continues to be outward looking and it has been good to receive and publish articles that make it so.

During the year we welcomed Sue White to our collating team. Her humour greatly enlivens our tasks and we thank all those who are or have been part of the team this year.

From April 2020 only 80 copies of Pilgrim Post are to be printed each month to cover subscribers who request a copy home delivered or by post. A pdf copy of each edition will continue to be made accessible on the parish website and will also be emailed to subscribers who usually collect their copy from one of our churches. We are as always, so grateful to the team of people who willingly deliver magazines around the parish and to Judith Griffiths as ‘Circulation Organiser’.

The ‘Getting to Know You’ series of articles continues to be popular and the items for Endpiece sent in by readers are always welcome as are articles of general interest. Our thanks are particularly due to Hannah for compiling the years activities in four picture pages in our December 2019 edition.

Pilgrim Post is published by the PCC and represents very good value for our subscribers. Complimentary promotion copies are available by request to the parish Office.

Clive Barlow (Editor)

THE BETHANY GROUP

Throughout the year the Bethany group have continued to visit the housebound and frailer members of our congregations for friendship and to keep an eye on those who are able, at least sometimes, to attend our services.

The Rev Mark Griffin and Rev Hannah Thompson, assisted by Marylyn Collins, Doreen Laven, Judith Griffiths and Sue Manley continue to take Holy Communion to individual people, and some of the lay people also provide an Outreach service of Holy Communion to those in care homes situated in our parish.

A group of car drivers continue to be willing to bring parishioners to church on an informal basis, others offer hospitality in various ways in their own homes.

Our Bethany Visitors, who are all DBS checked, keep a written record of the vulnerable people they visit and submit these biannually so that the parish can demonstrate how we try to cover our parishioners' pastoral needs. People administering Holy Communion both in individual's homes and in residential homes also keep a record of their number of recipients.

The Bethany group meets every six months to talk over those we visit, and their possible changing needs, and to share any issues we have. In between meetings I am thoughtfully kept up to date with any changes to those visited deemed to be significant.

I believe I speak for all when I say that this is an enjoyable and rewarding part of parish work.

Note: Rev Steve O'Connor also assisted in taking Holy Communion in our parish up until Spring 2019, when he left to work in his own parish in Walmer.

Judith Griffiths - Bethany Group Co-Ordinator

CHRISTIANS TOGETHER IN CANTERBURY

Simon Redman of the Vineyard Church and Healing on the Streets was Moderator, assisted by Pastor Aaron Berko of The New Life Church, with Lyndall Bywater continuing as Secretary. Simon's theme for his year of office was 'The Year of Prayer', and this struck a cord with many members from different churches, and prayer and worship meetings (including Taize at St Thomas's) were well supported. The highlight was again the Walk of Witness on Good Friday, led by the Salvation Army band to Rose Lane in Whitefriars. Also memorable was the combined service for the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity held in the Cathedral Crypt, where Bishop Rose spoke powerfully.

Christians Together have continued to serve our community in practical action, including the provision of more welcome packs for families moving into Howe Green (in conjunction with our parish), and supporting and welcoming the family from Syria now living in Canterbury. There is a recognition that an increasing number of people and families are affected by debt and poverty, and discussions continue as how we can best respond. One suggestion is providing lunches in school holidays. My thanks too to Ruth Sibson, for her willingness to attend daytime meetings, and hosting a meeting in St Pauls.

David Hartwell, March 2020.

PARISH CENTRE

The Parish Centre continues to be well used by a variety of groups – Diocesan House, Canterbury Bridge Club, Tai Chi, Kent Philosophy, Labour Party, the Community Night Shelter, Birthday parties, Funeral Teas, Parish Lunches, Evensong and Supper, Walk In lunches and a variety of church meetings and education events. This is taking its toll on the fabric of the building and a rolling programme of repainting and decoration takes place constantly. An unexplained leak in the ladies toilets caused some disruption for several weeks but was eventually found and after a period of drying out repairs were undertaken with thanks to Mel Curd.

Going forward the external decoration will need to be considered soon and there are several initiatives that could be undertaken to improve the retention of heat loss during the winter.

Jackie Curd, Parish Centre Supervisor

PARISH OFFICE

Buildings and Publicity

The information below lists the groups among others that have hired and used our Churches or the Parish Centre over the year. (Some have already booked for the coming year)

Diocesan House

Canterbury Bridge Club

Kent County Bridge Association

EKJP

Monday Music

Amici Choir

Canterbury Liberal Democrats

Local and General Elections

Canterbury Festival

Canterbury Music Club

Canterbury Chamber Choir

Queen's Own Buffs Association

Tai Chi Group

Canterbury Labour Party

Canterbury Guitar Society

L'Arche Kent

U3A Kent

Practical Philosophy

Newsletter and Website:

Among the many and varied tasks of the Parish Office are the weekly newsletter and the maintenance of the parish website. Both have seen updates in the last year, and we are continuing to work on them.

The newsletter is often a tight fit, as we are such a busy and social parish, and we try to include all events and notices that are sent to us. We greatly appreciate your assistance in sending us notices by Wednesday evenings for the following Sunday (where possible) and try to communicate information verbally if there is no room in the newsletter.

The website has undergone some further content and aesthetic changes, and we will continue to make changes until navigation becomes as clear and intuitive as possible. In the coming year we will be looking at overhauling the website working with Church123. We have welcomed the feedback we have received and will continue to keep you updated on future changes. The content of each page should be monitored by the relevant parish group, and requests for changes or updates sent to the office. Please let us know if you have any queries.

We appreciate the hard work that you all do to keep the parish running smoothly and enjoy working with you all.

Chris Page and Sylvia del Nevo