



St Mark's Church, Gillingham

'Living for Jesus, Loving Gillingham, Learning Together'

AGENDA

for the meeting on 21 May 2023

MINUTES

of the last APCM on 22 May 2022

plus

STATUTORY AND ADDITIONAL REPORTS

for the year ended 31 December 2022

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Agenda for the Annual Parochial Church Meeting

Sunday 21 May 2023

- (1) Prayer
- (2) Meeting of Parishioners for the Choosing of Two Churchwardens
- (3) The Annual Parochial Church Meeting of St Mark's Electoral Roll Members
 1. Apologies for Absence and Minutes of the previous year's meeting
 2. Elections
 - a) Appointment of 3 tellers for the election
 - b) Introduction of each candidate standing for election
 - c) Election of Electoral Roll Members to serve on PCC
 - d) Election of Deanery Synod Members
 3. Report on the financial affairs of the Parish (*2022 Annual Report and Accounts, 2023 budget*) (GA)
 4. Choosing of an Independent Examiner of the Accounts for the current year (GA)
 5. The following agenda items should all be covered in the Annual Report or the Additional Reports and if not, they will be provided at the meeting by the officer responsible.
 - a) Electoral Roll Officer's Report (*Statutory Reports*)
 - b) Report on the Proceedings of the PCC (*Statutory Reports*)
 - c) Report on Fabric, Goods and Ornaments (*Statutory Reports*)
 - d) Proceedings of Deanery Synod (*Statutory Reports*)
 - e) Receiving the Reports from Church Ministries given in the Additional Reports
 6. Activities Update
 7. Vicar's Update Report/vision - Catharina Olsson Gisleskog (COG)
 8. Closing Prayer (COG)

**Minutes for the Annual Parochial Church Meeting
Sunday 22 May 2022**

The APCM for 2022 was in church at 3.00 pm on Sunday 22 May 2022

The meeting was chaired by Revd Canon Brian Senior, the Area Dean.

(1). Worship

Brian read from John 14 and opened the meeting in prayer.

(2). Meeting of Parishioners for the choosing of two Churchwardens.

Two people were nominated for Churchwarden, these were Seun Adigun and Karen Dyer, who had both been proposed and seconded.

The meeting unanimously agreed to Seun Adigun and Karen Dyer being elected as Churchwardens.

The Annual Parochial Church Meeting of St Mark's Electoral Roll Members

1. Apologies for Absence and Minutes of the previous year's meeting.

There were no questions asked about the previous year's minutes. There were no amendments.

Apologies were received from Kathy and Steve Burtrand, Beccy Cooper, Valerie Flick, Pauline Jackson, Mick Aldington, Lucy Williams, Karen Dyer and Trevor and Helen Towers.

2. Elections

a. Election of Electoral Roll Members to serve on PCC

There were the following spaces:-

4 spaces for 3 years

1 space for 2 years

3 spaces for 1 year

The following people had been nominated and seconded for election to the PCC. Each gave a short resume of why they wanted to stand for election to the PCC.

Trevor Dyer, Chris Gladwell, Frank Howard, Janet Mann, Ed Wentzel, David Wilkins, Frank Howard.

As there were less nominations than spaces the candidates had been approached and asked whether any of the nominees would be willing to take a position on the PCC for less than three years. All the candidates gave their input and Chris Gladwell said he would be willing to continue on the PCC for a further year, and Janet Mann said that she was happy to take a position for two years.

The meeting was asked to indicate by a show of hands the following:

Trevor Dyer, Frank Howard, Ed Wentzel and David Wilkins elected for three years.

Janet Mann elected for 2 years and

Chris Gladwell elected for one year.

The meeting unanimously agreed to this.

This leaves two spaces for 1 year unfilled.

The outgoing PCC members were thanked for all they had contributed during their time on the PCC, there being Gabriele Goddard, and Mary David.

b. Deanery Synod

There were 2 spaces for 1 year.

There was one nomination for Deanery Synod, so Dr Jess Mahdavi-Gladwell was duly elected.

This leaves one space unfilled.

c. Election of Sidespeople

It was reported that Sidespeople have been appointed, in the past, at the APCM but that the new rules set that these are agreed at the PCC meeting following the APCM.

3. Report on the financial affairs of the Parish Church (*Annual Report*)

Glyn Allen said that he hoped that people had been able to look at the Annual Reporting and Accounts for 2022 and also his Treasurer's Report which brings out the key points in the accounts.

He reported that the Financial Statements are at the moment with the Independent Examiner and have not yet been signed off, so everything is subject to that examination although he was not expecting any changes.

Highlights for the year:

General Fund	2021	2020
<i>Donations (Voluntary Income)</i>	<i>£119,802</i>	<i>£125,705</i>
<i>Total Income</i>	<i>£139,504</i>	<i>£159,727</i>
<i>Total Expenditure</i>	<i>£153,044</i>	<i>£162,683</i>
<i>Surplus (Deficit)</i>	<i>(£13,540)</i>	<i>(£2,956)</i>
<i>Net Surplus/Deficit after transfers</i>	<i>(£1,273)</i>	<i>(£6,779)</i>
<i>Net Deficit excluding CRF transfer</i>	<i>(£11,273)</i>	-

Glyn said that during the year we had received a Legacy payment of £49,396 from the estate of the late Keith Sheepwash. 10% of this is restricted to be used for the benefit of those in need and some of the legacy had been spent on the new broadcasting cameras in church. The PCC are mindful to use these funds in ways which we think Keith would have wanted them to be used. We remain grateful to God for the life of Keith and for his generosity in his passing.

In addition to the Legacy Funds, the largest funds are:

Development Fund - £32,830

Pre-school Fund - 27,846

Repair Funds - 23,945

Total in all our funds is £214,628, which is our current assets.

Financial Highlights

- Year End General Fund net deficit of £11,273 compared to budget forecast deficit of £8,923.

- General Fund voluntary giving reduced by £5,903 (12,698 compared to budget).
- 86% Of General Fund Income came from Voluntary Giving.
- Designated Away Giving maintained at 10% of 2020 Voluntary Giving.
- £18,281 net Gift Aid tax recovered for General Fund, with £20,000 unclaimed included as income accrual after adjusting for accrual deficit of £1,719 from 2020.
- A Legacy was received in the Estate of the Late Keith Sheepwash for £49,396, 10% of which was restricted.
- Parish Offer to Diocese, to cover clergy support, decreased by 2.8% - to £72,873, with 18% met by SMI Church.
- General Fund net current asset at year end was 33.6% of 2022 forecast expenditure, with cash reserves of 21.4% (15.1% with £10k CRF repaid).
- £10,194 rent received from the Garden House.
- Pre-school had a net deficit of £35,962.

Budget for 2022

Expected income for the year is £150,800 and expected expenditure is £158,659, giving a deficit of £7,859. Glyn said ideally, we should be looking to break even, but there had been exceptional circumstances in 2020 and 2021. Most of General Fund income comes from our Voluntary Giving. The three largest areas of expenditure remain staff, buildings, and Diocese Offer, which make up 82% of our costs.

Glyn said there would be a Gift Day on 12th June 2022, when Liz Mullins, the generous Giving Advisor from the Diocese, will be with us and he asked the church members to prayerfully consider their response.

The current status of the Development Fund was reported on.

The Treasurer recorded his thanks to all those who helped and supported with the financial tasks within St Mark's – Gift Aid support from Luke Prankard, Payroll Management Officer John Townsend, management of Pre-school accounts by Alastair Williams, the office staff the offering counting team, banking of cash. Thanks also to the PCC Finance Task Group for their support and guidance throughout the year.

Glyn Allen said that approximately 86% of our General Fund income is from voluntary giving and he thanked God for the sacrificial giving of so many that enabled God's work to continue and grow at St Mark's and beyond.

Brian Senior thanked Glyn for his report and all the work.

4. Choosing of an Independent Examiner of the Accounts for the current year

The Treasurer proposed that we appoint Rob Trice as our Independent Examiner for the 2022 accounts as we have done in the past. Alistair Williams proposed, and Joel Watson seconded, and the meeting unanimously agreed.

5. Reports

The following agenda items were all covered in the Annual Report that had been previously available.

- Electoral Roll Officer's Report (Statutory Report)– *Report by Denise Young*
- Report on the Proceedings of the PCC (Statutory Report)– *Report by Vicky Allen*
- Fabric, Goods and Ornaments - (Statutory Report) - *Report by Chris Gladwell*
- Proceedings of Deanery Synod (Statutory Report) - *Report by Glyn Allen*

No questions were raised about the Reports.

The meeting accepted the Statutory Reports unanimously.

e) Other Reports from Church Ministries were included in the Additional Reports and were previously available. There were no questions raised about these reports.

Interregnum update

Seun Adigun (Churchwarden) gave an Interregnum update informing the meeting that we were at the stage of advertising the vacancy, and this would be on Pathways and Rochester Diocesan website in the next couple of weeks. He asked the meeting to continue praying that all involved in the process would be guided by God.

The Strategic Development Fund

Christine Curtis – Community Missioner and Mayowa Oyinloye – Gospel Plant Leader spoke about the Strategic Development Fund and how it was set up and how it works within St Mark's and the wider community.

Christine outlined the things that she had been doing during the year which had begun at the beginning of the year with most things being run online. Later, she ran a Holiday Club, visited the Pre-school regularly, Messy Church and many other activities.

Mayowa outlined the many activities that she undertakes including Gospel Night, Kid's Choir, and Buskitivity.

Presentation re Environmental Policy for St Marks by Graham and David Wilkins.

Graham Wilkins presented the Environmental report, using a Power Point Presentation.

He said Following the PCC meeting on 16 Aug '21, the Small Group 'Junction' was asked to "write a policy regarding Eco Church".

This task was in two parts:

1. Refine a draft policy from one that they had been given,
2. Make proposals on what we can do as a church.

We were also given an "Eco Church" survey to help – over 90 points to check on where the church is at now.

The Small Group have drawn up a list of things we can do which will have maximum impact, or may not have a big impact, but be easy to do.

1. Measure the energy use of our buildings and calculate the carbon footprint.
2. Set targets for year-on-year improvement in energy efficiency and reducing that footprint.
3. Purchase "green" gas and electricity tariff.
4. All lighting only LED or low energy bulbs/tubes.
5. Limit energy used by floodlights etc.
6. If using disposables, only use if re-useable, or biodegradable or recyclable.
7. Maintain and properly use recycling facilities in all premises.
8. Encourage personal low carbon footprint for us all.
9. Encourage each other to reduce, re-use, recycle.

10. Give tips in newsletter and on website.

Other choices which are not a major carbon impact, but can make a difference:

- Use only environmentally friendly cleaning products.
- Use recycled paper where possible e.g., in the office.
- Use Fairtrade or low food miles products where possible.

To help us all with this, Graham recommended that we should aim to carry out most of the highest priorities and review every six months. Also appoint a responsible person to continuously hold us all to account and recommend actions to the vicar, wardens and PCC in relation to environmental concerns.

Graham said we need to be committed individually, and as a community, to protecting the environment and minimising our harmful impacts and we need to take environmental concerns into account in every part of church life and ministry.

The meeting closed with prayer.

Vicky Allen - PCC Secretary

Statutory Reports

Treasurer's Report 2022

Note 2022 Annual Financial Statements are subject to Independent Examination approval.

General Fund

For 2022 financial year, we forecast a budget deficit on PCC unrestricted General Fund of £7,859 which included transfers between Repair and Pre-school Funds. The year finished with a deficit of £4,180, albeit this included an income accrual of £3,578 for unclaimed Gift Aid tax and £10,000 temporary income transfer paid back to the Church Repair Fund (CRF). Without this CRF transfer included, the surplus would be £5,820. Overall, compared to budget, our income and expenditure were both higher by approximately £8,500 and £4,900 respectively. Excluding the CRF transfer the net surplus to budget was £13,679.

Donations (Voluntary Income) increased slightly to £120,124 from £119,802 in 2021 being lower than budget by £1,876. Gift Aid tax recovered amounted to £21,843, including the income accrual, after adjusting for accrual surplus of £1,308 from 2021. Online, contactless and Gospel Night realised donations of £8,371, before Gift Aid tax recovery being applied. We launched the Parish Giving Scheme in July, with £14,770 plus Gift Aid being donated using this scheme.

The Pre-school funds transfer to General Fund, for the daily use of the Vicarage Hall, was £7,500 and is a useful contribution towards the fixed costs for the building. Income continued to be supplemented by rental for the Garden House of £11,324 for the year, paid by the Diocese to provide housing provision for the Medway Campus Chaplain. Wedding and funeral fees were £486, with the DBF portion placed in the Sequestration Account and subsequently used towards the vicarage interregnum costs. We were reimbursed by SMI Church for Jonica Thomas' salary as SMI Administrator.

For expenditure, staff costs were lower than budget by £6,003 primarily due to the departure of the Digital Lead and lower clergy expenses. The total running costs for our buildings were approximately on budget when insurance claims are included. Youth and children, evangelism and office costs were all lower than budget. Mission Giving was £10,780 compared to an amended budget figure of £12,000. The balance of £1,220 was transferred to the Mission Fund as carry over to 2023. Based on 10% of donations received in 2022, our General Fund Away Giving in 2023 will be budgeted at £12,000.

This year the PCC, together with St Mary's Island Church DCC, agreed that the Parish Indicative Offer paid to the Diocese, as a contribution to meet both stipend costs for parish clergy and towards other diocesan support costs, would be £74,334 – a 2.0% increase on 2021. This was apportioned £60,334 for St Mark's and £14,000 for St Mary's Island – I.E., 81.2%/18.8% split.

The General Fund cash at bank and in hand at 31 December 2022 was £46,242. After debtors and creditors adjustment the net current asset was £49,170.47. This represents a 'reserve' of 28.5% of our 2023 forecast expenditure. The PCC agreed to a minimum Reserve Policy for 2022 of £55,000. The Reserve Policy will be reviewed by the PCC annually. Cash reserves are 26.8% of 2023 forecast expenditure. It should be noted that these figures take into account the £10,000 transferred back to the CRF.

General Fund Highlights	2022	2021
Donations (Voluntary Income)	£120,123	£119,802
Total Income	£151,829	£139,504
Total Expenditure	£147,038	£153,044
Surplus (Deficit)	£4,791	(£13,540)
Net Deficit after transfers	(£4180)	(£1,273)
Net Surplus excluding CRF transfer	£5,820	(11,273)

Other Funds

The total year-end balance in our Designated Repair Funds was £34,041 with a total of £5,081 spent and £10,000 temporary transfer out to General Fund, transferred back to the Church Repair Fund. A total for all the funds of £5,251 was transferred in during the year.

During the year £11,473 was donated the restricted Development Fund. We paid architect's fees of £3,048 and the fund now has a balance of £41,255.

The balance in the Mission Fund is £11,853 of which £11,500 is provisioned. During the year we donated a total of £750 from this fund plus some designated donations.

The Vicar's Discretionary Fund received no donations with no discretionary spending. The fund balance is £429, with HSBC Bank being a debtor for £376 of this sum.

The India Fund had no income or expenditure and has a balance of £9,707.

The Reach at Gillingham Pier Restricted Fund was set up to support management of income and expenditure until this venture was more established and the project has been wound up. Gift Aid of £40 was received during the year and the total balance of £400 was transferred to St Luke's Church. The fund is now closed.

During the year £408 has been spent from the HYCFM Fund, leaving a balance of £1,250.

The Peace and Hope Fund had no income or expenditure and has a current balance of £782.

The Specific Donation Fund is to receive designated donations. Income of £785 was received, with no expenditure. The fund balance is £7,405.

The Small Funds balance is £76.

The Strategic Development Fund is for the income and expenditure management of SDF projects. SDF funding can be drawn down periodically from the Diocese of Rochester. The year-end expenditure was £4,574, with a drawdown of £3,840, giving a fund balance of £414. Further funds will be drawn down in 2023.

Pre-school income from all sources was £113,143 and expenditure £119,080 giving a deficit for the year of £5,937 and a net deficit of £13,437 after transfer of £7,500 to General Fund. This compares to a net deficit of £35,962 in 2021. Included in the expenditure, is a 50% contribution of £5,081 for the Vicarage Hall new kitchen.

The balances in the Legacy Funds are as follows:

£4,940 Community Development Fund (restricted). For the benefit of the congregation to help those in need - £4,940.

Legacy Development Fund (designated) earmarked towards the new kitchen - £25,000.

Legacy Fund (designated). During the year £5,141 was spent from this fund, leaving a balance of £9,655.

The Sequestration Account (required during an interregnum) received the DBF portion of fees amounting to £286. Vicarage costs of £286, incurred during the interregnum, were charged to this account giving the fund a balance of zero.

Fund Balances	Closing 2022	Opening 2022
General Fund	£49,170	£53,350
Development Fund	£41,255	£32,830
Mission Fund	£11,854	£11,132
Repair Funds	£34,041	£23,945
Small Funds	£76	£76
Vicar's Discretionary Fund	£429	£439
Pre-school Fund	£14,408	£27,846
HYCFM Fund	£1,250	£1,657
India Fund	£9,707	£9,707
Reach at Gillingham Pier Fund	£0	£360
Peace and Hope Fund	£782	£782
Specific Donation Fund	£7,404	£6,620
Strategic Development Fund	£414	£1,148
Community Development Fund	£4,940	£4,940
Legacy Development Fund	£25,000	£25,000
Legacy Fund	£9,655	£14,796
Sequestration Account	£0	£0
Net current assets less current liabilities	£210,386	£214,628

The PCC has approved the final General Fund 2023 V2 budget, with a year-end forecast deficit of £19,195 and an assumed voluntary income of £120,000.

I would like to again record thanks to all those who help and support the financial tasks within St Mark's - the Gift Ais Secretary, Payroll Management Officer, the office staff, the offering counting team, banking of cash and management of Pre-school accounts. I also thank the PCC Finance Task Group for their support and guidance throughout the year.

Approximately 79% of our General Fund income is from voluntary giving and we thank God for the sacrificial giving of so many that His work may continue and grow here and beyond.

Glyn Allen - Treasurer

Fabric, Goods and Ornaments

The following buildings, associated land and other related assets are entrusted to us and it is our corporate responsibility to care for their upkeep led by the Churchwardens and PCC. Our responsibility relates to: St Mark's Church The Old Vicarage The Vicarage Hall The Garden House. The maintenance of The Vicarage is the responsibility of the Diocesan Board of Finance.

Premises Task Group

This sub-committee of the PCC consists of Chris Gladwell, Seun Adigun, and Chris Blewit. The sub-committee meets as and when required to ensure that our various buildings are fit for Christian mission and activity as well as to oversee the work necessary to keep our buildings well maintained and in good running order.

We would like to thank the members of this group for their diligence, and also Glyn Allen, Damola Olinloye, Barry Hills, Graham Wilkins and Mic Aldington who continue to make themselves available to respond to emergency repairs and generally serve in a selfless manner.

Quinquennial Inspections

The Church building is inspected every five years by a Diocesan appointed surveyor - this is known as the Quinquennial Inspection (QI). The report makes recommendations on short, medium and long term issues and also assesses the amount to be contributed to the Diocesan Repair Fund which will assist in the financing of such works. The Church was last inspected in August 2018, therefore the next inspection will be due at some point this year. This may find items requiring maintenance and expenditure.

The Church

During this year we have continued to improve and invest in the AV equipment and broadcasts of Sunday services and other events has continued. Thanks must be given to Mike Adlington, Chris Blewitt, Dammy and others for their hard work in installing the equipment and managing the weekly transmission of our services.

Minor damage has been caused to the roof in high winds, limited to occasional dislodging of tiles. This has been repaired as and when required by a local roofing contractor.

The kitchen project has advanced significantly in the year. Designs have been produced, tenders received and DAC permission sought. A value engineering exercise is under way to enable the works to fit our budget, but we expect to deliver this facility later this year.

As a final note we would like to particularly thank the small team - who know who they are - but especially Barry Hills and Dammy Oyinloye for their ongoing commitment to caring for the building and for keeping the Church and its surroundings clean.

The Old Vicarage

This building continues to be used significantly but has needed little work this year. However, it is approaching end of life and a long term plan needs to be put in place.

Vicarage Hall

The Vicarage Hall continues to be used significantly and is subject to running repairs; our thanks go to all who help in this regard. We installed a new kitchen during the year. The floor was rewaxed last year with thanks to Trevor Dyer and all who assisted with this.

The Garden House

The Garden House has continued to be rented to the Diocese and occupied by Lynne Martin who moved in April/May 2017. The diocese carried out an inspection recently which identified some works requiring action. Quotations have been gathered for most of these items and the works will be implemented shortly.

The Vicarage

The Vicarage was unoccupied and checked weekly as required by the Diocese following Saju's appointment as Bishop of Loughborough until October when, following re-decorating undertaken by members of the congregation, our new Vicar took up residence.

Chris Gladwell

Proceedings of the PCC

The PCC meets monthly. Each meeting begins with a bible reading, reflection and prayer.

The format of the meetings is generally the same, with:

1. Apologies for Absence.
2. Review and approval of the previous month's minutes.
3. Matters Arising.
4. Finance with a run down on the current financial position and projections going forward.
5. Sub Committees (called Task Groups). Each PCC member is assigned to a Task Group which meet and report back to the PCC meeting. These being:
 - **Human Resources** chaired by Vicky Allen.
 - **Premises** chaired by Chris Gladwell.
 - **Finance** chaired by Glyn Allen.
 - **MLTG** also chaired by Glyn Allen
 - **Pre-school** chaired by Joel Watson has given updates each month.
 - **SMI Church** Carolyn Facey has given updates each month regarding St Mary's Island church.
 - **Strategic Development Fund**

Updates from these roles, funded by the Strategic Development Fund, have been received by the PCC each month and their own reports can be found under Additional Reports.

Gospel Plant Leader - (Mayowa Oyinloye)

Community Pastor - vacant

Community Missioner - (Chris Curtis) who also oversees the work of Mayowa.

Any urgent matters that need to be dealt with between meetings are considered by the Standing Committee, and their recommendations put to the PCC. The Standing Committee is made up of the Vicar (and during the interregnum the Area Dean, Revd Canon Brian Senior) Churchwardens, Treasurer, PCC Secretary, and two elected members from the PCC.

Staffing

In December of 2021, our Vicar Saju Muthalaly left St Mark's to take up the position of Suffragan Bishop of Loughborough, so we entered January 2022 in an interregnum and the Rural Dean Revd Canon Brian Senior took over as Chair of the PCC during this time.

Vicki Watson continued as Vicar's PA/Operations Manager, during the year increasing her hours to cover maternity leave for some of Katie Skinners duties.

Katie Skinner resigned following her maternity leave and around the same time so did Hannah Whittaker our Digital Lead and we wished them both well for the future.

Following these resignations, we advertised and were pleased to welcome Eve Martin as part time Administrative Assistant with her expertise in finance, that will help the Treasurer with financial record keeping. Vicki Watson reduced the number of hours that she works, and we thank her for all her commitment and hard work.

PCC business

The beginning of the year the PCC met with Archdeacon Andy Wooding-Jones, Canon Kim Hutch from our Patrons, Hyndman's Trustees, to begin the process of preparing a Parish Profile which would outline St Mark's and SMIC activities and vision, in order to advertise for a new Vicar. This was completed after input from St Mark's, SMIC and a questionnaire to the congregation asking for their input. Hannah Whittaker completed this document before she left in May 2022.

The advertisement for the Vicar's position was posted in May with interviews undertaken in July. Our new Vicar Catharina Olsson Gisleskog joined the church in October and took up the Chair of the PCC in November. At the October meeting of the PCC we thanked Revd Canon Brian Senior for all his help and assistance given to the PCC during the Interregnum. This included leading a PCC Away Day in July 2022 at St Benedict's Centre West Malling. The day was led by Brian and his wife Karen and we looked at Pastoral Principles - Living Well Together.

As the Gift Aid Secretary had been unable to fulfil the role, the PCC looked to approach someone else to undertake this post. The PCC were happy to agree to asking Mike Young to take on this position and he took this up in March 2022. Thanks should be recorded here to Luke Prankard who worked on preparing the HMRC claim for 2020 Gift Aid that was overdue.

Some other areas covered during the year:

- agree to the purchase of new equipment for the Audio Visual in church. A new sound desk mixer was generously donated.
- Agreement to AA to use the Old Vicarage for another night each week. (A total of two nights in all).
- Agree to upgrading our broadband for all three sites, (Church, Old Vicarage and Vicarage Hall).
- Implementation of the Parish Giving Scheme following a presentation in church on 12 June.
- Installation of the new kitchen in the Vicarage Hall.
- Implementing Warm Spaces in church (this was discussed during 2022 and implemented in 2023).

The work of the PCC requires commitment from its members of ability and time. All of the work is undertaken on a voluntary basis, and I want to thank all members for their commitment during this difficult year.

I also thank David Wilkins who stepped down from the PCC in November following his move to a job in Cambridge. I thank him for all his input during his time on the PCC.

I appreciate your prayer support, as we continue and take responsibility as charity trustees for good church governance.

Vicky Allen - PCC Secretary

Electoral Roll

The Electoral Roll for St Mark's Church Gillingham on 5th May 2023 is as follows:

The number on the Electoral Roll is currently **148**.

There were 156 on the Electoral Roll in May 2022.

Since then, 26 people have left or moved away.

18 people have applied to join.

The Electoral Roll for St Mary's Island 2023

The revised roll for St Mary's Island 2023 now stands at **53**.

The roll for 2022 was 52.

3 have been removed and 4 added.

Denise Young - Electoral Roll Officer

Deanery Synod

Gillingham Deanery Synod is convened and normally chaired by the Area Dean – Brian Senior. It consists of all clergy licensed to a benefice within the deanery and elected lay members. The Deanery Synod's purpose is to discuss key issues within the church's ministry and mission, being an interface between the PCC and Diocesan Synod.

The Gillingham Deanery comprises eight parishes.

St Augustine's

St Barnabas

St Luke's

St Mark's (and St Mary's Island)

St Mary Magdalene

Holy Trinity

St Margaret's

South Gillingham Team Ministry

St Mark's and St Mary's Island currently have four lay representatives. One of these is taken up by a representative of St Mary's Island and the other three should be filled by people representing St Mark's. Glyn Allen and Jess Mahdavi-Gladwell (from Aug 2022) represented St Mark's and Sally Bloor St Mary's Island. Due to the interregnum, there was no clergy representation from St Mark's. Gillingham Deanery Synod met three times this year, plus a social gathering.

Some of the main agenda items discussed were:

March

Liz Mullins - Generous Giving Advisor for the Diocese of Rochester - gave a presentation regarding the Parish Giving Scheme (PGS) and giving (stewardship campaigns). The PGS is a direct debit scheme for giving developed by the Diocese of Gloucester in 2009 and now used

in several dioceses. A parish signs up to the PGS scheme, then parishioners sign up directly to the PGS. Gifts can be anonymous and it processes gift aid for you. Once it has claimed the gift aid, the whole amount, including gift aid, is sent directly to churches. Donors can opt in to an annual inflationary increase so their gift can increase in line with inflation. This aims to keep stewardship on an even keel.

Liz is happy to visit PCCs any time to help parishes plan their giving campaigns. The usual process is as follows: Liz to talk to a PCC. The PCC decides the focus and the timing of the campaign. There is a planning meeting and printed materials etc. are produced. There is presentation during a Sunday service, which is then followed up at thanksgiving service at the end of the chosen period where responses are offered up to God.

It should be noted that Liz Mullins visited St Mark's in June when PGS was launched at the Giving Sunday Service.

June

Claire Boxall, the Diocesan Environmental Officer, and Kayley Ward from St Margaret's Rainham gave presentations regarding Eco Church and all things environmental.

Other useful things which came up from this presentation were as follows:

- Amanda Maskell shared that one of her congregation at St Augustine's is making bird boxes for £3 each to raise funds for the Irish Genealogical Society.
- The A Rocha survey focuses on what things have already been done. It's not a checklist of things to do.
- It is useful to spend time educating congregations, labelling the things already being done as "eco". Understand that striving to safeguard creation is one of the five marks of mission.

July

A social evening was held to thank Churchwardens of the Deanery for their ministry. Deanery Synod members and their spouses attended, and the evening ended with the sharing of Holy Communion.

October

A joint meeting of the Gillingham, Rochester and Strood Deanery Synods was held to meet the newly appointed Bishop of Rochester - Jonathan Gibbs. Bishop Jonathan spoke about his background and his vision for the Diocese. The meeting was well attended and included Churchwardens and Lay Ministers from the parishes.

All meetings included a parish round up, where parishes gave ministry updates and information about upcoming events.

St Mark's is represented on Deanery Synod by Glyn Allen and Mahdavi-Gladwell (laity) and Catharina Olsson Gisleskog (clergy) from October + Sally Bloor from SMIC. In 2023 lay representation will reduce from four to three due to a reduction in the numbers on the Electoral Roll for the parish.

Glyn Allen
Deanery Synod member

Additional Reports

Audio Visual and Technical Report

During the past year we installed a new sound desk and stage boxes (This we were trialling before).

We have been regularly streaming on both Facebook and YouTube now for the Sunday services. Watching live there is normally about 9-10 on Facebook and 2-3 on YouTube and the services are then available to watch at any time afterwards too.

We are still a very small team, and we need more people to get involved.

Chris Blewett, and Mic Aldington

Catering and Hospitality

Many thanks to all who have helped with catering and hospitality during the year. We have been without an overall co-ordinator during 2022. Despite this we have shared in hospitality for the Queen's Jubilee, and for our new Vicar's induction and may I thank all who helped with these and other activities during the year.

If you feel that you would like to get involved in further such activities, we would love to hear from you.

Vicky Allen on behalf of Karen Dyer

Cricket Team – for St. Mark's & St. Mary's Island

We managed to play 4 games in 2022. The teams we put out comprised mainly of members from St Mark's and St Mary's Island plus a few willing volunteers from the region who also loved this great British summer sport.

Our first game was against a team selected from Rainham Cricket Club, and although the total we chased was less daunting than in the previous year, we couldn't quite make it and ended 9 runs short. Against Old Roffensians, it was their strong batting that put us to the sword. However, a spirited reply by our batting kept the game alive but we finished just a few runs short.

The next game against a local team saw us set up a healthy total, and our bowlers made early inroads to their batting, but our opponents put in a late surge and our eventual victory was by a margin which did not disgrace the opposition.

The final game was against Nasir Mosque and we were able to repeat last year's win, thanks to some fine individual batting performances. The barbeque added to the enjoyment of the game. Hopefully we can get some more games organised for 2023.

If anyone fancies a game, please see me (St Mark's) or Sathish (St Mary's Island). Most of our games take place on a Sunday afternoon at Rainham Cricket Club. We love to see and have the support of spectators.

Guy Jackson.

Dementia Cafe

We open every 2nd and 4th Wednesday of the month between 1.00-3.00 pm.

Average attendance is 10-12 people. People with dementia (or similar) attend with their carer(s). We have 7 regular volunteers and occasional volunteers from outside the Church.

Referrals have been received from Social Services, Alzheimer's UK, and from those who have responded to flyers distributed.

We provide activities such as bingo, quizzes and singing. In addition, we have visits from Imago, Carers First and ADSS who can support people with accessing services.

Paul Harris

Diocesan Synod

The Diocesan Synod is the main policy-making body of the Diocese and the forum for discussion of issues important in diocesan life. It debates matters referred from deaneries, PCCs and individual Synod members and contributes to the General Synod – the policy-making parliament of the Church of England. Each deanery in the diocese elects a number of clergy and lay representatives every three years.

Glyn Allen was elected by Gillingham Deanery Synod in 2020 to fill a casual vacancy and re-elected in 2021 for the new triennium. The Synod met three times during the year. From 1 January 2022, Glyn has also served as a member of the Diocesan Advisory Committee (DAC) as a Deanery Synod representative.

The new Bishop of Rochester, Jonathan Gibbs, was welcomed to the Synod in November. In giving his first Presidential Address, Bishop Jonathan affirmed the existing Called Together diocesan vision, and outlined three themes he believes will be important in helping fulfil this vision in the coming years - Change, Grow, Serve.

He spoke of the empowering nature of the hope that we have in Jesus that will guide us and give us confidence in this work:

“We have hope, and that hope can give us confidence when others are fearful - confidence to change and to try new things, confidence to serve and to step outside our comfort zone, confidence to believe we can grow and to have a go, knowing that, even if we fail, God is there to pick us up and set us on the way once more.”

The main agenda items during the year were:

- Presidential addresses from The Bishop of Rochester and The Bishop of Tonbridge
- Diocesan budget
- Living in Love and Faith
- General Synod reports
- Safeguarding updates
- Healthcare Chaplaincy
- Presentation of Annual Reports and Accounts
- Anna Chaplaincy

- Parish Giving Scheme
- Total Return Policy
- Everyday Faith
- The Environment and Sustainability
- Young people and children/youth workers

Glyn Allen - Diocesan Synod Member

Flower Arrangements and Displays Team

It only seems like yesterday that I was sitting in front of my computer typing up my flower arranging report for 2021/2022 and here we are well on the way to halfway through 2023.

The team very much enjoy providing floral displays throughout the year. We tend to work in pairs except for the big occasions – e.g. Christmas, Easter, Pentecost, Harvest and the making of posies for Mothering Sunday when we work together as a whole team. Perhaps the most notable event during the past year was decorating the church for Catharina’s Induction Service in October.

We are continuing to use silk flowers as the fresh variety don’t last very long. Wherever possible we use fresh greenery (my garden is beginning to look a little depleted – so any offers of suitable greenery would be very much appreciated! Please speak to me if you think you may be able to provide the occasional greenery items. Thankyou). We are continuing to do two arrangements on the dais area and one in the porch – plus the occasional windowsill arrangement. We plan to change the pedestal arrangements once a month.

The team has grown thanks to a couple of people who volunteered after the Volunteer Sunday in 2022. It has been good to have an enlarged team and we are gradually seeing them ‘blossom’. Should you feel like volunteering then please speak to me. Each arranger has their own particular style. Can you identify which one and by whom?

By the time you read this the church will have celebrated Easter. We will also have decorated the church, using white and dark red roses with dark blue delphiniums and agapanthus for the coronation of King Charles and his wife Camilla Queen Consort on 6th May.

Our thanks go to Ann and John Townsend who come along on the big occasions and ply us with coffee and biscuits etc. and clear up after us. Also, thanks to my husband Ernie who acts as a general dog's body to me and is a shifter and carrier of equipment. Thanks to those members of the St. Mark’s family who give us words of encouragement.

And lastly my thanks to each member of the team:- Jane BM, Siu King, Judyth, Pauline, Ruth, Mayowa, Vicky O, Janet W, Gabriele, Colette and Charmaine. for their personal support to me. Let us give thanks to God for their creative abilities.

Janet Mann

Foodbank

St Marks Foodbank reopened on the 7th April 2022 after being closed for a long period due to COVID 19.

Medway Foodbank reopened on the 1st April 2022.

Here are some brief statistics for St Marks/Medway Foodbank; St Marks Foodbank is one of the eight centres within Medway Foodbank.

Foodbank Centres	No. of parcels	No. of adults fed	No. of children fed	Total no. fed
Medway Foodbank	3,471	5634	4,806	10,440
St Marks Foodbank	672	1014	827	1841
Totals	4,143	6,648	5,633	12,281

During this period Medway Foodbank fed 12,281 people in Medway. The number from St Marks is 14.99% of the total.

Throughout this period local organisations offering free food like ourselves have worked closely together to support those in need in our communities.

It has been great to get back to seeing people face to face once again and an absolute pleasure to have our volunteers back with us supporting those in need in our local communities.

Churches are so well placed to offer clients a warm and loving welcome, as well as being able to signpost to activities going on at local churches.

The ability to offer prayer in person is also a vital part of the work of the Foodbanks across Medway. It is a privilege to be able to offer this to people who may have never been in a church before and who may have never had someone pray with them. It underlines the value of each individual and they are valued by us and by God in the midst of their difficulties.

As an organisation, Medway Foodbank remains so grateful for the support from local churches that help us by hosting foodbank centres, by collecting food for us and by donating finances. We are facing huge increases in our overhead costs and it is a struggle to keep stock levels in line with the increased demand.

Our project manager is working on linking all churches together in Medway in corporate prayer to support and pray for all clients and volunteers.

We look forward to a time when Foodbanks are no longer needed in the UK but until that time we will be in our communities working with those in local churches to support those in need.

Ruth Lindsay: Medway Foodbank Project Manager

Paul Smith: St Marks Foodbank Manager

Ladies Group

We began Ladies Group, known as More than Conquerors on our WhatsApp group. We began with 6-7 members. We now have a group of 16, although not everyone attends every week. We meet in the Old Vicarage from 10 am until 12 midday. We begin by lots of chatting, coffee tea, hot chocolate and of course obligatory biscuits and sweets.

We have Bible Study and this year since September we have studied in depth the life of Joseph and we are presently studying the life and times of Moses. We finish the morning with singing (which is lustily sung) provided by Sandi or Mayowa and short prayer time led by Alison. My right-hand woman is Sandi who kindly puts out our leaflets and keeps us all informed, Mayowa has done a lovely bright notice for the Church Noticeboard.

On the 4th Wednesday of each month, we have a games morning where men are welcome and this can become quite competitive especially if we play Rummikub. We often do a quiz but by calling out the answers this produces plenty of discussion.

Last Christmas we played the film of Joseph and all the family were invited to a feast provided as usual by the Ladies, followed by lively singing. This Christmas we hope to show the film of Moses.

Last August we decided not to close and played games e.g.: table tennis, badminton and football when the whole family were able to come. We hope to do this again this year.

The last idea we have is to call all crafters, we hope to have craft fair in aid of Let Loose, this hasn't taken off yet but watch this space.

Thank you to all the Ladies who are so enthusiastic and very welcoming to any new attendees, they are an amazing and fun group it's a pleasure to be part of them.

Thank you all.

Jane Bannar-Martin

Medway Campus Chaplaincy

2022 was a year of two contrasting halves. The academic year 2021/2022 was still very much in hybrid mode with many of our larger courses remaining online and a certain reluctance in both staff and students to fully return to campus. The whole covid period was a challenging time for those of us with student-facing roles and everyone was still trying to feel their way through. Pastorally I remained very busy but our activities remained low in numbers.



One particular highlight from March 2022 was the visit of Bishop Jonathan on the day his move to Rochester was announced.

Another highlight was re-starting our monthly Staff Coffee Breaks, after a two-year gap. One staff member recently said, *"The monthly Staff Coffee and Cake breaks are really valuable for me. They give me an 'excuse' to walk away from my desk and have a bit of 'me time' with colleagues from across the Medway campus. I am really bad at taking breaks, so I schedule these into my diary in advance to make sure nothing*

else is booked, and I really look forward to them. It's great to get to talk to staff who, otherwise, I may not meet – both from other departments in my own university, and from the other universities on the Medway campus. The event is so welcoming and it's just so nice to get away from it all for half an hour. And, of course, there's cake!"

By contrast, the latter half of 2022 was manic! Once again, we were back in full face-to-face mode and it was a case of hitting the ground running as the academic year started with umpteen welcome events and induction talks; and the University of Greenwich recruited hundreds of Indian students.

It was wonderful to re-start TABLEtalk as an in-person event, now running on campus each Thursday evening. During the September term we welcomed 39 students from 18 different nationalities. One Indian student, Arun, describes TABLEtalk as his "Happy Place".



Our other highlight from the Autumn term, was starting a new monthly event for our Christian students, entitled 'Sacred Space'. What a blessing that has been. On the first Sunday of each month we gather for a meal and to share our faith journeys together, using a topical Bible study, discussion and prayer. One of our Christ Church students, Jane, said, "*Sacred Space helped me to connect with other Christian students in a safe environment where we could share a meal, have fellowship and openly talk about our faith. We support each other in tough times and learn more about Christ through the life stories we share.*"

I am extremely grateful for all those who give their time and energy to helping facilitate various student events ... *Denise, Frank, Pauline, Jon and Barbara*. My sincere thanks too, to those who support this ministry in prayer. May God bless you all abundantly!!

Lynne Martin

Men's Breakfast

Men's breakfast has been an opportunity to reach out to men inside and outside of the church and we have offered and done breakfast together.

The amount of people involved in the men's breakfast have increased. We are having between 26-35 people coming.

Last year we did two Men's breakfasts and one special breakfast which was inclusive.

And we had two Men's Curry Nights.

We are looking to grow more in the coming years.

Dammy Oyinloye

Mission Links Task Group (MLTG)

The Mission Links Task Group (MLTG) is a sub-committee of the PCC responsible to oversee support of our Mission Partners through prayer, pastoral care, and financial support. MLTG recommends to the PCC how to allocate our Mission Giving (10% of our previous year's voluntary income), and other mission giving from individuals to the Mission Fund.

We continued to meet regularly throughout the year on Zoom.

We have continued to support financially and in prayer Katy Barnwell (Wycliffe), Tim and Tricia Barrow (SIM), Carrie McFarlane (Nehemiah, Mission India), Francis and Diane Dognon, (France),

Hyndman's Trustees (our Patrons), Tearfund, The Creation Care Project, The Bishop's Charity Poverty and Hope, The Mike Campbell Foundation, Fishermen Trust India and the work of Asha and Nelson Arul in Penang, Malaysia. We support the El Campello Christian Community in Spain in prayer.

Locally we donated to the Night Shelter, providing a place to stay overnight, food and support for the Homeless in Gillingham from January to March. We supported Family Trust who work in local schools. We supported the "Let Loose Concert" which took place in Gillingham High Street in July 2022. Foodbank reopened its centres in 2022 and St Mark's Church was opened for Foodbank on Thursdays from 1-3 pm and Saturdays 10am -12 noon.

We made regular contact with our mission partners during the year and enjoyed receiving news from them. Using 'Prayer and Praise' we have invited the congregation to pray for our mission partners. We are grateful to Kath Burtrand for facilitating prayer through Prayer and Praise. We are grateful to Colette and her team who doubled the money the church gives to TEARFUND by raising money from a very successful bake sale, sponsored walk, and quiz night.

We can let you know how to receive updates from our mission partners direct, particularly if Homegroups or individuals would like to support a mission partner. There is also information on the church website.

Please continue to pray for our Mission Partners.

Jess Mahdavi-Gladwell and David Wilkins joined MLTG after being appointed to PCC in May 2022. Damola Oyinloye joined us after the Jobs Fayre.

We thank David Wilkins for his contribution until he moved away in October 2022. We welcomed Catharina as our Vicar and to MLTG in the autumn.

The team in 2022

Glyn Allen chair, Tim Barrow, Charmaine Jones, Colette Wentzel, Jess Mahdavi-Gladwell, Dammy Oyinloye, Catharina Olsson Gisleskog Vicar and Denise Young (secretary)

Denise Young on behalf of the team

Music Worship

On behalf of everyone at St. Mark's, I would like to thank all those who have been involved in the worship music ministry over this last year, for the hard work, commitment and service they have been, and still are, giving. In particular I would like to thank Helen Towers for her long-time involvement in singing with us, and it is good to know that although she is now worshipping elsewhere, she is still supporting Mayowa's Gospel team.

I would also like to thank Janet Waters for continuing to play the organ for us when asked, which particularly enriches some key celebrations in the Church's calendar.

The last year has seen little change in the regular worship team personnel and direction. Ben, Kathryn, Mayowa and myself take turns to lead each Sunday, with Mayowa using backing tracks to allow the instrumentalists a break. Although we have regular variations in the line-up, significantly we still have only 4 regular instrumentalists available to play for every service and special events. Having so few people who can play an instrument is a major challenge which impacts our ability to provide the accompaniment we would like, to be refreshed and have the freedom to worship God

unencumbered. There has been talk for a long time of getting our young church members involved, but so far we have not been able to find a working solution.

Please pray for us, and if there is anyone who is prepared to use their gift with an instrument to worship Jesus with us, please do get in contact with myself or any other of the worship leaders.

Graham Wilkins

Open Church

Open Church over the years has got better at serving the community, where people have come regularly on Tuesdays to have a chat and have tea and coffee and the numbers have increased.

On a Tuesday we have between 13-29 people come and we've had lots of feedback on how it has been blessed.

It has been a privilege to volunteer with the team that has made it a success each week and a blessing to the community.

Dammy Oyinloye

The Pastoral Team

The Pastoral Team was set up by Saju Mathalaly and Raymond Shergill in 2021. As Saju and Raymond moved to pastures new, Denise Young and Paul Smith agreed in January 2022 to oversee the Pastoral team until the appointment of a new vicar.

The members of the team are now Denise Young, Paul Smith, Janet Aldington, Jane Banner-Martin, Sandi Chapman, Valerie Flick, Vicky Onitiri, Dammy Oyinloye and Trevor Dyer. During the year Charmaine Jones and Pauline Jackson stood down and we thank them for their work whilst members of the team.

All members of the team had to apply for the role and complete safeguarding training and a DBS check. Most members of the team have now completed the Diocesan Caring Concerns training course.

Vicki Watson continues to help with administration. Kath Burtrand still prays for the team. Val Flick and Ernie Mann take communion to members of the church who are housebound. This has very much been appreciated by the recipients.

The team are in contact with over 50 members of the congregation. Each team member has between 3 and 10 contacts.

The initial contact is a confidential phone call monthly to offer a listening ear and prayer. The original vision is that everyone in the church who wishes, would have someone who contacts and prays for them on a regular basis. This can be via a homegroup and/or the pastoral team. The team members meet 2/3 times a year to support one another but obviously not to discuss contacts due to confidentiality.

If you don't have a pastoral contact yet and would like one, please speak to Denise or Paul and they would be delighted to give you a form.

If you want to contact the Pastoral Team, then please contact the church office or speak to Paul Smith or Denise Young in church or email Denise at denisemaryyoung@gmail.com

Denise Young

Peace & Hope (formerly Faith & Light)



Peace & Hope is a church community for adults with a learning disability and their families and carers.

As a team we try to share our faith in a relative and multisensory way.

We meet in the Vicarage Hall every other Saturday morning. We take a break at Christmas and in the summer.

For the majority of our meetings this year we were privileged to have guest speakers come to talk about their faith in their everyday lives and in the summer we

had a picnic in the Vicarage Garden.

We finished the year with a Christmas party with a bring and share lunch, plenty of joy and laughter!

Karen and the team

Prayer Ministry Teams

After discussions with Catherina, we have agreed to arrange training and a speaker for the ministry team, so we can bond and learn from others. This will be arranged in the Summer.

Prayer Ministry is running smoothly, every now and then we may have a hiccup but that's life, God knows about that. I have had no complaints, hopefully everyone is happy and I think everyone on the team will let me know if something is incorrect or they disagree with their rota or how this ministry is organised. Badges on their way.

The Prayer Chapel has been cleared and looks much better, but I understand that we may be moving for a while, if that could be confirmed please. While various works are going on, we need to do our best to accommodate this. It is lovely to see the flowers on the small table, makes the area look inviting, a lot of people have commented.

Access for the viewing of the large Bible in the chapel area. A stand for it so we can keep it open for all to see and be able to read by all while waiting for prayers, when we are settled. To cover six chairs with plain fabric white or cream with ties on, for removal and washing. I have volunteered to make the covers, about six meters of fabric will be needed.

A display board in the area to display pictures or prayers from the children in the church, so they can be part of this area. It would be lovely for the children to have the confidence to come up to say a little prayer with an adult or mum and dad looking on from a short distance. I hope this subject for prayer with children can be discussed with the PCC and feedback given, although they do pray at children's group.

I will be organising to meet up with our ministry members in September giving feedback on the changes made and listen to their views and perhaps have social events to get to know our team members better and look forward to the feedback and hope we can make these changes together.

Cindy Reeve-Vigour - Prayer Ministry Leader

Small Groups

Small Groups are at the heart of St Mark's Church. They are the place we are able to build deep long-lasting friendships, to learn together and grow spiritually, and to offer pastoral support to one another on a regular basis.

We have now reduced to 5 Home Groups meeting, and a Ladies Group. The Men's Group and Trio's are overseen by Dammy.

Regretfully the Home Groups have diminished. There are 5 Home Groups who have been following their own chosen Bible Study or followed the Sermon Series, through questions provided by the Vicar. One Home Group will cease to function next year.

Despite raising the profile of the Home Groups with pamphlets and talks during Sunday Services, and a stall at the Volunteer Sunday special, there has been no further uptake for places in Home Groups nor volunteers for leading a group. One home group urgently seeks a Leader.

The Ladies Group thrives and they enjoy fellowship together.

I thank each of the leaders who have lovingly persevered in their leadership of their groups supporting individuals and walking in the footsteps of Christ.

Val Flick

Tear Fund



First and foremost I want to give God all the glory He makes all things possible. My thanks and appreciation to Ikechukwu and all our volunteers who joined and assisted in the successful fundraising efforts.

Many thanks to our church family who were fully engaged in both fundraising efforts. Without your participation these would not have been possible.

The Creation Care Project walk held in Capstone Farm Country Park (September 2022) raised a total of £865.

The Big QUIZ night at the Vicarage Hall (November 2022) raised £479.

Everyone was instrumental in helping St Marks fundraise a total of **£1,344**.

(Tearfund quiz night country wide outcome had - 333 Churches signed up, 13 340 Quizzing participants and raised a total of £140.000) visit tearfund.org for more up to date information on

fundraising events).

All funds have been paid directly into Tearfund account by bank transfer and by the Justgiving page which was set up for the fundraising day.

We are currently waiting for updates from our Tearfund partners on the Creation Care Project progress. This information will be shared once available.

Moving forward in 2023

Fundraising events to look forward to:

- Creation Care Project walk – preparations are being made to have the walk in the summer at Capstone Farm County Park.
- Big Quiz Night due in October
- Big Bake Fundraiser

Proposals will be submitted to MLTG for PCC approval in due time.

It is a privilege and an honour to be part of a church family who are passionate in helping where the need is greatest.

Colette Wentzel Tearfund Ambassador

Trio

For Trios the numbers have dropped from 10 people to 3 people and these three people still meet once a month.

I am looking forward to relaunch it back to the congregation in a few months.

Dammy Oyinloye

St. Mark's Pre-School

The St Mark's Pre-School has enjoyed another busy year, albeit one with significant challenges and change.

Pupil numbers have remained strong in the second half of the Academic Year through to the end of July, however the start of the Academic Year saw smaller than anticipated numbers of pupils coming to the setting in September. Over the course of the current Academic Year numbers have steadily increased once again, to the point where we have a small waiting list for spaces.

The Pre-School has been well led by Jo Tilley, who has been faced with significant challenges in her first full year as Pre-School Manager. However, she has been resolute and committed to ensuring the setting operates to high standards and provides a loving and nurturing environment for the children.

A huge testament to Jo's management of the Pre-school was delivered through a well deserved "Good" OFSTED rating at the start of this year. Jo and her team put an enormous amount of effort into securing this rating and as a Church we should all be extremely proud of our Pre-School team.

As is the nature of early years education we have also had a regular turn over in staff at the Pre-School and we thank those that have left for their time with us and welcome all of those that have since joined the team.

The links between the Pre-School and church life have continued to grow and we have been grateful for the commitment of Chris Curtis in helping to bring “church” into our timetable – culminating with a wonderful Christmas Service in the Church led by Catharina.

A number of repairs on the Vicarage Hall have been necessary during the year and we have been most grateful to the PCC and wider church community for their financial and physical support in making the Vicarage Hall a welcoming space for our children. In particular we are grateful for the installation of the new kitchen (which contributed to us achieving a 5 Star Hygiene Rating in recent weeks) and to Trevor Dyer for the enormous amount of work that went into restoring the floor in the Vicarage Hall and to Barry Hills for painting the Hall.

We look forward to being able to report in 12-months’ time on a Pre-School that continues to grow in both numbers and reputation.

Joel Watson - Chair, Governing Committee

Parent and Toddlers

The Parent and Toddlers group meets once a week in the Vicarage Hall on Wednesday afternoons during school term time.

This provides an outreach into the community where parents with their children can meet in an informal social atmosphere to enjoy free play with the toys provided, as well as organised craft activities.

The afternoons are led by myself, Chris Curtis and Frank Howard. Much enjoyed by parents and children are the refreshments which Frank provides. A big thank you to Ernie Mann who attended our Christmas party complete with big red suit and curly white beard.

Numbers fluctuate from week to week we currently prepare for around 20 children and 12 adults. The doors are open to many who would not normally enter church premises and has led to some parents becoming regular church attenders. Parents tell us that they enjoy coming to Parent and Toddlers because of the friendly, relaxed, atmosphere and the sharing of God’s love for all.

Ruth Howard

Report for Children’s ministry

Children’s Church

Children’s church runs 3 Sunday morning’s a month during term time, with children being in the All-Age service the first week of the month.

We have a consistent core of 8- 10 children who attend regularly, with many others that visit us periodically.

We have 7 dedicated volunteers who rotate throughout the month to keep safe ratios in our class.

We are now running as one class as we do not have enough volunteers to split into 2 groups. Hence, we are now Children's Church rather than 2 separate groups, Pebbles and Gems. This arrangement has been working well.

With current ratios and the children who attend it is not safe to walk children to the church. We have extended our running time to accommodate drop off before church and pick up after church. Our morning consists of children identifying their emotions by picking a picture of how they feel, they are given a chance to explain why they feel that way, if they choose. We then have a game related to the lesson for the day, praise and worship, a Bible story, life application, prayer, and finally a craft. This format and the consistency of a routine has worked well for our children.

Children's Church would benefit from being run closer to church so families new to church would feel more comfortable leaving their children.

We are always in need of more volunteers, particularly those who are willing to learn to teach sessions, and those who have experience working with children with additional needs.

Christine Curtis

Summit Group

SUMMER 2022

As part of the approved youth budget for 2022, we set aside a fund for a larger youth event to run during the summer holidays. We ended up running this for 3-days, from the 2nd-4th August, tying in well as a last event before Karen and I moved away on the 11th August.

For this event we did a range of activities including trampoline at Soar, bowling and a film night in. It was really successful with the young people having a great time (leaving us very tired on the third day!).

HANDOVER & VOLUNTEER RECRUITMENT

Knowing I was moving away, I discussed handing over leading Summit to a new volunteer. Via Seun, Tim Friday indicated that he was interested in the opportunity and we discussed this. I also participated in the volunteer recruitment day at Church.

Following the final summer event, I handed over Summit to Tim. This included passing across all the consent forms, example risk assessments, planning and budget tools I used (mainly in Excel), discussing the group as a whole and his thoughts on how club might operate from the new school year in September.

I have not directly followed up since moving, trusting that club was left in good hands and the young people continue to enjoy and flourish there. I would love to come back and visit the group again at some point but appreciate that it's usually best to leave a good gap before this.

Rob Turnbull

With the leaving of Rob Turnbull in August, I sought to keep Summit running but this only really happened until November.

The start time was brought forward to 6.30. This was to tie in with the start time of other meetings taking place within the main hall such as the Gospel Night.

During this time...

- I was assisted by Jon Friday and Barani Gopal Friday,
- attendance averaged about 10 young people and,
- approximately two thirds of the young people came from the local area and were not directly associated with the church.

Activities run for the young people included...

- How to make a good South Indian curry,
- the Lost Coin parable using metal detectors,
- Hide and Seek,
- a 15 to 20 minute discussion on the things of God,
- Gospel Night (none from the local area attended) and,
- a Scalextric tournament night.

Following the half term break I really struggled to find the time to prepare anything, so a restarting of Summit didn't come to fruition.

Tim Friday

Strategic Development Fund (SDF)

Gospel Church Planter

- KIDS MENTORING SESSION IN CHURCH ON WEDNESDAYS
- MENTORING / FOLLOW UP
- KIDS GOSPEL CHOIR IN SCHOOLS ON TUESDAY AND THURSDAY
- VIDEO EDITING AND COMBINING
- FILMING
- RECORDING
- Christmas production
- Singing at various switching on of Christmas lights organised by the council
- Invited to sing carols at Medway Maritime Hospital
- STREET2STREET carols where I go to different areas/streets to sing carols
- Carols at various care homes and organisations
- BUSKITIVITY
- Song composition and recording
- GOSPEL NIGHT every month
- REHEARSAL COMMUNITY CHOIR TOWARDS Easter
- PROMOTIONAL VIDEOS
- FLYER DESIGN
- ADVERTISEMENTS
- 10 MINUTES BIBLE SONGS
- MEETINGS
- ORGANISE CHOIR REHEARSALS FOR THE Gospel band and community choir
- Good Friday service

UNACHIEVED

Planning a music concert for the Kids Choir but this is near impossible to actualise as lots of families move away before the concerts after months of rehearsals.

-GOSPEL NIGHT-The numbers are coming back up with the congregation's attendance, but it was particularly demanding to put a team together especially towards the end of the year because of people's unavailability but we managed to get a decent and effective team to support. Although we were hitting the 150 attendee mark pre-covid, the number has dwindled since then but it's picking up again, with a significant increase in number at every service. Some of the feedbacks are "...it is so engaging...", "...we usually pay good money to go for services like this, the quality of music is great...", "...thanks for sharing this experience with us, it is healing old wounds I never thought was affecting me..." Good Friday was a success. Also collaborated with the Salvation Army for one of the gospel services. Had the New Year's Eve service with a celebration meal afterwards.

-**KIDS CHOIR IN SCHOOLS** - Parents are really happy with the opportunities the kids get to perform, with some overwhelmed and surprised at their kid's talents. I get to see new faces in most of the rehearsals because the kids tell their friends about the session and invite them to come, the down side to this is I will need to teach each new student all over again which is not as daunting as it sounds because kids grasp and learn quickly, also the number can be quite eclectic at times , either by reduction or increase in attendance . This is every Thursday and Tuesday.

-**KIDS MENTORING SESSION**- We have lesser kids coming for the mentoring sessions at the church. As some families have relocated with at least 2 siblings in each family, and the church down the road is now offering a warm space, warm meal, crafts and cinema on the same schedule as the choir. I had a volunteer on board, but she since moved away from the area with her family, fortunately we have a new volunteer, Helen, who helps on Wednesdays and other performances. The feedback from the kids and parents are encouraging. Encouraging to see the parents contact me during holidays because they want to know when the session will start back as the kids are pestering them to attend. I then need to organise sessions during the holidays, although I have a feeling they want to mainly hangout with their friends and have some refreshments after. The kids enjoy the session and I have been a bit hesitant in advertising the sessions publicly so I don't get flummoxed with numbers I can't handle until I get appropriate volunteers. At the moment I have between 15-20 kids attending regularly. This is every Wednesday.

What has helped?

- support of my husband- who is a volunteer by default.
- support from Line Manager and Project Manager.
- access to top of the range equipment, venue and instruments at St Mark's Church.
- support from some members at St Marks Church, to help with sound, hospitality etc.
- donation of equipment and instruments.
- rehearsals via zoom which cuts down the length of time for rehearsal when we meet in person.

What has hindered?

- Verbal and emotional abuse from the public during my outdoors ministrations, especially difficult when my kids are there to experience racism, profanity and animosity from some but encouraging to see how others have welcomed and embraced the initiative.
- Difficulty in moving from one location to the next as I can't afford to drive, I have had to spend exorbitantly on transport fare on myself and other members of the team.

- Difficulty in getting volunteers for some of the projects.
- Advertisement- incentive needed to put the word out there more, especially for the Gospel Services.
- Uncertainty of what each day and project brings, especially when I go for BUSKITIVITY, I'm sometimes aware that it's not everyone that appreciates or tolerates what I do out there , which makes me a bit vulnerable, that is I why I make sure my husband stays with me to ward off any animosity or contention I might encounter, which doesn't stop some people but God's protection always fights for me.
- Malfunctioning speaker used for BUSKITIVITY outdoors.
- Doing less of BUSKITIVITY as the Kids Choir is already done on 3 days, then a separate rehearsal is for the Gospel Band and community choir, this puts too much strain on my voice.
- Difficulty in getting rehearsals that suits everyone. I sometimes have to rehearse individually with some who can't make the general rehearsal, for both the community choir and Gospel Band.

Planned Activities - For the next quarter

- Easter Good Friday Service- Which will be held at St Mark's Church
- Flashmob at one of the shopping malls in Medway
- Gospel Service each month
- Kids Choir Music Concert
- African High Praise in June
- Kids Mentoring session in Church
- Mentoring / Follow Up
- Kids Gospel Choir in School
- Video Editing and combining
- Filming
- Recording
- Gospel Night
- Rehearsal Community Choir
- Promotional Videos
- Flyer Design
- Advertisements
- 10 Minutes Bible Songs
- Meetings
- Organise Choir Rehearsals for the Gospel Band
- Buskitivity

Mayowa Oyinloye

Community Pastor

This post was unfilled during 2022.

Community Missioner

In 2022 we ran Messy Church at St Mark's and at The Anchorians. Numbers fluctuated throughout the year. The Easter Messy Church was the most well attended. Numbers dropped off at St Mark's after the summer and it was decided we would stop running them until we had a new Vicar in place and could discuss strategies for a re-launch, which we did very successfully in 2023. The numbers at The Anchorians also fluctuated and dropped off so we ended our rental agreement with them in December and have successfully relaunched in St Augustine's Church this year.

I have run Holiday Clubs and Holiday Parties at St Marks, St Augustine's and Oasis Skinner Street at half terms, Easter, the summer holiday and Christmas. The church clubs have been well attended with children from the school and the siblings of parent/toddler children attending. The school Holiday Clubs are lower in number because invites are sent out by the school and are limited to vulnerable children. This summer I also assisted with the 3rd Street Methodist Church summer Holiday Club and with St John's Holiday Club in Chatham and with a Christmas Craft Party at 3rd Street Methodist. I think this is a great way of churches working together to show the love of Jesus to the community.

I have continued to run a Kingsquad Bible Club in Oasis Skinner Street which is always full and has a waiting list.

At the request of the school, I launched a Stay and Play for parents with younger siblings. This ran for several months but only one family attended and not every week so it was decided we would stop running it and think of alternative ways to reach families.

As part of the HUB Council, I assisted in running a Jubilee party at the school and several uniform sales and food give aways over the summer holidays.

The school came to the church this year for their Leavers Service, a very successful Christingle and their Christmas Carol Concert. The children enjoy coming to the church and the teachers are always appreciative. They have already made plans to come to the church for 4 events in 2023.

I have continued to attend the Pre-school monthly to run shorts sessions with a Bible Story and craft. I continue to help with Parent/ toddler group and have seen families attend Messy Church and Holiday Clubs.

I have been running an Afterschool Bible club at St Augustine's since September, the numbers have fluctuated but we are hoping that as Messy Church grows so will the numbers at Bible Club. Plans for 2023 include a relaunch of St Marks and St Augustine's Messy Church (which are going very well), starting a 3rd Messy Church with Rev Cox at St Mary Magdalene's and Holiday Clubs at St Barnabas.

Christine Curtis

St. Mary's Island Church (SMIC)

Church life has been well and truly restored after the challenges faced during the pandemic and post pandemic. The leadership team continued to uphold the life and work of the church during the interregnum.

Numbers have been increasing and several new people have found the church and started to make it their home for worship.

Many of the members participate in the preparation of our services week on week and we are truly blessed to have such a talented group of musicians and singers to lead our worship.

We have re-started our monthly Family Service programmes.

Sunday School classes are well attended, and the children are enthusiastic participants, making straight for the activities prepared for them by Nickie. We now have three groups, little ones, middle ones and a teens class.

We try to live up to our message of creating spaces for our community to encounter Jesus.

Little Fishes continues to thrive and we receive many positive reviews from those that attend.

Messy church takes place once each term and that too is well attended not just by the church family but by the Island community.

Meetings are held at Atlas Place, which are much appreciated by the residents.

Several church members support the Scouts group that meets on a Thursday evening and the Youth Club that meets on Friday evenings at the Community Centre.

This amazing church we worship at, has so much diversity to appeal to a great many people as happens each and every Sunday. We must not lose that by trying to do too much with one formula. but there is no doubt that when we have Sundays where we shake things up, it is totally God-inspired, spiritual and amazing!

We thank the Lord for all His goodness and provision. May we continue to thrive as the Church on the Island and create spaces for our community to encounter Jesus.

Carolyn Facey (Church Secretary)

St. Mary's Island School (SMIS)

Anchored at the heart of the community, St Mary's Island is a vibrant Church of England Primary School aspiring for excellence in all areas. Safe in the knowledge that we are anchored in God, our strong Christian ethos guides us to serve and support all who come to our school, to flourish and live life in all its fullness.

We have this hope as an anchor for the soul, firm and secure. Hebrews 6:19.

Continuing the work from our School Vision Day, ideas from the children and staff were combined to develop our own Vision Logo. This is replacing the previous image used and has been added to the website.

Our School Vision is displayed in each class as well as in office areas throughout the school and on our website. Worship regularly references our Vision. We have learnt Hebrews 6:19 as an action song, we ask questions such as 'I wonder what today's Bible verse/story says about our vision of hope'.

Our School Vision does not replace our Christian Values of hope, trust, service, thankfulness, forgiveness, respect and compassion, rather our Christian vision is lived out through our shared school values.

In worship we are continuing to use planning from Rochester Diocese Year 2. We have covered the themes of Remembrance, 'Take it back to the playground' (Proverbs, Wisdom), Advent, Christmas, Epiphany, the life of Jesus and Lent. We have reflected on Black History, Anti-Bullying, Road Safety, Children in Need, Save the Children.

Worship continues to be shared daily throughout our school. When FS/KS1 are worshipping in the hall, KS2 worship in classrooms and vice versa. On Wednesdays all worship is class-based. On Thursdays Mrs Facey and/or Rev. Catharina leads worship. Reception classes are now invited into KS1 worship. Nursery worship in their own setting.

Our Service of Remembrance involved leaders from Guiding and Scouting groups as well as a representative from Brompton Barracks. We worked with Rochester Cathedral to create peace doves and our doves are currently on display at the cathedral. This led to other schools becoming involved.

Christmas Nativities and Carol Services were well attended by parents. A collection of 'warm things' was taken and donated to Gillingham Street Angels. At Christmas, our year 6 children visited 'Little Fishes', the local toddler group run by the church, to sing the carols that they had learnt for the Cathedral.

KS2 children marked the beginning of Lent by attending an Ash Wednesday service which was led outside by Mrs Facey.

The Ethos Committee are trialling a Worship Evaluation sheet. Music, songs and videos are selected from a range of Christian traditions, reflecting the multi-cultural and world-wide nature of the Christian church.

Worship explicitly references the life of Jesus. We use a range of liturgy from the Church of England as well as developing our own, reflecting our vision and values.

Family Trust have led worship for KS2. They continue to support our 'Kingsquad', a Christian lunchtime group offered in year 4. Mini-Kings meet weekly at lunchtime in year 2.

We have continued to model different ways to pray, introducing P.R.A.Y. (pause, reflect, ask, yield/yes), listening to reflective music, being still, silent reflection with a candle focus. We have used the School Prayer and the Lord's Prayer, the Grace and the Blessing.

A selection of prayers from prayer spaces will be kept in school prayer books. The prayer spaces are recorded using photos. The children should be able to say where their prayers go after being taken down. Inspired by the Ash Wednesday service, children have suggested that their prayers can be burnt.

The children created star prayers that were hung outside classrooms. They enjoyed the star prayer trail at Christmas and Epiphany. Younger children had a Christmas prayer trail in the wildlife area. During Lent we have created prayer chains. We are using footprint prayers. There will be an Easter Prayer Trail for younger children in the wildlife area.

A sequence of learning with progression of skills has been written. This document also tracks school values, Christianity as a living world faith, cultural capital, British Values and golden threads.

SIAMS is changing from September 2023 we will be inspected under the new framework.

1. **Who are we?** (Our School context)
2. **What are we doing here** (Our School Vision)
3. **How then shall we live and learn together?** (Inspection Questions)

Inspectors will award one of the two following judgements:

J1 Through its vision and practice, the school is living up to its foundation as a church school and is enabling pupils and adults to flourish.

J2 The school's vision and practice are not enabling it to fully live up to its foundations as a church.

Carolyn Facey