



St Mark's Church, Gillingham

'Living for Jesus, Loving Gillingham, Learning Together'

AGENDA

for the meeting on 22 May 2022

MINUTES

of the last APCM on 30 May 2021

plus

STATUTORY AND ADDITIONAL REPORTS

for the year ended 31 December 2021

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Agenda for the Annual Parochial Church Meeting

Sunday 22 May 2022

- (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 a) Report on the financial affairs of the Parish Church (*Annual Report*) (GA)
 - b) Examined Accounts for the previous calendar year (*Annual Report*) (GA)
 - c) Examined statement of Funds and Property for 2021 (*Annual Report*) (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 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*)
Interregnum update (SA/KD)
 - d) Proceedings of Deanery Synod (*Statutory Reports*)
 - e) Receiving the Reports from Church Ministries given in the Additional Reports
 6. Update from SDF – *Christine Curtis and Mayowa Oyinloye*
 7. Presentation re Environmental Policy for St Marks (Graham and David Wilkins)
 - 8 Closing Prayer (*BS*)

**Minutes for the Annual Parochial Church Meeting
Sunday 31 May 2021**

The APCM for 2021 was held virtually with only people attending in the church who were needed for broadcasting reasons.

(1). Worship

Saju Muthalaly thanked everyone for joining online and led in prayer.

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

Saju explained that Helen Towers is stepping down as Churchwarden. He presented her with some gifts from St Mark's as a small thanks for all that she has done. Helen thanked the church for all the support that she has received and was grateful for all the opportunities that she had had.

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 Janet and Ernie Mann, Julie and Lance Hanning, Lynne Martin, Pauline Jackson and Graham and Melanie Davis.

2. Elections

a. Election of Electoral Roll Members to serve on PCC

There were the following spaces.

4 spaces for 3 years

2 spaces for 2 years

Saju thanked all the people who have played significant roles on the PCC and whose tenure had come to an end this year - these were Ope Biye, Lance Hanning, Simon Morbey and Vicky Allen. three people had been nominated proposed and seconded to become PCC members and they each spoke briefly about themselves, before the meeting was asked to indicate their approval on the nominations. The meeting agreed to Vicky Allen, Paul Smith, and Joel Watson being elected to stand for three years on the PCC.

This left the following positions unfilled

1 position for 3 years

2 positions for 2 years

b. Deanery Synod

There were 2 spaces for 2 years

These spaces were 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 out that these are agreed at the PCC meeting following the APCM.

3. Fabric Goods and Ornaments

The report of the Fabric Goods and Ornaments was included with the Statutory Reports and Saju asked the meeting if they had any questions regarding that report. There were no questions. Saju thanked Chris Gladwell for all his work.

4 a) Report on the financial affairs of the Parish Church (*Annual Report*)

GA said that he hoped that people had been able to look at the Annual Reporting and Accounts for 2020 and also his Treasurer's Report which brings out the key points in the accounts. These would be put on the church website.

The Financial statement summary is 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:

<i>General Fund</i>	<i>2020</i>	<i>2019</i>
<i>Total Income</i>	<i>£159,727</i>	<i>£164,284</i>
<i>Total Expenditure</i>	<i>£16,683</i>	<i>£162,726</i>
<i>Surplus/deficit</i>	<i>(£2,956)</i>	<i>£1,558</i>
<i>Net Deficit after transfer</i>	<i>(£6,779)</i>	<i>(£3,518)</i>
<i>Budget forecast surplus/deficit</i>	<i>(£4,084)</i>	<i>(£4,786)</i>
<i>Voluntary Giving</i>	<i>£125,705</i>	<i>£139,076</i>

The other largest Funds that we have are:

Preschool Fund

Repair Fund

Development Fund – for financing new projects such as a new kitchen.

Total in all of our funds is £201,354 which is our current assets.

Financial Highlights

- Year-end General Fund net deficit £6,779 compared to a budget forecast deficit of £4,084.
- General Fund Voluntary giving reduced by £13,371 (£14,295 compared to budget.)
- 79% of General Fund Income came from Voluntary Giving.
- Designated away Giving maintained at 10% of 2019 Voluntary Giving.
- £6,503 actual Gift Aid tax recovered for General Fund with £16,000 unclaimed included as income accrual - £22,503 total.
- Job Retention Scheme payments of £3,825 were received (people who were furloughed).
- Utility charges reimbursement of £9,127 received from the Diocese. This was a refund from the Diocese that we had been paying for utility bills at St Barnabas Vicarage where Amanda has been living that we shouldn't have paid).
- Parish Offer to Diocese, to cover clergy support, decreased by 4.2% - £75,000 with 17.5% met by SMI Church.
- General Fund net current asset at year end was 31.9% of 2021 forecast expenditure, with cash reserves of 22.4%.

- Architect's fees of £4,143 were paid from the Development Fund for a future development feasibility study.
- £10,895 rent from the Garden House from the Diocese.
- Preschool net surplus of £1,910 – bearing in mind almost the whole year was Covid related, and he thanked the Pre-school team for all their efforts during a very difficult year.

Budget for 2021

Expected income for the year is £162,150 and expected Expenditure is £171,073 this will leave us with a deficit of £8,923. GA said that this is not ideal as we would like to break even. Most of General Fund Income comes from our Voluntary Giving. Largest expenses are staff, buildings, and Diocese. GA said we can manage this deficit from our reserves, but it can't be maintained ongoing. GA asked whether people would prayerfully consider their response to the Gift Day that was going to be held on the 27 June.

On a positive note – GA said that s God has always provided for St Mark's in remarkable ways, and he believes He would continue to do that.

GA thanked those who have helped with the financial tasks, John Beck who stepped down from being Gift Aid Secretary in April 2020, Luke Prankard, Ope Biye and Don Byrne who have been working to enable the outstanding Gift Aid can be claimed. John Townsend the Pay Role Management Officer which requires a lot of work to ensure that the staff are paid correctly. To the office staff for their help, those who count the offering week by week (under normal circumstances). Those who do the banking. For Alistair Williams for maintaining the Pre-school account, the PCC and the Finance Task Group for their guidance. For everybody at St Mark's for their sacrificial giving to help maintain the ongoing work at St Mark and beyond.

Becky Cooper asked whether the Diocesan Offer was reduced during the pandemic year to give churches any relief. GA responded by say there was not any specific reduction in the Offer, but the Diocese did say that they would offer loans to churches that were in difficulties and also some grants that would not have to be paid back which you could apply for. Fortunately for St Mark's our income did drop for the reasons I explained earlier, but other churches get a great deal of their income from letting. Our income does not rely on letting income.

Saju thanked Glyn for all his work.

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

Glyn Allen proposed that we appoint Rob Trice as our Independent Examiner for the 2021 accounts as we have done in the past. Jane Banner-Martin proposed, and Helen Tower seconded, and the meeting unanimously agreed.

6 Reports

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

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

No questions were raised about the Reports.

The meeting was asked to accept the Statutory Reports which were accepted unanimously.

Saju spoke about wanting to rediscover and attend to the body of people in Gillingham in hopefully a

post Covid world. He said:

1. We need to attend to our vision as a church. Reminding people that about five years ago we produced a vision for the church, Living for Jesus, Loving Gillingham and Learning Together. He asked whether we need to look at this again in a post pandemic time and he said he would be asking the PCC whether we need to re-visit our vision.
2. Saju spoke about the ways in which we have reached out during the pandemic with videos, and broadcast of our church services. These have been viewed by people the UK and from all around the world. He said we need to take the whole church forward and our Pastoral Team will play a part in this.
3. Strategic Development Funding is being used to pay for a Gospel Plant Leader, Community Pastor and Community Missioner and these are people who are pioneering worshipping communities that will meet the needs in our local community in a way that is relevant to them

The SDF Team spoke (via video) about their work:

Chris Curtis - Community Missioner said her passion was for children and family ministry. She spoke about her work partnering with Oasis school, and also working with St Mark's Pre-school to foster relationships between the Pre-school and the church and to offer support to the Pre-school and service to the families. She said that during the lockdown she has had time to do a lot of training and accessing needs and she intends to open Kids Academy Sports Club, CAP Money training Courses, County Line Training and Make a Lunch Club.

Christine said that she was also offering RE lessons and collective worship online.

Mayowa Oyinloye – Gospel Plant Leader said that she has been working with Kids and Community choir, preparing and broadcasting Playlets, video work for backing tracts for songs and composing songs. She also does “Buskitivity” in the High Street. She also organizes Gospel Nights bringing people from other churches to assist in a worship service at St Mark's.

Karen Turnbull – Community Pastor – said that at the beginning of the year she was furloughed because of the pandemic until March. Since then, she has started a Community Garden Project with raised flower beds outside St Mark's and St Augustine's churches. A lot of work has gone into starting the Gardens. She said that once these gardens are established, we will have flowers and produce to share. This project is a gardening project in the growing season, and in the winter, it will be a cooking and eating club. There are quite a few garden projects throughout the Medway towns and she hopes to draw these into a community garden forum, to share together and support each other.

Gillingham Eco Hub has started on a Facebook page, and in she is in the process of filling up all the tree pits in Gillingham High Street and plant them up with flowers.

Karen said that she would be meeting with people from Sunlight Centre, Adult Education and Street Angels to put a proposal of to the Council of services that we could offer to people in Gillingham, if they agreed to hand over a shop space for this project.

Karen said that the Moat Foundation Gillingham Centre at the Vineries has a small garden project and they and offered a space for a craft club. Also, they have offered a space for a worshipping community and she asked for prayer for this venture.

Saju said the Simon Morbey has moved to Wales which means that we have no youth worker. Rob

Turnbull has taken over the leading of Summit and Christine Cordle (Curtis) is working on other children's work.

Saju said that the kitchen in church will serve everyone. He also said that St. Mark's church is not an island, the church is part of the Diocese and the wider church, and that Bishop James is leaving, and there is a team looking at who will replace him. It is hoped to have a new bishop of Rochester in early 2022.

Saju spoke about when he had been to see Mother Theresa. He said that Mother Theresa said

"Not all of us can do great things but we can all do small things with great love."

He said that in St Mark's there are a lot of people who volunteer to do things, most of them in the background. As we move into the next year we need to pray, learn scripture and reach out and we can all do small thing with great love.

Saju invited Seun and Karen the churchwardens to come forward and after they had shared the meeting closed with prayer.

Vicky Allen PCC Secretary

Statutory Reports

Treasurer's Report 2021

Note 2021 Annual Financial Statements are subject to Independent Examination approval.

General Fund

For 2021 financial year, we forecast a budget deficit on PCC unrestricted General Fund of £8,923 which included transfers between Repair and Pre-school Funds. The year finished with a deficit of £1,273, albeit this included an income accrual of £20,000 for unclaimed Gift Aid tax and £10,000 temporary income transfer from the Church Repair Fund (CRF). Without this CRF transfer included, the deficit would be £11,273. Overall, compared to budget, our income and expenditure were both lower by approximately £5,200 and £12,800, respectively. Excluding the CRF transfer the net deficit to budget was £2,350.

Donations (Voluntary Income) decreased to £119,802 from £125,705 in 2020 being lower than budget by £12,698. While regular giving decreased, online and contactless more than doubled. Gift Aid tax recovered amounted to £18,281, including the income accrual, after adjusting for accrual deficit of £1,719 from 2020. This was lower than recent years, reflecting the reduction in voluntary giving. Online and contactless more than doubled compared to 2020, realising donations of £9,713, before Gift Aid tax recovery being applied.

The Pre-school funds transfer to General Fund, for the daily use of the Vicarage Hall, was £7,493 (including additional 'Covid' cleaning) and is a useful contribution towards the fixed costs for the building. Income continued to be supplemented by rental for the Garden House of £10,194 for the year, paid by the Diocese to provide housing provision for the Medway Campus Chaplain. Wedding and funeral fees, at £414 were only a quarter of last year's receipts. We were reimbursed by SMI Church for Jonica Thomas' salary as SMI Administrator.

For expenditure, staff costs were lower than budget by £9,868 due to lower expenditure for the Youth Worker and curate. The total running costs for our buildings were £3,588 higher than budget. Youth and children, evangelism and office costs were all lower than budget and Mission Giving was on budget at £12,600. Based on 10% of donations received in 2020, our General Fund Away Giving in 2022 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 £72,873 – a 2.8% decrease on 2020. This was apportioned £59,748 for St Mark's and £13,125 for St Mary's Island – I.E., 82.0%/18.0% split.

The General Fund cash at bank and in hand at 31 December 2021 was £33,950. After debtors and creditors adjustment the net current asset was £53,350. This represents a 'reserve' of 33.6% of our 2022 forecast expenditure. The PCC agreed to retain a minimum Reserve Policy for 2021 of £55,000. The Reserve Policy will be reviewed by the PCC annually. Cash reserves are 21.4% of 2022 forecast expenditure. It should be noted, however, that these figures include the £10,000 transferred from the CRF. If this were transferred back, the net current asset would reduce to 27.3% and cash reserve to 15.1%.

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

Other Funds

The total year-end balance in our Designated Repair Funds was £23,945 with a total of £5,692 spent and £10,000 temporary transfer out to General Fund. A total of £5,225 was transferred in during the year.

During the year £13,519 (before Gift Aid) was donated at Gift Day for the restricted Development Fund. We paid architect's fees of £60 and with other donations the fund now has a balance of £32,830.

The balance in the Mission Fund is £11,132, which includes £1,632 unallocated in 2021. During the year we donated a total of £2,180 from this fund. Of the total in the fund, £9,500 is designated.

The Vicar's Discretionary Fund received £3,620 donations with discretionary spending of £3,920. The fund current balance is £439.

The India Fund had no income with an expenditure of £785. The year-end balance of the fund is £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. At the end of March, the project was wound up and after settling some expenditures the balance was transferred to St Luke's Gillingham PCC for local mission. Income received during the year was £520, with expenditure of £7,414 including £6,603 transferred to St Luke's. The current fund balance is £360 (Gift Aid).

During the year £1,437 has been spent from the HYCFM Fund, leaving a balance of £1,658.

The Peace and Hope Fund received £78 income, giving a current balance of £782.

The Specific Donation Fund is to receive designated donations. Income of £1,565 was received, with no expenditure. The fund balance is £6,620.

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. To the year-end expenditure was £3,205, with a drawdown of £3,824, giving a fund balance of £1,147. Further funds will be drawn down in 2022.

Pre-school income from all sources was £91,114 and expenditure £119,583 giving a deficit for the year of £28,469 and a net deficit of £35,962 after transfer of £7,493 to General Fund. This compares to a net surplus of £1,910 in 2020. The Pre-school Fund balance is £27,846.

During the year we received a Legacy in the Estate of the Late Keith Sheepwash for £49,396, 10% of which was restricted for the benefit of the congregation to help those in need. The PCC agreed to allocate the funds as follows:

£4,940 - Community Development Fund (restricted)

£25,000 – Legacy Development Fund (designated)

£19,456 – Legacy Fund (designated). During the year £4,660 was spent from this fund, leaving a balance of £14,796.

Fund Balances	Closing 2021	Opening 2021
General Fund	£53,350	£54,623
Development Fund	£32,830	£7,315
Mission Fund	£11,132	£13,309
Repair Funds	£23,945	£34,357
Small Funds	£76	£76
Vicar's Discretionary Fund	£439	£739
Pre-school Fund	£27,846	£63,808
HYCFM Fund	£1,657	£3,094
India Fund	£9,707	£10,492
Reach at Gillingham Pier Fund	£360	£7,254
Peace and Hope Fund	£782	£704
Specific Donation Fund	£6,620	£5,055
Strategic Development Fund	£1,148	£529
Community Development Fund	£4,940	-
Legacy Development Fund	£25,000	-
Legacy Fund	£14,796	-
Net current assets less current liabilities	£214,628	£201,354

The PCC has approved the final General Fund 2022 V2 budget, with a year-end forecast deficit of £7,859, with an assumed voluntary income of £122,000.

I would like to again record thanks to all those who help and support the financial tasks within St Mark's - the Gift Aid support, 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 86% 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 Oyinloye, 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 next year. This may find items requiring maintenance and expenditure.

The Church

During this year we have come out of the Covid restrictions and the church is being used much more fully again and many of the congregation have returned, plus some new members. However, we have continued to broadcast on Facebook. Thanks must be given to Luke Prankard, Chris Blewitt, Dammy Oyinloye and others for their hard work in installing the equipment and managing the weekly transmission of our services.

Once again significant damage to the roof and gutters occurred during the storms earlier this year. This has now been repaired, with the majority of the cost being covered by our insurance.

The consultation exercise carried out in previous years has shown the greatest desire is for a new kitchen. Plans and image boards have been drawn and displayed in the church. We remain committed to this project, but have been advised that we should not proceed further until we have a new incumbent.

Finally, 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 and is subject to running repairs. Room 4 repairs have been completed.

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. Pre-School have returned and identified a need for the kitchen to be replaced. This work has now been completed.

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 Garden House is regularly maintained as and when required. The Premises Task Group are fully aware that the boiler system in the Garden House is over 15-20 years old and would need replacement with a more efficient system at some point in the years to come. The electrical system is also outdated and the fuse board ideally would be replaced.

The Vicarage

The Vicarage is currently unoccupied following Saju's appointment as Bishop of Loughborough. It is checked weekly as required by the diocese.

Request by the Premises Task Group

As we look to embark on some major projects to enable our mission and provide improved facilities for the community and congregation, we need volunteers to assist with grant funding applications. If you feel called to this please contact Chris Gladwell.

Chris Gladwell

Proceedings of the PCC

The PCC meets monthly. Each meeting begins with a bible reading, reflection and prayer. During the beginning of the year the PCC reflected on the seven marks of a healthy church outlined in the Robert Warren's book. We looked at these topics

- Outward looking focus.
- Seeks to find out what God wants.
- Faces the cost of change and growth.
- Operates in a community together.
- Makes room for all.
- Does a few things and does them well.

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 Helen Towers and then Luke Prankard.
 - **Premises** chaired by Chris Gladwell.
 - **Finance** chaired by Glyn Allen.
 - **MLTG** also chaired by Glyn Allen.
 - **SMI Church** Carolyn Facey has given updates each month regarding St Mary's Island church.

- **Strategy group** – who have met to consider all the guidelines regarding Covid and recommend to the PCC how these should be implemented into church life.
- **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 – (Karen Turnbull)

Community Missioner, (Chris Cordle/Curtis) who also oversees the work of Mayowa and Karen.

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, Churchwardens, Treasurer, PCC Secretary, and two elected members from the PCC.

Staffing

In January it was announced that Amanda Maskell would be leaving St Mark's to start the position of Vicar at St Augustine's church Gillingham.

Simon Morbey, our Youth Worker, informed the PCC that he had accepted a position in Wales and would be leaving St Mark's at the beginning of May. Simon would be sadly missed. The HR Task Group looked at possible ways to fill the role that Simon had undertaken, and eventually it was agreed to not fill this position at this stage. The leadership of Summit was taken over by Rob Turnbull on a voluntary basis.

Katie Skinner went on maternity leave also in May and Vicki Watson agreed to taking on a large part of Katie's work as maternity cover during her absence.

Rob Byrne and Raymond Shergill moved on to St John's church Chatham and Twydall Church to continue their ordination training following the move of Saju to become Bishop of Loughborough.

Hannah Whittaker and the staff team came to the PCC in April to ask for agreement to the transfer of church management to iKonwChurch which would enable the management to be more centralised. The PCC also agreed to move the website to another provider. (The latter of these two propositions i.e., the website did not take place).

Some other areas covered during the year:

- to the creation of Pastoral Teams, overseen by Raymond Shergill.
- to purchase new equipment a computer, two cameras, cables and associated items for continuing broadcasting church services and other events. The money to pay for these to come from a bequest.
- to greater integration of the Pre-school and the PCC with a change to the Pre-school Constitution to say that "The Chair of the Pre-school will be elected as a member of the PCC or a co-opted member of the PCC."
- to the setting up and running an Alcoholic Anonymous meeting using St Mark's church premises for 12 weeks initial period. The PCC agreed after the initial period for the AA group to continue beyond the initial period.
- proposal re. recommendations of a climate policy for the church.

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 Samuel Wilkins who stepped down as Minutes Secretary in December 2021, thanking him for all his work over many years.

I appreciate your prayer support, especially in this time of interregnum, 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:

Last year there were 164 on the Electoral Roll in May 2021.

Since then, two people have died, and 14 people have left or moved away.

8 people have applied to join.

The number on the Electoral Roll is currently 156.

The Electoral Roll for St Mary's Island 2022

Last year there were 53 on the Electoral Roll for SMI

Since then, five have come off – (three have moved away and two ceased to meet)

Four new applicants were received and have been added.

Total on the roll for 2022 is 52

Total Electoral Roll number for St Mark's Parish stands at 208 (217 for 2021)

Denise Young

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 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 represented St Mark's and Sally Bloor St Mary's Island. Saju and Amanda Maskell both served as clergy members until they left St Mark's.

Gillingham Deanery Synod met three times this year, on Zoom and it is hoped to be able meet in person at the first meeting in 2022.

Some of the main agenda items discussed were:

February

The Rev. Adam Pyke from St Justus addressed the Synod on the topic of reimagination – mission and ministry now. He posed the question – What will our church look like post pandemic, in the light of our past, present and our hopes and dreams for the future? Adam also shared some ways in which St Justus had reimagined ministry. These included: all-age worship, regular Sunday worship, sharing testimonies, bereavement services, messy church, ordination service, remembrance service, St Justus has got talent, Alpha, and Fruitfulness on the frontline.

June

The Rev. Jim Fletcher, Archdeaconry Officer from St George's Gravesend, addressed the meeting about vocations. He reminded that the Vocations Advisor for Gillingham Deanery is Pam Alexander. He said that vocations should be something that runs through the veins of every parish. He asked, do we hear enough about vocation in our parishes and deaneries? Do people think it is limited to being a priest, a nun, or a monk? Are there opportunities to have these conversations in the parishes? How do we encourage others to explore where God is calling them? There are several pathways available including: ordination, licensed lay ministry, short courses, quiet days and retreats, Bishop's certificate course, lay funeral ministry and bereavement ministry, Anna Chaplaincy and other kinds of chaplaincy and sports ministry.

Karen Senior and Sue Jelfs spoke to the meeting about Mission and Ministry in Transition. Karen gave an update on Lay Ministry, the profile of which is rising nationally. Karen invited the members of the meeting to list as many lay ministries as they could. The Lay Ministry Data Project (2020) had identified found 1994 different roles. It is suspected that this was because dioceses refer to roles differently everyone calls something a little bit different. Karen encouraged members to read "a vision for lay ministries document" to understand how the Church of England hopes to use lay ministry in the future.

September

The Rev. Trudi Oliver, Young Vocations Advisor from St Mary's Gravesend, addressed the meeting about young vocations. She posed the question Who is it that God calls? We are all called to be people of God, a body, and in that there are individual skills and callings with unique parts to play within that body. The trick is to discern those gifts and callings. For those in church leadership, their role to encourage people so that they can flourish and be the people that God calls them to be and discern where God wants to plant them.

Trudi encouraged those present to let young people have a wide experience of church – let them lead, let them preach, let them join in. They have so much more to offer than simply making the tea and doing the readings. Trudi asked the meeting to take away the following questions and ponder them: What is your church/deanery doing to encourage young vocations? What would you like to see happening in your church/deanery? What's not happening that you would like to see happen?

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, with no clergy representation. There are currently two vacancies to be filled for a one-year period.

Glyn Allen
Deanery Synod Member

Additional Reports

Audio Visual and Technical Report

During the past year we have put in the new system we use for live streaming, replaced the church computer when it failed. We have also put a new sound desk and stage boxes on a trial basis to see whether it would work for what we need. We are also currently a very small team and would like to get more people involved.

Chris Blewett, and Mic Aldington

Catering and Hospitality



At present we do not have anyone to oversee hospitality in the church, and due to Covid restrictions the church could not serve drinks after the service when it reopened after lockdown.



However, a team of willing helpers got together to organise catering for a celebration lunch held for Saju's last service at the beginning of December; Drinks after services on Sunday morning resumed shortly before this.

I would like to thank all those who have stepped in to help with any hospitality in church this past year. Any willing volunteers to join the team and someone to come forward to coordinate them would be appreciated.

Karen Dyer

Cinema Club

There is no report for Cinema Club but it is referred to in the SDF report from the Community Pastor.

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

Relaxation of the Covid rules meant that in 2021 we were able to get 5 games in, as compared to only one for the previous year. For a couple of games against local teams, the opposition was not strong and victory was not too difficult. However, against Old Roffensians and a team from Rainham cricket club, although our batting was respectable, our bowling lacked penetration and we took quite a hammering. The last game of the season was against Nasir Mosque and we managed to avenge the defeat from 2 years previously. During this last game, a barbeque was provided for players and spectators and thank you Dammy for organising it. This year we have some games planned but of course we will miss Saju's batting skills.

We are always on the lookout for players so if you fancy a game or two, please see either me or Sathish. And of course, we are always delighted to have some spectators, so if you fancy a nice lazy summer afternoon, do come and watch.

Guy Jackson.

Dementia Cafe

The dementia cafe continues to operate on the 2nd and 4th Wednesday of every month.

The café reopened mid July 2021 in the Church. The Church gives us far more space and scope for the layout of the cafe. We open the cafe from 1.00 pm -3.00 pm. Numbers were low for a few months, but as the year drew to a close, we began to see numbers increase and were receiving upwards of 10 guests. This is partly due to the regular attendance of the Admiral Nurse who signposts people in our direction.

At the cafe we are able to offer refreshments and snacks, as well as quizzes and visits by health and social care organisations. There is literature available for people giving them information where they can find additional support.

We have four volunteers involved in running the cafe, including myself, and we work well together.

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, twice on Zoom and once in person. At the end of the year Glyn was appointed to serve as a member of the Diocesan Advisory Council (DAC) as a Synod representative, for a period of six years which will commence on 1 January 2022.

The main agenda items were:

- Presidential addresses from The Bishop of Rochester and The Bishop of Tonbridge
- Diocesan budget
- Living in Love and Faith process
- Called Together strategic review
- Clergy Covenant for Wellbeing Act
- General Synod elections
- Safeguarding updates
- General Synod reports
- Education update
- New Diocesan website

- Insights into school chaplaincies
- Presentation of Annual Reports and Accounts
- Update on Missional Funds – CYP and Missional Property Fund

Glyn Allen
Diocesan Synod Member

Elderly Care

Charing House Care and Residential Home

As expected, there has been very little activity concerning the ministry in Charing House during 2021. Occasional contact has been maintained with the staff although responses from them have not always been forthcoming.

However, in early July, I was asked if we could resume services outdoors. Since we were last there, a garden shelter has been built enabling activities to take place under cover but in the open air. It was too short a notice to gather up a team and organise a service, so I visited by myself, chatted to the assembled residents and gave a short reflection and a couple of prayers.

During August and September representatives of the teams due to take services the previous Sunday took services, socially distanced and without singing hymns. These took place on the Thursday afternoons, the last service in September being Holy Communion in one kind, (that is distributing the wafer only). A further service was notionally considered in October subject to weather and temperature but this didn't take place.

The problem persists in that the Activities Team do not work weekends so there is no one to bring residents to the services, hence the shift to a weekday afternoon.

In early August, the Priest-in-Charge of St Mary Magdalene and St Barnabas (in whose parish Charing House lies) returned to ministry after a long period of illness. She has now taken over responsibility for the ministry in Charing House along with her curate and will take Communion to those who request it and will also be available out of hours if required in an emergency. She will also take non-Communion services for everyone who wants to attend. I had a meeting with the Priest-in-Charge in early November to come to an understanding about handing over responsibility.

The teams will still be welcomed to attend and support the ministry by chatting to the residents but will not have any responsibility beyond that. A desire to revert to Sunday services is still a wish but it remains to be seen how successful it will be in the circumstances.

A planned Carol Service has been diminished in scope as Charing House remains closed to visitors in numbers. Only a maximum of two are permitted as far as the reception area. Anyone entering Charing House will have had to have at least two Covid vaccinations and have a lateral flow test before entry. Services are not likely to resume until the Spring when the weather is milder and residents can once again assemble outside under the garden shelter.

Many, though not all, of the existing team members have expressed a wish to continue in a supportive role whenever the restrictions on entry are lifted.

As Charing House is now under the spiritual care of St Barnabas, our role which we have maintained over the past ten years is much diminished but it is encouraging that a number of people are still

agreeable to resume in the new situation outdoors and eventually, whenever we are allowed back inside.

Graham Davis, Co-ordinator

St Mark's House

This ministry is now moribund. There was a suggestion about re-starting it as from September last year which Saju started to get together following a suggestion from two of the residents. The couple suggesting it had second thoughts subsequently, so it never came to anything. Even now, there is no proposal to re-start the services.

Graham Davis

Flower Arrangements and Displays Team

What a funny year! At the beginning of January 2021, we were still in the throes of Covid-19 lockdown restrictions and we were not meeting as a church family in the church building. However, services were being streamed live and it was decided that we would begin doing flower arrangements again. This then gave two colourful focal points towards the front of the chancel. We have been able to produce themed arrangements for Pentecost, Harvest, Remembrance Day, and Christmas, and have just been thrilled to use our God given gifts to decorate the church for Easter 2022. Besides the flowers at the front of church we have continued to make an arrangement in the porch as a way of 'welcome' to people coming to the church services and those visiting throughout the week.

It has been our tradition at St. Mark's to distribute posies of flowers to all the ladies on Mothering Sunday. In 2021, suitably masked and distanced from one another, we made over 100 bunches and then hand delivered them to all ladies whose names were on the church register. I think this was the highlight of that year. In 2022 we cut back on the number of bunches made (down to 60 and this was far too many - where were you?).

We have been encouraged throughout the past year by many appreciative comments on the church Facebook page and also by those leading the services drawing attention to the 'beautiful flower arrangements'. Thankyou.

Our thanks to Ann Townsend who helps out on the big occasions acting as tea/coffee maker and as a general clearer upper.

The flower arranging team is quite small. We would love to have some more people join us. We are willing to train you. Just contact Janet Mann (01634 304893).

Janet Mann on behalf of the team *Jane, Pauline, Ruth, Siu King, Judyth, Janet W, Gabrielle, Mayowa and Vicki O.*

Janet Mann

Ladies Group

I had agreed with Val Flick and Saju our Vicar to start a day-time homegroup for retired and or people who did not want to go out in the evenings. I was then told that the Ladies group had been dis-banded the previous summer. It was apparent that there were no offers by anyone to re-establish this meeting. I offered to lead the Ladies from September to Christmas as a trial and that if it wasn't viable, we would then open as a day-time Homegroup.

Our first meeting was amazing with an attendance of 6 ladies. We begin each meeting with tea, coffee or hot chocolate with cake and/or biscuits. Our first group study has been from the Psalms which we completed at Christmas and we celebrated with warm croissant filled with bacon and brie. This term we have been following women from the bible, we completed our 2nd term with hot cross buns and communion. I will be continuing the studies about the women of the bible until the end of the summer term.

We are blessed with Sandi and Mayowa each week for our music and our group sing with great enthusiasm. Sandi brings her guitar and her daughter is making up our own song book. Mayowa provides on line music when Sandi is away.

'We have 14 Ladies now who are part of our group. As some of them are working they come whenever they can. We are inclusive if our Ladies want to bring their children, we are happy to see them. We don't have any toys but we have paper and pencils. The discussions are lively and open and we laugh a great deal.

We keep in touch with Dorothy as she can't make the meetings and 4 of us did a Maundy Thursday bible study with her and with singing. Pauline has brought Annie once to Ladies since her op and part of our care is to keep in touch with those who work or just logistically cannot come any more via our WhatsApp group.

The group have been enthusiastic and very encouraging so thank you girls for all your support.

Jane Bannar-Martin

Medway Campus Chaplaincy

Slowly but surely life has begun to take on new shape this past year, as we've all tentatively crept our way out of the pandemic. During the summer of 2021 we began holding more face-to-face events, including a quiz trail of Rochester and a very muddy walk along the white cliffs at Dover.

It was good to begin welcoming students back to campus in September and, once again, be involved in welcome events across campus.



Throughout October and November we held eight 2-hour sessions of Rock Painting for Remembering, our way of recognising this strange and sad season we've all been through. Our rock memorial is located on the lower level of the campus opposite our Student Hub.

It has been great to re-start our weekly World Café, which is extremely well attended and we're always on the look-out for donations towards our Bargain Corner. TABLEtalk continues to run via Zoom and we have some big decisions to make regarding what to do in the new academic year. Our

Blog and YouTube channel are kept active as we seek to exhort and encourage both students and staff.

Your ongoing prayers, as we seek to reflect Jesus in this multi-ethnic, multi-faith environment, are highly valued.

Lynne Martin

Blog: <https://medwaystudents.blogspot.com/>

YouTube: Take Ten with Lynne

Men's Breakfast

This has been inactive since the beginning of the pandemic but it will restart in the middle of May 2022 with some home made breakfast

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 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 Sahaara Project and The Creation Care project, Family Trust and The Bishop's Charity Poverty and Hope, The Mike Campbell Foundation, Fishermen Trust and the work of Asha and Nelson Arul in UAE and China.

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 the "Let Loose Concert" which took place in Gillingham High Street in July. Foodbank remained delivery only throughout the year but plans to open its centres in 2022 including the ones held at St Mark's.

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 including REACH, which unfortunately closed in March 2021, and the El Campello Christian Community in Spain. We are grateful to Kath Bertrand for facilitating this.

We spent some time exploring the possibility of appointing a person to work cross-culturally through the charity that Tim works with "Serving in Mission" (SIM) and the project ENGAGE but no decisions have been made yet to proceed.

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.

If you are considering short or long-term mission or if you feel God is calling us, the church of St Mark's, to mission in a particular field we would love to hear from you or if you would like to join MLTG, please speak to Glyn Allen.

Please continue to pray for our Mission Partners.

We thank Saju and Rob for their contributions during 2021

The team in 2021

Glyn Allen chair, Saju Mathalaly Vicar, Tim Barrow, Charmaine Jones and Rob Bryne, Denise Young secretary

Denise Young on behalf of the team

Music Worship

The only direction for the worship teams last year and into this one, has been a continual decline. There are now only 4 regular instrumentalists, and we now have to cover the All Age services as well. We ran a well-advertised series of Thursday evening open rehearsals for 5 weeks early this year, but this hasn't resulted in any additional team members.

This is becoming more and more of a struggle, which impacts our freedom to worship God unencumbered.

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.

On behalf of you all, I would like to thank everyone who has 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 Samuel Wilkins for his commitment and skill in playing with us for many years and wish him well in his new church.

Graham Wilkins

Open Church

This initiative and experience has been a blessing to some church members and people in the community. It is welcoming and people come in to have a quiet time with God, a chat with someone or a cup of tea and biscuit.

Dammy Oyinloye

The Pastoral Team

The Pastoral Team was set up by Saju Mathalaly and Raymond Shergill in 2021.

Initially there were 6 on the team and soon it became evident there was a need to recruit more people, now there are 10.

Following initial applications and safeguarding checks most of the team have now completed the Caring Concerns Course which was run by clergy from the Diocese of Rochester.

Each member of the Pastoral Team has between 3 and 10 contacts.

The initial contact is a confidential phone call monthly to offer a listening ear and prayer.

There are over 50 people receiving contact from a member of the Pastoral Team. The vision is that everyone in the church who wishes, would have someone who contacts and prays for them on a regular basis. The team members meet regularly to support one another but obviously not to discuss contacts due to confidentiality.

As Saju Mathalaly and Raymond Shergill have moved to pastures new, Paul Smith and Denise Young are overseeing the team until we have a new vicar.

If you don't have a pastoral contact yet, 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

The Pastoral Team are Janet Aldington, Jane Banner-Martin, Sandi Chapman, Val Flick, Pauline Jackson, Charmaine Jones, Vicky Onitiri, Dammy Oyinloye, Paul Smith, Denise Young Vicki Watson administration. Kath Burtrand prayer support for the team.

Denise Young

Peace & Hope (formerly Faith & Light)



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

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

Due to Covid we took the decision to temporarily suspend our meetings until lockdown lifted. We did try to keep in contact throughout.

We resumed meeting in April in church on fortnightly Saturdays where we looked at a series entitled "I am enough as I am". Our final meeting at church in July we had a picnic in the grounds.

In September we resumed meeting in the Vicarage Hall, this time we adapted the Friendship series being used in church.

As we could not have a Christmas party this year due to ongoing Covid restrictions we had a film night with a fish and chip supper.

Karen Dyer and the team

Prayer Ministry Teams

I joined this ministry in October 2021. The prayer team is recovering and back on track, new members arrived, and older members left. We have a WhatsApp online now and the communication is good. As a leader of this ministry, I take this very seriously and try my best, not saying I've got it all right, but I am trying.

I have asked my team if they had any feedback on this ministry and it has been successful. Most of us agree that we would like prayers to be announced at the end of the Sunday service every week.

This has been happening sometimes but a lot of the time we get forgotten. The intercessions have been done with a few of us taking part, this is a good step forward and I hope can continue, I would like to get involved with the service a little more and anointing while praying. So many people have mental health and God is there for us, we need to confirm this through our prayers.

The other idea, we already have a black journal with a cross on it on the table in the chapel, in this it is for everyone in the church to read, write or even draw a picture, we already have a picture in the book done by one of our children, our thoughts and prayers in this book.

It has been suggested if we write some prayers in this book for the ministry to refer to, various subjects like **Bereavement, Divorce, Abuse and Mental Health** anything, just so we can have a quick reference, if we get stuck in prayer, because it does not always flow especially with our new members of the team, this is a good idea, we also have little booklets about our Lord for anyone to take away with them.

I already have training in place for any new members. Our Prayer Ministry is recovering since Covid and our brothers and sisters, are coming up for prayer slowly but surely.

As far as I am aware our prayer ministry team seems happy with their rotas, I've not had any complaints, and I hope they all can approach me with any problems that may arrive.

Cindy Reeve-Vigour - Prayer Ministry Leader

Revive

When I began my ordination training placement at St Mark's, Saju asked me to take lead on overseeing the development of a new monthly 18-35s gathering. Revive was the product of this. Due to the national Covid-19 restrictions, it began as a slightly more formalised online service, live streamed on the St Mark's Facebook page. The original vision for Revive was more of a Café Church-style drop-in session than a structured service led from the front of church. After St Mark's relaxed its Covid-19 guidelines in August, this vision was fully implemented. It was aimed at Christians & non-Christians alike. Each month, there would be free food provided (e.g. tea & toast one month, pizza on another month) opportunities to socialise, play board games, partake in a loosely themed discussion about faith & receive prayer ministry if they wished. These in-person gatherings attracted anywhere between 12-15 local young adults, students & young professionals each month.

After Saju's nomination to become the next Bishop of Loughborough in November 2021, I was informed by my DDO that I would need to be moved to another parish to complete my training, as there were no ordained people able to supervise me through the interregnum. Due to the incredibly tight timing (I had under two weeks' notice of being told I had to move & my departure from St Mark's) I was unable to leave as well as I had hoped to. Initially, I asked Ben Maskell to take over as interim leader of Revive, but due to his various other commitments and my inability to remain involved in any capacity, Revive ceased meeting at the end of 2021. It is very sad that Revive ended so suddenly, as it was showing such great promise. But I hope that when the time is right, a St Mark's gathering that caters to 18-35 year-olds in the parish will fill the gap.

I am now completing my ordination training at St John's Chatham & wish St Mark's every blessing as it continues the process of appointing a new Vicar.

Rob Byrne

Small Groups

St Mark's Church three Principles:

1. Living for Jesus
2. Loving Gillingham
3. Learning Together

Small Group's Mission Statement: "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 grow spiritually, to learn together and to offer pastoral support to one another on a regular basis".

A great big "Thank you" must go to our Small Group leaders. They are doing a sterling job, keeping their groups together and supporting their members. Especially during this difficult year of Covid. Due to covid restrictions the leaders of the groups have been unable to meet in person. I maintain communication via email and phone.

Small Groups

Ladies Group	Jane Bannar-Martin
Young family Group	Meet on Zoom with Rob Bryne
Home Groups	Frank Howard and Janet Waters
	David Wilkins
	Steve and Kath Burtrand
	Paul Smith
	Wigmore Group continue to meet without a leader

48 members in Home Group +
10 members in the Ladies Group

Two Home Groups have amalgamated, Graham Davis Group has joined Junction (David Wilkins) and Karen Turnbull's group has disbanded, due to need for leaders.

Themes Studied this year were:

Five Marks of Mission
The Ruthless Elimination of Hurry
Leaders own studies

Thanks must go to Hannah Whittaker, St Mark's Digital Lead, for producing the new flyer for Small Groups. Despite advertising, very few people have come forward to join. Numbers in the Home Groups are dropping as people leave for various reasons. There is also a need for Leaders. The Ladies group is increasing in number and growing in strength. The Young family group meet on zoom for mutual support, under the guidance of Rob and Alice Bryne.

Val Flick (Small Groups Co-ordinator)

Tear Fund



First and foremost, I would like to send my thanks and appreciation to Funmi who joined and assisted in the successful Bake sale fundraising in November 2021. Funmi was instrumental in helping fundraise a total of £385.23. Unfortunately Funmi had to step down.

Many thanks to the church community who were fully engaged in both cake donation and support at the fundraiser.

After a zoom meeting with Ally Wenham (Churches Partnerships Executive) in October 2021 a proposal was made to support Creation Care Project working farmers. The Sahaara Project which the church donated to was already fully supported for the coming year.

(The PCC met and agreed £1,000 can be donated to the Creation Care Project. The £100 a month away-giving from St Mark's and the money from the cake sale would go to the linked Sahaara project. The additional £1,000 and any funds we were able to raise this year after the cake sale would go to Creation Care Project.)

Efforts were made to approaching and engaging individual church members in conversation of becoming a Tearfund ambassador.

Ikechukwu Agoha showed interest and would make a decision in the New Year 2022

Moving forward in 2022

I am glad to report, Ikechukwu Agoha happily agreed to join me as a Tearfund ambassador. Ike's details will be sent to Tearfund for registration once I receive his consent.

Fundraising events to look forward to:

- Creation Care Project walk – preparation are being made to have the walk in the summer at Capstone Farm County Park. Proposal submitted to MLTG for PCC approval.
- Big Quiz Night
- Harvest Collection

It is a privilege and an honour to help where the need is most.

Colette Wentzel - Tearfund Ambassador

Trio

Trio was a success at the inception and it was helpful for people to know more about themselves outside of church, especially during the lockdown but the number dwindled as soon as the lockdown restrictions were lifted.

Dammy Oyinloye

St. Mark's Pre-School

The St Mark's Pre-School has enjoyed a busy year, albeit one with significant challenges and change. Pupil numbers remained strong in the second half of the Academic Year through to the end of July,

however an increase in covid cases during the summer 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.

The Pre-School bade a fond farewell in December to our long serving Head, Julie Hanning. Julie's dedication and commitment to the Pre-School was phenomenal and she left behind an enormous legacy. Fortunately Jo Tilley was appointed to succeed Julie and has settled into her new role with great determination and a desire to build on the foundations Julie laid.

We also had a significant turn over in other staff at the Pre-School and 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.

A number of running repairs on the Church 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 Church Hall a welcoming space for our children.

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 – St Marks Pre-school Management Committee

Parent and Toddlers

After having been restricted to meeting in the Old Vicarage Garden in compliance with Covid controls during spring and summer, we were able to return to the hall in October following the relaxation of restrictions. We meet from 1:15 p.m. until 2:15 p.m. during school term time. A big thank you to Playgroup staff for clearing the hall every Wednesday so we can use it.

We re-started in the hall with just a small number of parents and children, who recommended Parent and Toddlers to friends and the word rapidly spread, we now regularly have a dozen parents with around 20 children who enjoy lots of noisy free play with ride on cars, bikes and scooters. The children are always keen to engage with the crafts on offer and all in attendance enjoy drinks, fruit and biscuits.

Parent and Toddlers provides an outreach into the community. The group is very welcoming, friendly and supportive with Parents engaging socially with one another, sharing their joys and worries. Thank you to both Chris Curtis and Martha Prankard for their invaluable support, without which we would not be able to function, and a special thank you to Ernie Mann who attended our Christmas party complete with big red suit and curly white beard.

Blessings to all

Ruth & Frank Howard

Report for Children's ministry

Since reopening after Covid in September we have operated as one combined group. We cater for children between ages 3 and the end of year six. We serve 20 children although we usually have around 10 children attend each week. The Children's Church team consists of myself and 5 volunteers who rotate throughout the month. We have 3 volunteers teaching each week. We also have 4 teen helpers who rotate monthly so that 2 attend each week.

We currently run the 2nd 4th and 5th week of the month (if there is one), as the 1st week is All Age Service and the 3rd week is Messy Church which we encourage children to attend with their families. Since September we have been following a 'We feel better when' series and have completed the series on connection, communication, giving and learning. Our goal is to bring the Bible to life for children so that they can explore the Bible and see the relevance of the Christian faith to their daily lives. We stress God's love for us, Jesus' sacrifice for us and encourage thankfulness.

Our morning consists of a game, sung worship, a Bible story and application, questions, prayer, and a craft.

We have stopped walking children to the church at the end of the session as following Covid some of our parents were not attending church in person but dropping their children off and watching online. We have found this is much safer and requires fewer volunteers. It also allows us more time with the children so will continue with this format.

We would welcome more volunteers to teach and to assist so that we could restart as 2 separate groups and also restart Rock ministry which caters for children from the age of 11. Currently when we graduate our children at the end of year 6 we have nothing age appropriate available to them.

Summit

WHEN

We run every Sunday 7 – 8.30pm, missing only 2/3 weeks in the year (Christmas, New Year and Easter weekend). We also have occasional trips out, usually during school holidays in the week.

WHERE

For our standard weekly Summit sessions, we meet at the Old Vic, utilising the upstairs rooms and also the field for outdoor activities when practical.

WHO

ATTENDEES

We now have a fairly consistent attendance at Summit, with 8 being the lowest number of attendees and 14 the highest. Young people range from 11-17 and most weeks there is an even gender split.

TEAM

Summit is run by a small group of four; Alastair Williams, Chris Curtis, Trevor Towers and myself. I am there every week, with one of the other volunteers joining me on a rota basis. The rota is prepared quarterly by myself in advance and also includes an outline of future content.

WHAT

Our weekly sessions include but are not limited to:

- Chill Nights (including use of a gaming console such as Switch or PS5)

- Quizzes – Usually I ask the young people for topics of their choice and prepare in PowerPoint for the following week; example attached for reference.
- Minute to Win It Games
- Outdoor team games and sports

Most weeks we have a section of content to build up the young people in their faith, at school and socially. These have included individual sessions and some series. For example, we recently completed a six-week series on Leadership:

How to Listen; How to Speak; Practical Teamwork; Servant Leadership; 2-week Team Design Task.

We used a range of resources including examples from the Bible of Jesus' leadership, alongside TED talks and recent business books such as Leaders Eat Last by Simon Sinek.

THIS LAST YEAR

Further to the departure of our paid youth worker Simon Morbey in May 2021, it was decided that I would step into the role of youth leader for Summit.

As we had noticed significant drop off in numbers and engagement after each school holiday - sometimes we'd only have 2 people for a few weeks after a holiday - my first action was to switch sessions from running termly to every week. I also asked Alastair Williams if he was happy to join our team to bring the leaders to four and ensure weekly coverage.

Numbers of young people picked up to a consistent level. The group is a good mix and we have no issues with young people being left out or bullied.

SUMMER PLANS

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. This is currently in planning with the leadership team and myself. Updates to follow.

FUTURE SITUATION

As recently discussed at PCC, from the start of the new school year in September (or thereabouts), we will be missing two of the team that run Summit: Trevor Towers will be stepping back after many years as a youth volunteer Karen and I are moving away as I have changed job. A new leader and volunteer will need to be in place by then. Ideally, we would have people come on board in the next month or so to ensure they have established a relationship with the young people before the start of the new school year. The new leader will also need to spend time with me to understand the preparation and other work involved in running the club.

There would also need to be the consideration of investing in a new games console for the group. The current consoles being used are mine that I bring in each week so there will be no console (apart from one very old Wii) for the group in my absence. I would suggest a Switch as the best option as this console includes many multiplayer and age appropriate games that the young people enjoy.

Strategic Development Fund (SDF)

Gospel Church Planter

The following are things undertaken during the year.

Kids mentoring session in church
Mentoring / follow up
Kids gospel choir in school
Video editing and combining
Filming
Recording-Gospel Night in January, February and March
Rehearsal community choir towards Easter
Promotional videos
Flyer design
Advertisements
10 minutes bible songs
Meetings
Organise choir rehearsals for the Gospel band
Buskitivity
Flashmob - (Easter)
Ukraine and Russia peace music project with the different choirs and gospel band
Good Friday service

BUSKITIVITY- The feedback is always encouraging, with passers-by saying it brightens and encourages as soon as they step into the high street and hear the singing. Some have said they were depressed but the session brightened their day. Sometimes I don't feel like going but God urges to go because there is a message of positivity he wants someone to hear, and every time I go I get the feedback of "... that message you gave was for me..."

GOSPEL NIGHT- 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 m"

KIDS CHOIR IN SCHOOLS - 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 grasps and learn quickly. Also the number can be quite eclectic at times, either by reduction or increase in attendance. This is every Thursday

KIDS MENTORING SESSION- Encouraging to see the parents contact me during holiday, because they want to know when the session will start back as the kids are pestering them to attend, which 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.

VIDEOGRAPHER-we are now blessed to have a professional videographer on board, who volunteered since January and has helped in documenting some of the events

Mayowa Oyinloye

Community Pastor

I started my year in furlough, but by April I was concentrating on the garden project. Unfortunately, the Street Angels were no longer able to give me space at their allotment. However, I secured space at St. Augustine's, so Little Eden was here and St. Marks.

I was also reconnecting with people via Facebook and had a number of face-to-face meetings with other people including Gillingham Eco hub and our local Council connect worker Christian Caruna.

By May I was focusing on the implementation of the Garden Project and borders started to go in on the 15th. In other work I was working with the Sunlight Centre around Mental Health, delivering a session on mindfulness.

The summer saw the gardens flourish and a group of five or six regulars participated in caring for them and taking part in activities.

September saw Craft Club and Little Eden, having lunch together for those who want it. And my timetable looked like this:

Morning Afternoon Evening
Monday Staff meeting prep/plan/meet Mindfulness
Tuesday Craft Club Little Eden Fix it
Wednesday prep/plan/meet prep/plan/meet
Thursday Art journaling Little Eden
Sunday Coffee and God

In October my mindfulness club started at the Sunlight Centre Otway Street Garden, and I was planning, with one of their Wellbeing Cafe Leaders, to run one in the evening at the Sunlight Centre.

Craft Club had a few different venues until it settled back at St. Marks, where it flourished to a group of 30, including a group of home-schooling families.

November was a sad month with the passing of Gladys who lost her battle with cancer. I still miss her.

I ran a five week course at Brompton Westbrook Primary school, doing cooking on a budget with five families. And I also ran one Cinema Club which saw 75 people attend.

In December I handed in my notice in order to prepare for Rob being away 3 days a week from the beginning of 2022 and us putting our house on the market.

I implemented an exit strategy where I:

Invited Craft Club members to continue to come to Open Church, with their own crafts.

I continue to care for the physical aspects of the Garden Project at St. Marks, this was intended to be alongside current St. Marks volunteers and help transition it to a St. Marks project rather than SDF,

however I have had no volunteers come forward. I will continue to care for the garden until we move house.

Karen Turnbull

Community Missioner

The remit of the Community Missioner is children's outreach in schools, recruiting and training volunteers, and starting, and nurturing Messy Church worshipping communities.

Working in schools was impossible during the Covid pandemic. I did however offer several online assemblies and an online Pentecost lesson last year which were used by Oasis Skinner Street School. Since September when restrictions in school have been loosened, I have been running a Klingsquad weekly at Oasis Skinner Street School. This is a weekly afterschool Bible Club which I run in conjunction with The Family Trust. We have consistently had 18 children attend and the school is eager to expand this once I have more volunteers.

I also ran a half term Holiday Club at the school, providing lunch, games, and crafts to children invited by the school. This first Holiday Club was not well attended but I have run it twice since and the numbers are growing each time with positive feedback from children, parents, and school staff.

Last summer and Autumn half term I also ran a Holiday Club at St Marks which was attended by between 10-18 children daily.

I have also been involved with St Marks Preschool and have taught several segments including Harvest and Christmas. I was also involved with Christmas productions for the preschool and Oasis Skinner Street which were held in St Marks Church.

I am involved in our Parent/ Toddler group which has grown back into a thriving community now Covid restrictions have been lifted. We have seen several of the families attend Messy Church and several older siblings attend Holiday Club.

I have assembled volunteer teams for Kingsquad, Holiday Club and Messy Church. The team for Holiday Club comes from several different churches and volunteers from the schools, making the event feel like a real community event.

We launched our first Messy Church at St Marks in October. We have had up to 32 people in attendance. We are currently working on building community by consistent attendance. I am also working on advertising so families that I reach during Holiday Club and community events are aware of Messy Church and feel personally invited and welcomed.

Plans for 2022 include a second Messy Church in partnership with St Augustine's, Holiday Clubs at Oasis Skinner Street during every holiday and more involvement in school activities as they allow it.

Christine Curtis

St. Mary's Island Church (SMIC)

The church congregation was unable to meet face to face until 19th September 2021. There were restrictions on meeting together in the school building whilst there were numerous cases of Covid in

the school community. Matt Keeler led this opening service, which over 67 adults and children attended with 3 other families present on Zoom.

During the period of lockdown services had continued to be held on Zoom and these were well attended by both adults and children. We had a modified form of service where the children were able to take an active role.

The average Sunday attendance had continued to be around 50 adults and children. They were encouraged to make and enjoy a bible craft which they showed at the end of the programme. They were also encouraged to read the scriptures and to pray during the service.

Outreach

- During lock-down our outreach programme was severely restricted. However, church members were mindful of caring for one another and those in the community who were unable to leave their homes. Some members were able to collect shopping and medicines and provide care to those who needed it.
- Church members supported the Carol Service held at the Community Centre by the Rotary Club in December 2021.
- Our involvement with the school has been severely restricted and we have only been able to go into the building since February 2022. Carolyn now goes into the school once a week and has re-established a relationship with the headteacher and the Head of Religious Studies. She also leads a worship service for the children on Thursday afternoon.
- The Ladies group was re-started in January 2022. Chris Pinner leads a varied programme including crafts, visiting speakers and the sharing of home recipes. It is a popular programme and attracts non church attendees as well as some of our church regulars.
- A very successful venture of the painted stones last year was repeated for this Christmas – this time with a nativity crib on each stone. These were distributed around the island for three weeks in December for families to find and take home.
- Little Fishes, the parent and toddler group has been able to restart. This is very well attended by around 40 adults and 50 babies and toddlers each week during term-time. It is known that this service is provided by volunteers from the church and is much appreciated by the community.
- Atlas Place had re-opened in time for Christmas after being in lock-down. We are now able to freely visit their weekly programmes and hold a monthly worship service for the residents. Some of the residents attend church each week.

Leadership

The lay leader of the church is Matt Keeler as Focal Minister.

Focal Lay Leader:	Matt Keeler
Ministry Team:	Carolyn Facey, Revd Saju Muthalaly (until December 2021).
Preaching Team:	Revd Saju Muthalaly (until December 2021), John Bloor, Carolyn Facey, Roy Facey, Sally Bloor, Andy Ward.
Youth Work team:	Children attend church with their families and are supported by them during the services. Chris Pinner, Cheryl McMillan, Fi Farrin and Carolyn Facey assist.
Prayer team (Powerhouse):	Sally Bloor

Home Group Leaders:	Janet Adkin, Nancy and Sathish Narayanan, Matt Keeler
District Church Council:	
Deanery Synod rep:	Sally Bloor
PCC representative:	Matt Keeler, Carolyn Facey.
Clergy:(ex-officio):	Revd Saju Muthalaly (until December 2021)
Deputy Church Wardens:	Kathy Hurst and Satish Narayanan
Elected members:	Sally Bloor, Carolyn Facey, Rachel Blair, Wendy Drogba, Roy Facey, Nickie Forrest, Luke Knott, Nancy Narayanan, Andy Ward.
Safeguarder:	Nickie Forrest
Verifier & Appointer:	Jonica Thomas
Responsibility for the Vulnerable and Elderly:	Janet Adkin
Data Compliance Officer:	Jonica Thomas
Data Controller	Saju Muthalaly /Matt Keeler

The Life and Work of the Church

- We have re-established our links with St Mary's Island Primary School and there are representatives on the governing body as Foundation Governors.
- God's Powerhouse (Prayer) is held twice a month and is seen as the key to moving the church forward.
- Several Trios groups meet to discuss a topic based on scripture and to pray together.
- Home Groups meet on a regular basis.
- We continue to look at our giving – with increasing demands on our financial resources and the fall in income due to the restrictions on church attendance. Many members faithfully continued giving by Direct Debit which enabled the church to continue supporting the needs of others and the various charities that the church assists.
- There has been a degree of movement within the church membership and adherents – 5 adults moved away, and we welcomed 4 adults into the church. Total membership on the electoral roll stands at 52.

May we continue to be richly blessed.

Carolyn Facey (Church Secretary)