

REIGATE PARISH CHURCH

St Mary Magdalene with the Heath Church

Annual Parochial Church Meeting 2022

Tuesday 26th April 2022, 8.00pm to 9.30pm

St Mary's Church and livestreamed

YEAR IN REVIEW 2021

We hope you will join us for our **APCM on Tuesday 26th April at 7.45pm for a prompt 8.00pm start.**

This meeting will also be your opportunity to elect members of our Parochial Church Council (please note that you must be on the electoral roll to be able to stand or to vote) and also an opportunity for us to look back over the year, celebrate what God has been doing in this place, and prepare ourselves for what God has in store for us in the year ahead. It's an important meeting in our Church family life.

We would love you to take time to read the following reports in the week ahead.

We really hope you will join us for this very important event in our Church calendar.



Richard Wilson

REIGATE PARISH CHURCH WITH THE HEATH CHURCH Annual Parochial Church Meeting AGENDA

Tuesday 26th April 2022 in the Church & Online

VESTRY MEETING TO APPOINT CHURCHWARDENS

1. Welcome & Introduction
2. Election of Churchwardens

ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING

1. Apologies for Absence
2. Introduction to those standing for PCC
3. Election of 10 members to the PCC
4. Minutes of last APCM: May 2021 (taken as read)
5. Matters Arising
6. Churchwardens' summary – Leslie Jackson / Tom Lumsden
7. Treasurer's Report & presentation of audited accounts for the year ending 31st December 2021 – Alastair Rubie
8. Vicar's Report – Richard Wilson
9. Matters arising from Annual Report | A Year in Review | Vicar's Report

YEAR IN REVIEW 2021

VICAR'S REPORT

He is the one we proclaim, admonishing and teaching everyone with all wisdom, so that we may present everyone fully mature in Christ.

Colossians 1:28

LOOKING BACK – LIVING THROUGH WINTER

Right back at the start of the pandemic, in early 2020, even though there was blossom on the trees, it felt as if we were entering an extended winter. As we emerge from the relative isolation of these hard few years, I am encouraged by the emerging signs of movement, growth and renewal appearing all around us. Signs of the thaw are all around us, and it feels like we are entering a new springtime as a church family.

I am told that IKEA rigorously test every single product that they sell for wear and tear, putting it through a repeated stress test in order to see how it performs over time. These two years have been such a testing time for us all – both individually as well as a church. Tests reveal where we are strong and where we are weak, and over this time we have learned much.

Because churches are social organisations, and we exist on relationships, these two years of restrictions have had the biggest impact on our levels of **connection**, our **attendance**, and **involvement**. In old money we would have called this a loss of **fellowship**.

I am writing this (final checking really) on Easter Saturday, and I've not only enjoyed the amazing sunshine today, but been struck once again, just how good it is to gather freely, to see people up close and to join with others in prayer and worship over the week.

The pandemic took so much from us primarily because it **stopped us gathering** and connecting.

And we are not yet back to normal by any means. At the moment, our weekly Sunday attendance is perhaps around 60% of where we were two years ago. The question we don't know the answer to, is whether this is a temporary hit, or a more permanent one.

The scale of this drop in attendance is not caused by people leaving, although some have left us or moved away. I worry a more serious change has taken place through the pandemic – changing the way we think about weekly worship – diluting our commitment or shifting our patterns. I pray that this is not the case, but I fear it has. Perhaps for some, when Sunday worship lost its place in our lives that it once held, other things have crept in.

This saddens me, not because church attendance is the only criteria I measure things, but simply because gathering for worship, learning and community, are not only core practices for followers of King Jesus but also because being physically present in the room with others changes everything, (even when there are only two or three). It increases our connection with God, encourages the heart. But when our brothers and sisters are missing, all of us miss out on the gifts God's Spirit gives his people that can only be expressed in community. Catching up online after the event is not the same thing and it turns Christianity into something that is consumed, rather than lived out in community.

With this in mind, I think it's time for a **worship reset**.

So, can I encourage you, at this time of annual review, to encourage each other not to give up the habit of meeting together. Attending is infectious. The more we do it, the more others do too. As far as we are able, we need to make Sunday special **every week** – a day to **place worship at the centre of our lives**. Just as satellites gravitate around the earth, so weekly worship is our way of making sure our lives are centred on King Jesus above all else.

RESILIENT DISCIPLES

While we may have lost out on certain forms of fellowship, there are many aspects of our life together that we can **celebrate** that have helped us grow as **resilient disciples**.

I am delighted that in 2021/2 we were able to:

- Provide a rhythm of weekly worship throughout the last year, both online and in person services across different settings, enabling as much engagement as possible, despite the fluctuating restrictions
- Install new technical equipment to enable us to livestream gatherings to a good quality (a big shout out to the team and to Alex Coveney for setting it up)
- See new people becoming disciples and welcoming them to baptism and re-affirmation of faith
- Welcome new members into our church family (our Electoral Roll has grown by over 40)
- Increase the number of small groups meeting mid-week – in person and online
- Steadily open up the Centre while managing risk appropriately
- Start a new midweek communion and lunch on Wednesdays
- Launch a new toddler café on Friday mornings
- Maintain, and develop, our youth and children's work both on Sundays and right across the week (with thanks to the teams who give themselves to this each week!)
- Complete the renewal and updating of the Heath Church

Leadership in times of uncertainty is not easy, but while these last few years have been challenging, I am particularly glad that we have been able to:

- Refine and develop a strategy for our future as a PCC and as a senior leadership
- Maintain staff morale and resilience as we have responded creatively to changes due to absence, maternity leave, illness, and restrictions
- Appoint new members of staff in our administration and operations teams and see them settle in really well.
- Express and develop our approach to pastoral care, such as for those in need, those grieving, those living with dementia, and the giving away of thousands of meals to people in our community and church family
- Relaunch a new vision for 'St Mary's Global' as we partner with others across the world to fulfil our wider mission and begin a journey of exploring what local mission and social outreach looks like post-pandemic here in Reigate
- Send two members of our church off to be trained for ministry (Ian Nott and Philippa Parry), welcome a new Reader to our team (Brenda Juntunen), and

provide our Curate (Erin Gilmour) with a wide range of training opportunities in preparation for future ministry and also support a neighbouring parish

- Successfully meet our financial obligations, continuing to manage our finances well, and further strengthening our reserves despite a drop in income
- Achieve a silver ECO church award

These are not small things, and they were not inevitable. We have much to give thanks for. We all know that our church life, in all its complexity, could not operate without the generosity of so many people, volunteers, and staff. We are indebted to all who contribute in so many ways to the life and health of St Mary's Parish Church with the Heath Church.

I am so thankful to God and to you, for all the thousands of ways that you have made a difference in our church life. Thank you! It really is amazing!

LOOKING AHEAD – A NEW SPRINGTIME

While I am mindful that it may yet take time to fully regain our momentum as a community, I am determined that we set our minds to making sure that our church is re-envisioned for a new chapter of life together post-pandemic. I am excited for the future.

Our primary focus at this time needs to be **rebuilding community** and **deepening our spiritual life** so that we have **renewed energy for mission and sharing our faith to all ages**. We need to draw together newer and more established members, deepening our sense of a shared life in Christ and reconnecting with our common mission.

This is one reason that from April to August the themes and passages we will be reading together when we gather for worship on Sundays, will all be the same across all four congregation settings, as we will be following the lectionary readings. We are also inviting Life Groups to share in the same journey too, using these passages as the basis of our small group gatherings. Now is a time for **unity** and **connection**.

Building on the emphasis on discipleship over the past few years it is also important to me that we continue to seek **deeper change and transformation** especially as we face a new set of challenges in our daily post-pandemic lives.

Colossians 1: 28, quoted at the start of this report, reminds us that the goal is to present Christ to people in order to present people to God as **fully mature** in him. We have been saved to live missional, transformed lives, growing in Christlikeness, year on year.

Underpinning the emphasis on **community** and **spiritual depth** it is also vital that we strengthen the **underlying foundations of our church life** – our prayer life, our worship and teaching, our finances (and our financial systems and finance team), our staffing team, our operational systems and safeguarding structures, and our use of technology. These are the pillars of our church life and as we are only as strong as our weakest part; we must work together to strengthen our core.

The purpose of all this is not simply so that we are stronger in ourselves but rather that as we build ourselves up in the Lord together again, we will stretch ourselves further in **reaching out** to our neighbours in new ways.

A VISION WITHOUT A STRATEGY IS JUST A PIPEDREAM

All good ideas, and good intentions, need to be turned into reality if they are to find their fulfilment. We need VIM – vision, intention, and the right means. Over the next year I hope that we will be able to further embed the strategy we have developed, to help us move forward with greater clarity and energy, remembering that our core goal is to present Christ to people, and to present people back to God as mature in Christ.

So, in line with our **five priorities**, here are some of the ways we will be focusing our work together over the next year:

Reaching out to a world in need

- Encouraging one another as whole-life disciples on our various frontlines and re-energising each other in evangelism – proclaiming him (Col 1: 28)
- Developing a renewed strategy for life-changing social engagement in our community and engaging the church in this together
- Building up our connection with families and strengthen our relationships with our local schools as places of service and mission
- Deepening our outreach to those in the 3rd age and later life
- Continuing to develop our online and digital presence

Drawing people into a new identity in Christ

- Welcoming and inducting new believers into church life through intentional relationships, small groups, and resources

Developing a culture of discipleship

- Developing our discipleship pathway and leadership pipeline, strengthening the process for how we help each other to mature in Christ (Col 1: 28)
- Deepening our reliance on Word and Spirit as the foundation of our shared church life, across the whole church, as we navigate cultural and social change in the world around us.
- Strengthening and encouraging our small groups - increasing leadership, engagement, transformation, and participation, in new ways
- Appointing new staff to further develop our family, children, and youth discipleship, and to develop our worship culture

Loving one another as family

- Deepening our relationships with each other through social events and activities.
- Strengthening our later life ministries giving them higher profile in our church life
- Further developing our conversation about sexuality and gender and learn more about how to live in love and faithfulness together in our changing context
- Continuing to build up our pastoral care through our small groups and weekly activities together, going deeper not just wider
- Growing as an emotionally healthy church together
- Developing our inclusion and work supporting those with additional needs of all ages

Giving ourselves away for the sake of others

- Further embedding and develop our partnerships with others in mission overseas
- Creating momentum for church planting and pioneering in the coming years

- Developing our relationships with other Churches and networks as we seek to grow resilient disciples in our secular age
- Seeking out possible partnership with a church in an area of social need



In a few years' time, when we will all look back at these last few years and the ones just ahead of us, I wonder what we will find ourselves saying?

My prayer is that we will be able to tell a story of how much we learned through this time of refining and reordering. I pray that we will be able to see how God changed us through this time and brought many back home to himself. I pray that we will be able to see the significance of this time as a foundational time of realignment, renewal, and redeployment. I pray that we will see growth and maturity in our lives and in our community life together. Every one of us matters in the kingdom of God.

I have much faith for all these things, and I look forward to seeing how God works out his plans for us.

GRATITUDE

As I conclude, I want to thank all of you for your involvement and partnership in the gospel and in the life of this community. Every act matters. Every phone call. Every hour of listening or prayer. Thank you. Church life is always a communal thing.

Shortly before I arrived, the whole church came together to reorder the main church and to build a new church centre. This was an amazing feat, and this development has laid a superb foundation for our ministry and mission in the years ahead. I am so grateful for all that you have made possible. I don't ever take it for granted.

I also want to thank the team close to me – my dear staff friends. Working with you all is a great pleasure and I am so grateful for all you are and all you bring. **Charles** and **Ali** have both given so much to our church family and we will miss your presence and your gifts so much! May you both know God's deep grace and peace as you leave the team. We also miss David and Simon very much too and are grateful for all you brought this year especially! We pray for Erin too, with thanks, as she seeks God's new calling for her in the coming year.

Tom, Leslie, Nick and Katie, have been a fantastic Warden team. You are all very valuable to me and I am thankful for the way you have given yourselves to your new roles this year. Thank you!

One person deserves a particular mention as he has given himself tirelessly and humbly year after year in serving as our treasurer. **Alastair Rubie** is a man of deep integrity, sincerity, humility, and faithfulness. He has been an amazing treasurer and we are all indebted to his hidden service behind the scenes over so many years. We are all so blessed to have had him in this role. Thank you, Alastair, (and Susanne) so much.

And lastly, I want to thank Tory. You are my love and my rock. You hold me up and you keep me going. You pray with me and for me. You are so kind to me. Your wisdom, encouragement, humour, guidance, laughter, and compassion mean everything to me. I love you.

Richard

Richard Wilson | Vicar

CHURCHWARDENS' REPORT

We write this report as we open up the church for Easter and celebrate the resurrection of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. Hallelujah!

How amazing and wonderful it is to be able to have a church full of people remembering His Passion and His Rising Again. It was heart-warming to see so many join us for the various services and events over the Easter period. To be able to celebrate like this **in person** after such a long time of restrictions is truly awesome and inspiring.

We all need to continue to encourage one another to maintain our faith with resilience and mutual support. We are reminded of the passage in 1 Thessalonians 5: 11: ***“Therefore encourage one another and build each other up, just as in fact you are doing.”***

As we all continue to support each other we give thanks to all those who have kept the life of St Mary's going during the pandemic especially the work, expertise and patience of the tech team who have been learning and perfecting how we can join in from the safety of our own homes. Grateful thanks must go to our clergy team, our worship leaders, the young adult, youth and children's ministers, the catering team, the Girls' Brigade leaders, the admin and site team and of course to our army of volunteers, without them we could not offer so many activities. Everyone has given so generously and sacrificially of their time and energy this year and we are truly thankful.

Thanks too must go to you, the congregation, for your unending support and attendance at our various events and services and thank you too for maintaining your pledges to give financially to our wider mission and the upkeep of our church. Your pledges enable us to budget and prepare for exciting times ahead. We are prayerfully considering as a PCC the way forward and to do this efficiently we need to have a secure knowledge of our likely income.

Before closing we must give thanks to a number of staff members who have left or will be leaving soon. Ali Foulkes has been our worship minister for ten years; thank you Ali for your love and dedication in your role as you have helped us to deepen our worship life. To Charles, our Children's Minister, thank you for your enthusiasm and unique gifts in helping our children and young people find and develop their faith. To Simon Kruger thank you for the time and dedication you gave us, as our Operations Manager; and to David Dyer our Caretaker, who has given over and above when preparing and tidying up for events in the Church and in the Church Centre. And finally grateful thanks to Mike McPhrazier,

James Prestwood and Bex Main for their contribution in the admin team during the past year.

Alastair Rubie has voluntarily given his time for many years as a member of the PCC and as our treasurer, preparing and managing the accounts for our church. This is no mean feat as the financial turnover and staffing costs require him to work on the figures every week. Thank you, Alastair, and may God Bless you as you step down from this huge commitment.

We pray that we may all, as God's family, here in Reigate, keep our hearts and minds open to God's plan for us all. There will, undoubtedly, be more challenges to face but let us walk and listen to Jesus as He guides us on our way.

God Bless

Leslie Jackson and Tom Lumsden

FINANCE REPORT

The finance function comprises a team of wonderful volunteers who do so much for us behind the scenes. **Mark Randall** undertakes the accounting and budgeting functions including preparing monthly and annual accounts. **David Ilott** deals with many day-to-day matters and with all the basic bookkeeping. **Su Rodgers** continues to manage our Gift Aid claims, **Laura Juden-Wills** runs our monthly payroll and deals with HMRC and pension matters. **Michael Heneker** has handed over to **Deirdre Hucklebridge** as Heath Church treasurer. We are fortunate to have such a strong Finance Team and our sincere thanks go to each of them. However, changes are afoot and it likely we will have to employ a part-time bookkeeper in the future.

Monthly accounts, the annual budget and updated forecasts are prepared and presented to the PCC.

The annual accounts for 2021 have been audited and will be presented at the APCM. A copy is posted on the Church website under 'Giving' and then 'Annual Accounts 2021'. May I refer you particularly to the '**Financial Review of the year**' on pages 6-7, which is summarised below.

- Our Finances for 2021 were again substantially affected by the Covid 19 measures, which resulted in both income and expenditure reducing further from the already depressed levels in 2020, income reduced by 3.2% from £679K to £657K and revenue expenditure by 3.6% from £643K to £620K. Income exceeded expenditure by £37K or 5.7% of income, very similar figures to 2020. This sum, together with depreciation of £21K is added to our General Reserve, but from this figure we have to deduct Fixed Asset purchases, mainly on the AV System, also of £21K, so the General Reserve increased to £201K, a very healthy level to provide a base for our intended activities in 2022 and for the day to day running of the Church. We have much to thank God for.
- Income from giving reduced by 6.6% to £467K, as income from donors ending standing orders for various reasons exceeded new starters. This figure includes one-off donations of £40K, slightly less than in 2020 but much higher than the long-term average. We received income of £99K from Gift Aid tax recoveries, and £27K from Church and Church Centre bookings, the latter being much less than pre-pandemic levels.
- By far the largest expense continues to be the Diocesan Share to which we contributed £241K or 39% of our total expenditure. Staff costs took up £167K, £27K less than in 2020. This was because some office staff were not replaced immediately after they left employment and because of maternity leave.

Payments to Mission partners and other donations amounted to £70K. Many costs headings remained at below pre-pandemic levels.

- The funds received from the Peggy Caffyn-Tees legacy for St Mary's continue to be invested with CCLA, which specialises in investment of funds for Charities, particularly for Church of England funds. Their market value at 31st December was £373K. Accumulated income of £42K is available for use in 2022 and future years on maintenance of Church Fabric. We also hold reserves for fabric work on the church and centre of £72K.

For 2022, we are budgeting for a small but manageable deficit. Costs in 2022 are likely to increase as we return to full staffing and higher activity levels.

As usual, I would like to conclude with a huge thank you to everyone who has given so generously in 2021.

Alastair Rubie | Treasurer

ELECTORAL ROLL REPORT

This year there are 544 names on the electoral roll, 52 new names added and 8 names removed; 37% of people on the roll live within the parish & 63% outside it. If you are considering standing for election onto next year's PCC, please make sure your name is on the electoral roll by the end of September 2022.

Catherine Farrow

PCC REPORT FOR THE YEAR 2020/21

The PCC met six times from May 2021 to March 2022 (three times in person and three times on zoom)

There are several sub-groups which have continued to meet as appropriate and possible. These are:

- Finance/stewardship
- Heath Church
- Fabric and facilities
- St Mary's Global
- Centre management team
- Deanery/Diocesan synod
- Standing Committee
- Eco Church
- Safeguarding

As well as regular finance and PCC subgroup updates, there has been discussion on community outreach, pastoral care, the global re-launch and involvement with the Satellites 2022 national initiative. The PCC met for an awayday in June 2021 to look at and develop St Mary's vision – 'Seeing God changing lives, families and churches again and again'.

The approved minutes of PCC meetings are available for all to read in the folders in the chancel in the church at the back of the Heath Church, and are available on request to the office.

Joy Perrett handed over as PCC Secretary to Sally Bertlin in November. Grateful thanks were expressed to Joy for the many years of faithful service she had given to the PCC.

PCC Members 2021/2022:

Clergy	Richard Wilson Kate Capper Nigel Griffiths Erin Gilmour Helen Fraser
Churchwardens	Leslie Jackson Tom Lumsden
Deanery Synod	Peter Chesterton Peter Darwent Gareth Evans Liz Gunn Mark Johnson Ian Nott (to November 2021) Philippa Parry Brenda Juntunen (co-opted January 2022)
Diocesan Synod	Leslie Jackson Nigel Griffiths
Elected	Tom Andrew Becky Beggs Ali Brown Katie Cornish Tania Hillsdon Andrew Morgan Gogo Moore Nick Rayner Alastair Rubie Margaret Wood

Sally Bertlin | PCC Secretary

DEANERY SYNOD REPORT FOR THE YEAR 2020/21

Your elected members are

- Peter Chesterton
- Peter Darwent
- Gareth Evans
- Liz Gunn
- Mark Johnston
- Ian Nott
- Philippa Parry

Leslie Jackson is also on the Synod as the Lay Chair

Please see the Deanery website for updates on what the Deanery does together:

<https://www.reigatedeanery.org.uk/>

Leslie Jackson continues as Deanery Lay Chair and Rev. Martin Colton (St Mark's Reigate) has been commissioned as Area Dean (replacing Rev. Anita Colpas who has taken over as Team Rector in Lewes, East Sussex).

We have focused on the 5 marks of mission with special emphasis on mark 5:

1. To proclaim the Good News of the Kingdom
2. To teach, baptise and nurture new believers
3. To respond to human need by loving service
4. To seek to transform unjust structures of society, to challenge violence of every kind and to pursue peace and reconciliation
5. To strive to safeguard the integrity of creation and sustain and renew the life of the earth

We have set up deanery champions for Eco-Church and a number of churches in the deanery have been awarded 'Bronze' or 'Silver' award status (St Mary's gained 'Silver'). There is quite a push from the Diocese for churches to get at least a bronze award and there is a move for more churches to be investing in solar panels, 'eco-friendly' heating systems and green energy suppliers.

We have had fruitful discussions on Eco-Church initiatives and had motivating presentations from Rev. Tim Astin, Ian Christie (Surrey University) and Ruth Ritter (local Councillor). Please see the Reigate Deanery website for more details of what we do:

<https://www.reigatedeanery.org.uk/eco-church>

We have champions for youth too and work in collaboration with youth pastors and local Christian associations such as SparkFish and Free Church ministers.

Regarding Social Justice, we have regular updates and seminars from the Reigate Archdeaconry Social Justice Focus (RASJF). More details on the website.

For further information contact Leslie Jackson leslie.jackson3@ntlworld.com

Leslie Jackson

DIOCESAN SYNOD REPORT

Your elected members are Nigel Griffiths and Leslie Jackson

Through lockdown we managed to keep up with 3 meetings a year by Zoom.

Our 2021 agendas have included:

SOUTHWARK VISION & OBJECTIVES FOR 2022 | Proposed action strategies included:

- Connection & communication
- Rebuilding finances
- Vocations and ministry
- Mission and justice
- Giving
- Property
- Safeguarding

- Data & IT
- The web and digital communication

(The objective is to provide a focused strategy to implement the diocesan vision 'Walking | Welcoming | Growing')

GENERAL SYNOD VOTE | Voting in and being briefed on the new General Synod for the next 5 years

BUDGET | Budgeting for a 2022 deficit of £1.1m (from 2021 £26m)

The most recent 2022 Diocesan Synod was the first face-to-face meeting after lockdown.

Key discussion topics included:

- **Being an Eco Diocese** and net zero carbon emissions target (11 churches so far have achieved Silver status eco award... including St Mary's!)
- The new **Racial Equality Charter**
- **Strategic priorities** for the new triennium
- **Living in Love and Faith** – report on diocesan uptake and what comes next
- Update from the Southwark Diocesan Board of **Education**

Please note that our Bishop of Croydon +Jonathan has retired leaving us with a vacant See but the hope is to fill this within the next few months.

Nigel Griffiths