

# **REIGATE PARISH CHURCH WITH THE HEATH CHURCH Annual Parochial Church Meeting**

Monday 29<sup>th</sup> April 2024 in the Church

## **AGENDA**

### **VESTRY MEETING TO APPOINT CHURCHWARDENS**

1. Welcome & Introduction
  2. Election of Churchwardens
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### **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 APCM 2023 (taken as read)
5. Matters Arising
6. Churchwardens' Report | Leslie Jackson & Nick Rayner
7. Treasurer's Report & presentation of audited accounts for the year ending 31<sup>st</sup> December 2023 | Nick Pettitt
8. Vicar's Report | Richard Wilson
9. Vision for Community Life | Ben Forbes
10. Final words and thanks

## YEAR IN REVIEW 2023

All of us are goal oriented, vision oriented, future oriented - the holiday ahead of us, the new job role, the prospect of a family, the planting of a garden, the hope of future fitness or health. We live into the future, towards the future. It pulls us forward.

Our goals also shape our looking back, our assessment of how we are doing, our review of how things have been. We measure the past in light of our vision for the future.

Church life is no different. Our vision pulls us forward and it also shapes our looking back. Life is a constant process of action and reflection. We do it all the time. It's how we learn. And church is no different. This whole report is part of this process of constant review and reflection. It offers a chance for us to look back and look ahead. It's helping us learn and grow.

And so, beginning by reminding ourselves what we long to see, what we seek to do, and how we seek to do it, the following reports and financial statements, help tell the story of the last year and they help us discern the things we want or need to do next.

As we read and reflect, we are not just thinking about what we have done. We are also opening ourselves up to listening out for the Spirit, to discern what God is doing, what God is saying and to being led by him as we walk forward together.

May we hear what the Spirit is saying to us as a family once again.



## VICAR'S REPORT | RICHARD WILSON

### REMINDING OURSELVES OF OUR MISSION

As a church family, in recent years, we have settled on using the following framework to describe our vision, our mission and our approach:

**Our vision** (what we hope to see) is to see God changing lives, families, and churches again and again.

**Our mission** (what we seek to do) is to make whole life **disciples** of all ages, to create and support communities of people who worship God with their whole lives, and to model and reproduce this as widely as possible.

**Our strategy** (how we seek to do this) is to draw people into intentional apprenticeship to Jesus through

- reaching out to a world in need,
- drawing people into a new identity in Christ,
- developing a culture of discipleship,
- loving one another as family, and
- giving ourselves away for the sake of others.

Behind all these words is the simple desire for us to play our part in fulfilling Jesus' commission to the church, given that he had been given all authority in heaven and on earth, to 'go and make disciples of all nations, teaching them to obey everything I have taught you and baptising them in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit.' This is our singular goal – to be, make and mature disciples – ready for Jesus' return.

## **THE STORY OF 2023 | A YEAR OF TRANSITION**

Given that this is our goal, my sense of 2023 is that it was a **year of transition**. This was marked in large part by a number of key **staffing changes** for us as a church - me taking a sabbatical, Nigel and Gen Griffiths moving to Merstham to help revitalise the parish along with a number of church members, Kate Capper stepping down as Associate Vicar, BenForbes being appointed as Associate Vicar and starting as our new Head of Community Life, Martin Saunders stepping down from leading our Youth Work with Emily Irving being appointed and starting as our full-time Youth Minister, and Mandy Childs starting her work as Children's Minister (6-11yrs). Esther Lyth joined Leslie Jackson, Nick Rayner and Becky Beggs in the warden team and there was a new PCC with several new members.

This level of change within our leadership has been significant and it has and will continue to take time for new staff and post holders to become established. But the process of creating new roles or reimagining old ones has, I believe, been really positive for us. Not only has this brought renewed clarity and focus among the leadership around discipleship, community building and mission, but it has also brought new energy into church life that I hope will bear much fruit in the coming years as we continue to focus on our calling to make disciples.

There has been so much to thank God for in the last year and I am grateful for the way that we have seen growth in the following five ways – how we have been able to give ourselves away, invest in children, young people, and parents, review our outreach, and seek to build up our community life together. Here is a brief word on each.

### **1. Giving ourselves away**

In 2023 it was wonderful to see the vision of sending a group of people with Nigel and Gen Griffiths to join in with the mission in **Merstham**, come to fruition. This ambition of ours was supported with financial and practical support from the Diocese and the Central Church, and our investment has been multiplied many times over. It has been really exciting to see how this group has grafted themselves into the life of the parish and how God has blessed the whole community, even in a short time.

We give thanks and continue to pray for our extended family up the road as they reach out to a different community with the gospel and grow resilient disciples in a different parish.

### **2. Investing in children, young people, and parents**

With so many young people and children connected to the church and

with so many families being part of our community, the PCC has continued to be keen to develop this area of ministry, as we seek to support parents as the key disciplers of the next generation. For many years we have been delighted to see our children's and youth work flourish. Post-covid, and with changes of staff and volunteers, there has been a transition to new models of working and meeting these needs. As an area of such importance for us we have decided **to increase our investment in our provision of oversight and leadership.**

Being able to appoint a **full-time Youth Minister** (to build on all that Martin Saunders grew) alongside our part-time Children's Ministers has been a major achievement. Emily Irving joined during the summer leading the group who went to the Satellites Festival, and then she officially joined the team in October. She has already brought much. It has been so good to see new **Children's team leaders** join and grow under Mandy Childs's leadership and others step up to fill the gap following Gen's move to Merstham.

We have also been working on placing **parents** at the centre of our strategy for the discipleship of our children and young people. This found expression in how we shaped our new roles, and in the initiation of a Parenting for Faith course. There is still much to learn about how to embed this ethos into our church life. We were excited to be able to advertise for a new **Associate Vicar** to lead and oversee this as part of a wider brief of **Leadership Development and Discipleship Growth** and look forward to seeing Simon Russell taking up that post in 2024.

### **3. Reaching our town and area**

As a church, especially since Covid, we have been taking time to reflect deeply on our approach to **mission and evangelism.** The Alpha Course in January to March was well attended and fruitful. It was a delight to see the way a relatively young life group grew in maturity and faith as they took leadership of the course, and to see baptisms and the subsequent growth of new life groups arise out of the process, all of which continue to grow strongly. The progress of St Mary's Local has taken longer than we expected but the time has not been wasted. A strong foundation of thinking, reflection and research has led to a clear vision for the future, and it will be exciting to see the momentum and activity grow in 2024 and 2025 as we seek to **increase our gospel witness** in many more ways, while also focusing our areas of service around **isolation and loneliness, families and children,** and **special needs provision.** There is much to share about this in the coming year and I am grateful for God's leading, giving us confidence about the way ahead.

### **4. Building our community life**

The creation and resourcing of a new full-time **'Head of Community Life'** role, to build on and expand on Kate Capper's work, has been another important development for us. Creating a full-time role is a significant investment and shows how important this area of life is for us as church. It

has been a joy to welcome Ben Forbes into this role. Ben's role is extensive, but it is focused on developing how we grow our sense of being family together with the idea that families do four things – they look after each other (Pastoral Care), they spend time together (Social activities and time together), they are a place to belong and grow (Life groups and small groups) and they make sure everyone is safe and healthy (Safeguarding and Emotionally Healthy Church). Ben will be sharing more of this in his verbal report to the APCM as part of this year's review.

## **THE IMPORTANCE OF SPIRITUAL FORMATION AND GROWTH**

Just after Easter I was enabled to take a wonderful three-month **sabbatical**. I am so thankful to everyone who made this possible, especially to the rest of the staff team who carried the weight of the responsibility of church life while I was away. Thank you!

This was indeed another moment of change and transition, both for me personally but also for us as a whole church. While the fruits of this time will be seen over years rather than months, I am so grateful for having had this time. It was a wonderfully blessed time for me, and for Tory and restorative both spiritually and physically. It was a significant time of theological and spiritual growth for me. We know that all Christian ministry is founded on an inner life with God that has its origin in the gospel, and it has enlivened and renewed my love of God and the scriptures so much.

We are all being spiritually formed all the time – one way or another. While few of us are able to take an extended sabbatical, I am more determined than ever that **spiritual formation** should become a significant hallmark of our life together. The development of the renewed Associate Vicar role further expresses this commitment but I long for this ambition and desire to become deeply rooted in our shared sense of identity and culture.

In 2023 we continued to put a high priority on teaching, and our focus this year was on the early chapters of Genesis, the meaning and identity of Jesus' ministry, and exploring how our future hope shapes life in the present. I pray that these themes will continue to shape our lives in the coming years.

## **WORSHIP AND MINISTRY**

As we know, one of our primary callings as the body of Christ, is to be a community that gathers for **worship**, and in 2023 we sought to invest in and develop our corporate times of worship and prayer. We take note that attendance on Sundays fluctuates through the month and over the year and, while this is inevitable, clearer communication around the importance of gathering has been developed (Come | Belong | Serve | Give). In part, this is a response to the Covid years where our patterns and commitments changed, and it is an attempt to routinely spur each other on to not give up the habit of meeting together and all the more as we await the day of the Lord (Hebrews 10:25).

As a parish St Mary's continues to offer a range of opportunities for worship at different times and in different styles. It has been good to see growth at the

Heath Church, and the 8.30am services and to see our mid-week communion service thrive. The numbers involved in our music ministry have also grown and the sense of team is also strengthening. Given how technology is now an expected and routine part of our services, this has required extra attention, resources, and time. We are so grateful for the way that Josh Brown has gathered and built the worship teams, invested in training worship leaders, and encouraged and built a number of our young people into worship, and developed our tech and support teams.

Once again, we have been encouraged by our attendance at our Easter and Christmas services – 583 on Easter Day, 1082 at our Christmas Carol Services, 1707 over Christmas Eve and Christmas Day. Our average weekly Sunday attendance was 305 adults, and 82 under 16 and at the APCM in April 2023 there were 573 names on the electoral roll compared to 544 in 2022.

### **LOOKING FORWARD TO THE FUTURE | Increasing momentum**

If 2023 was a year of transition, we anticipate and pray that 2024 and 2025 will be years of **increasing momentum**, where we see a growth in **community, connection, mission, and formation**.

We are mindful of our need to **secure our finances** going forward, raising income to be able to match our vision and sense of calling.

In line with our vision and strategic priorities, we want to:

#### **REACH OUT TO A WORLD IN NEED:**

- Build on our mission and ministry with youth and children under the leadership of Emily Irving, Mandy Childs, and a children's leader for the 0-5s
- Firmly communicate, embed, and implement our approach to social engagement and local mission, alongside our involvement in global mission
- Grow confident disciples able to share their faith naturally by teaching and training

#### **DRAW PEOPLE INTO A NEW IDENTITY IN CHRIST:**

- Welcome and induct new members into church life following Alpha
- Experiment with new ways of introducing people to faith in Christ
- Draw people into deeper commitment marked by baptism
- Further develop our 'newcomers' flow' and drawing newcomers into deeper fellowship

#### **DEVELOP A CULTURE OF DISCIPLESHIP:**

- Appoint and establish a new Head of Discipleship
- Teach on the grace of God as the foundation of our gospel and community life and journey together through the Sermon on the Mount
- Strengthen a core group participating in our monthly prayer meeting, and renew our approach to our annual 24/7 prayer weeks in the lead up to Easter

- Strengthen our small groups – increasing leadership, engagement, transformation, and participation
- Encourage families and individuals to participate in summer festivals of New Wine and Satellites
- Develop our approach to family discipleship, and spiritual formation across the whole church
- Expand the resources we offer that deepen faith and discipleship that changes lives

### **LOVE ONE ANOTHER AS FAMILY:**

- Deepen our belonging and develop our pastoral care
- Launch a new termly publication called 'Spotlight' to share stories that celebrate our community life together
- Establish and develop an annual diary of social events that build community and fellowship
- Continue to develop the depth of community within our small groups
- Plan for a whole-church weekend away together in 2025

### **GIVE OURSELVES AWAY FOR THE SAKE OF OTHERS:**

- Continue to maintain our partnership with Merstham and continue to explore partnership with the parish of Nine Elms in Battersea.
- Continue to deepen our partnerships with others in mission overseas and strengthen our communication and engagement within the church family
- Develop our relationships with other Churches and networks as we seek to grow resilient disciples in our secular age

### **GRATITUDE AND THANKS**

As I celebrate six years of ministry here at St Mary's and the Heath Church and look forward to the many years ahead, I am so very grateful for the amazing generosity and energy that so many people give to the life of the church. Every day, every week, hundreds of us give ourselves away to play our part in the story of the whole church. On Sundays and right the way through the week, so many people give so much.

Love is shown in many ways – acts of service, words of affirmation, touch and kindness, spending time with others, and giving gifts. St Mary's is a family where all these different ways of expressing love are on show. In small groups, in children's activities, in hospitality and pastoral care, in meals, in cards and words, in whatsapp groups that sustain people through illness, in practical support, and in financial gifts. Hundreds of thousands of pounds, and thousands of hours are given. And each one of these is noticed and seen by our Father in heaven. I too, am so grateful for them all, even though I only know a fraction of what has been done or said or given. Every one of them matters. Thank you!

I especially want to thank Leslie, Nick, Becky and Esther for their amazing support and self-sacrifice as our wonderful Warden Team. I am so thankful for the whole staff team who I have the wonderful privilege to work with day after day. You bring me so much life and I am so thankful to God for you all and all that you bring.

And lastly, I am so truly blessed to have Tory as my friend, companion, and wife. Thank you for all you give, and for all you do for and with me as we share ministry together. I love you.

But finally, using Paul's words from his letter to the Colossian church, as if my own let me finish by saying this.

'I always thank God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, when I pray for you all, because I have experienced your faith in Christ Jesus and the love you have for others – both near and far – the faith and love that spring from the hope stored up for us in heaven about our future and about which we have heard in the true message of the gospel that has come to us.

In the same way, the gospel about the coming kingdom continues to bear fruit and grow throughout the whole world and the local region – just as it has been doing among us since the day we heard it and truly understood God's grace. We each learned it from others who went before us - fellow servants and faithful ministers of Christ on our behalf – and it is also producing among ourselves a deep love in the Spirit for one another.

For this reason, I keep on praying for us all. I continually ask God to fill us all with the knowledge of his will through all the wisdom and understanding that the Spirit gives, so that we may all live a life worthy of the Lord and please him in every way: bearing fruit in every good work, growing in the knowledge of God, being strengthened with all power according to his glorious might so that we may have great endurance and patience, and giving joyful thanks to the Father, who has qualified us all to share in the inheritance of his holy people in the kingdom of light. For he has rescued us from the dominion of darkness and brought us into the kingdom of the Son he loves, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.

Once we were alienated from God and were enemies in our minds because of our evil behaviour. But now he has reconciled us by Christ's physical body through death to present us holy in his sight, without blemish and free from accusation – if we continue in our faith, established and firm, and do not move from the hope held out in the gospel. This is the gospel that we heard and that has been proclaimed to every creature under heaven, and of which I also have become a servant.

As a result, I rejoice in my work, even when I am tired or stretched, that I have taken on for the sake of his body, which is the church. I am always mindful that it was God that called me and commissioned me, ordaining me to present the word of God in its fullness – the mystery that has been kept hidden for ages and generations, but which has now been disclosed to the Lord's people. God has chosen to make known among us the glorious riches of this mystery, which is Christ in us, the hope of glory in the age to come. He is the one we, and I, proclaim, admonishing and teaching everyone as best we can, with all wisdom, so that we may present everyone fully mature in Christ. It is to this end we strenuously contend with all the energy Christ so powerfully works in us.'

May God bless us together in the coming years.

Richard

**Rev Richard Wilson | Vicar**



## **CHURCHWARDENS' REPORT**

As Leslie and I have reflected on the year since last April's APCM, we have been overwhelmed and humbled by the amazing acts of grace, kindness and service of others that our church family has demonstrated time and again.

This moment a year ago saw a point when Richard was away on sabbatical, and we eagerly awaited Ben's start in the team in July. We had yet to interview Emily for the post of youth minister following Martin's amazing dedication to that role over the previous 5 years. Mandy was one term into the post of children's minister alongside Gen's young children's role. Josh continued to hold and grow the worship ministry and Kate had graciously stepped in alongside Nigel to navigate the time with Richard away, while the Griffiths prepared to envision a team for their move to Merstham over the summer. Throughout this time of change and on into the rest of the year, the St Mary's family has stepped forward to fulfil the huge breadth of ministries through which God has called us to serve His church and our community.

Meanwhile under the leadership of Freda Handley and with the support of Mary Lambell, Anthony Parker and many others, the Heath Church continues serenely onwards in its beautiful ministry of prayerful fellowship and faith, extending such a warm welcome to everyone. Leslie and I have hugely appreciated worshipping with you through the year and receiving your support.

### **Richard's Sabbatical**

We can't let the reflections on the year go by without mentioning the pink underlined Bible. Richard returned in July from his Sabbatical with a new focus and vision – a new understanding of the priority of the New Testament – a Gospel of Hope. We all feel the challenge of seeing the words of scripture through the lens of The Now and Not Yet, to know the power of The Kingdom of God, to understand the significance of The Day of The Lord and to give priority to living out our lives to the full, here and now, in the hope of the Age to Come. The outworking of God speaking powerfully to Richard in his sabbatical time has begun to direct us and paint a vision for the next season of our own discipleship and our life as a church family in our community. It's exciting to pray together on a Monday evening and walk with the Lord into this, His plans for St Mary's and The Heath as we live our lives in the light of this hope.

### **Merstham**

In September it was a joy to see Nigel and Gen Griffiths begin to graft into the ministry in the parishes of Merstham. Whilst we feel the effects of the sacrifice in giving away such fantastic people from our church family, we had heard God's call with them and are so excited to see how God is using them and the group who have gone out with them from St Mary's, to join in with what God is doing alongside those congregations in Merstham. There is a huge amount to give thanks to God for.

### **Youth Leaders**

After five years leading the youth ministry, Martin Saunders stepped down from this role in July. He continues in his job at Youthscape, instrumental in the

Satellites Festival, where Emily led a group of young people from St Mary's and Redhill Baptist Church again last summer. Any of us who have been parenting teenagers in recent years will want to express our huge thanks to Martin in the way that he has galvanised and envisioned the volunteer youth team and been instrumental in discipleship and evangelism among the young people of our church family and in schools and the wider community. We are so excited that Emily started in the role in October.

### **Ministry Teams**

Ben Forbes joined at his induction in July, soon after Richard's return from sabbatical. It's been wonderful to welcome Ben, Alice and Jerry into the church family, and to see Ben developing the ministry in Community Life, which has released Kate into more of her areas of wider ministry. We also look forward to welcoming Simon Russell and his family in July this year. This will see the associate minister roles filled, giving support to Richard and the wide range of ministries that the team oversees. We are excited to imagine all that God will lead us towards in the coming years.

We continue to seek a young children's minister for the 0-5 age group, and are immensely grateful to all of the parents who stepped into the gap and keep the activities going through the week and on a Sunday. Please pray with us as we continue to invite applications for the role. If that's you, or you know someone, then let me know!

### **PCC and Warden teams**

An enormous Thank You to all who have served on the PCC this year as we have navigated complex issues around the budget, the changing ministry team members, and a response to the decisions of the General Synod around Living in Love and Faith. I'm particularly grateful to the others on the warden team – Esther Lyth who has joined this year, Becky Beggs who steps down having completed six years in PCC and deputy warden roles, and of course to the inestimable Leslie Jackson. While I know she will hate me doing so, I must also thank Sally Bertlin for her tremendous commitment to the PCC role including being Secretary, alongside so many other areas of service in the life of our church.

### **Church Life**

As I said at the beginning of my report, we are overwhelmed and humbled by the acts of kindness and service that so many people pour into such a breadth of activities and ministries across the life of our church family at St Mary's and The Heath Church.

I think of group leaders: Life groups; Holiday at Home; Carers' Support Group; Jigsaw; Cuppa club; Tots praise; Girls' Brigade; youth and children's activities at Satellites during the week and across all age groups on a Sunday; worship leaders, musicians and tech teams; hospitality servers of tea and coffee and meals.

I think of the team of stewards and welcomers who attend at all of our services, and would like to mention Andrew Prestwood in particular in the fantastic job that he does in managing and organising this key aspect church life. The

Christmas Services Stewarding Rota is a wonder to behold! Many thanks to Jo Silcock for his huge dedication to stewarding at the 8:30 congregation, which he stood down from in December, and his many seen and unseen acts of service across the life of the church. Also to Roy Mundy who stepped down from the Building and Fabric Committee in October after many dedicated years in that role.

I think of all of us who serve out into our local community in and around Reigate, bringing the light and hope of Jesus as we partner with other teams and organisations like: Citizens' Advice, Samaritans, school governors, ongoing Ukraine family support, food banks, Street Pastors and so many more. I think of Liz Gregson and the Global team as they support the ministry of the Frésards and Guinesses, together with mission organisation partnerships.

We are incredibly blessed by God to have such a wonderful staff and volunteer team in the church office who support and facilitate all that the church organisation needs to achieve. And in doing so they are the enablers whose work means that the activities and ministries of our church can happen. We hugely appreciate Catherine, Amanda, Vineeta, Louise and all of the volunteer team for all you do. And of course Nick Pettitt, Laura, Mark Randall and all who support the finance team in our church – a tremendous undertaking with no small sacrifice of time, expertise and energy.

Finally, we wish to give thanks to God for the exceptional team of clergy and ministry staff that we have been given. Their ministry leads us into God's presence to worship, to hear His word, to challenge and encourage us, to bring us to meet Jesus for the first time – or for the thousandth time, to grow in our Christian maturity as we live out our lives of discipleship to become more like Jesus.

So thank you to Mike, Danielle, Helen Fraser, Brenda for all you do. Thank you to all those who are gifted and called to preach God's word to us and lead us in worship. Thank you to Josh, Mandy and Emily. Thank you to Kate, Ben and of course to Richard.

We are so grateful to you all, that you have heard the calling to serve God in this place, and that you lay down the gift of your ministry week after week, time after time for God's glory and for the extension of His Kingdom in our church and community.

**Nick Rayner and Leslie Jackson | Churchwardens**

## **HEATH CHURCH REPORT**

The past year has been one of growth and change for the Heath Church. After a difficult post Covid period, numbers have steadily risen. We also said "Farewell" to Nigel who had worked with us during his time in the parish and we welcomed Ben Forbes to our team.

### **Worship**

Some time ago we began using a Church of England Service known as "Service of the Word", in addition to The Book of Common Prayer and Common Worship. Its distinguishing feature is that the service each Sunday through the year is linked

to the church calendar. Until recently we have used printed sheets, thanks to support from Catherine and her team. Thanks to a gift, from the legacy of a greatly missed member of the Heath, we have now been able to buy the actual service book, which is much appreciated.

### **Mission giving**

Every first Sunday of each month, the collection made during the service is given to a designated charity. Five charities, currently CMS, Tearfund, Barnabas Fund, the Bible Society and SparkFish, each receive donations from two of these Sundays. Money from the remaining two is given to special causes, including over the past year to Satellites. Martin Saunders, at our invitation, was able to speak to us of Satellites' work with young people and their financial needs. We are glad we can support two charities reaching out to young people, an important part of the Church's work. The choice of supported charities is regularly reviewed by the Team.

### **Food bank**

We were pleased to be invited to become donors to the local Foodbank, as are members of St Mary's, and a brief introduction to its work and how it helps people in need was given to us by one of its representatives. A collection is now made at the Heath on the second Sunday every month.

### **Maintenance and Renewal**

We are grateful to St Mary's for help with maintenance issues, most recently with the repair of the chandelier in the chancel. In 2008 a local inspection of the Heath Church concluded among other things that the "the building is old and has exceeded its intended life span by some significant margin". In 2011 a full Building Report Survey was commissioned from a team of Chartered Surveyors. Its detailed report and 188 photographs enabled us to create a plan to save the building and rebuild the annexe which was unsafe. Major work has been undertaken over ten years funded by legacies from Heath Church members, specifically for the Heath Church, by fund raising with gifts from others and by donations from individual members to pay for particular items.

In conclusion, special mention must be made of Peggy Caffyn-Tees, a Warden of the Heath Church, whose exceeding generous legacy to us made our journey possible. A plaque in her memory has recently been installed in the chancel.

**Written by members of the Heath Church**

## **ELECTORAL ROLL REPORT**

This year there are 552 names on the Electoral Roll, with 23 new names added and 44 names removed: 37% of people on the roll live within the parish and 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 2024.

**Catherine Farrow | Electoral Roll Officer**

## PCC REPORT FOR THE YEAR 2022/3

The PCC met six times from May 2023 to March 2024

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

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

As well as regular finance and PCC subgroup updates, there has been discussion on the church graft to Merstham; facilities and fabric of our church buildings, Youth and Children's ministry and appointments; Community Life; Discipleship and Leadership and linked Associate Vicar appointment; Prayers of Love and Faith; the proposal for a Church Weekend Away. We monitor our safeguarding procedures regularly and are grateful to Jane Melbourne and Leslie Jackson as our Safeguarding Officers for their constant diligence and professionalism.

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

### PCC Members 2023/2024:

<b>Clergy</b>	Richard Wilson Kate Capper Nigel Griffiths (to September 2023) Ben Forbes (from September 2023) Helen Fraser	
<b>Churchwardens</b>	Leslie Jackson Nick Rayner	
<b>Deanery Synod</b>	Sally Bertlin Gareth Evans Nicola Peck	Vron Booth Philippa Parry Andrew Prestwood
<b>Diocesan Synod</b>	Leslie Jackson Nigel Griffiths	
<b>Elected</b>	Tom Andrew Ian Capper Tania Hillsdon Brenda Juntunen Andrew Morgan	Becky Beggs Heather Chesterton Debbie Jackson Esther Lyth Nick Pettitt (Treasurer)

**Sally Bertlin | PCC Secretary**

## **DEANERY SYNOD REPORT FOR THE YEAR 2022/3**

**Area Dean:** Rev. Martin Colton;

**Lay Chair:** Leslie Jackson.

One of the most enjoyable aspects of Deanery Synod meetings is meeting people from other churches and visiting a variety of churches in our deanery. St. Mary's & The Heath Church Deanery Synod members represent their congregations in making and voting on plans for the local and wider areas in the Reigate Deanery and Southwark Diocese. Here is a summary of our discussions.

### **June 2023** (meeting at Christ the King, Salfords)

We discussed the Church of England's call for all parts of the Church to be 'net zero carbon' by 2030. As a deanery we aim to have all churches registered with Eco Church.

Surrey County Council are currently running a solar panel scheme. For further information, visit: <https://www.surreycc.gov.uk/> and search solar panels. For further information, visit: <https://www.churchofengland.org/resources/churchcare/net-zero-carbon-church>

### **October 2023** (meeting at St. John's Redhill)

We split into groups to discuss the Southwark Vision and these are some of the headline ideas:

- Maintaining the highest possible number of stipendiary clergy and growing lay ministries.
- Growing our existing churches and establishing new worshipping communities.
- Becoming younger and more diverse – We need to grow younger in our congregations.
- Deepening our discipleship links - sharing across churches and denominations.
- Increase links with schools with more support for SparkFish.
- Encourage more lay people to do the Bishop's Certificate.
- Share more with each other e.g. churches that are doing well in the deanery to share resources and ideas with each other.
- Opportunities to share Safeguarding training in person across parishes.
- Form an Eco-church group with guest speakers; attract younger members and teenagers through green/eco churches
- More community work and churches together activities

We also had updates on:

- **Foodbanks:** <https://www.redhillfoodbank.org.uk/>
- **Reigate Archdeaconry Social Justice Focus** <https://reigatedeanery.org.uk/rasjf>
- **Welcare:** <https://welcare.org/>
- **The Duggie Dug event** in November (funding for this event was sponsored by the deanery).

**February 2024** (This was a short meeting held on ZOOM).

- Renewed hope Trust update (Ann Coe)
- Breakout rooms gathered ideas for future meetings
- Members encouraged to attend the Lay Conference at St. Bede's School in March.
- Nominations for the AMPC (Archdeacon Mission and Pastoral Committee)

The Ven. Moira Astin (Archdeacon), Fr. Martin (Area Dean) and Leslie Jackson (Lay Chair) will be carrying out the 'Articles of Inquiry' Inspections during April and May.

Notes of the Diocesan Synods can be found in The Bridge Publication, available in church or on-line: <https://southwark.anglican.org/news-events/news/the-bridge-newspaper/>

### **Leslie Jackson | Lay Chair Reigate Deanery**

#### **PARTNERSHIP WITH MERSTHAM AND GATTON TEAM MINISTRY**

As was mentioned earlier in these reports it has been really wonderful to see all that has been achieved in over the last 8 months since Nigel and Gen Griffiths and the team from St Mary's joined them in Merstham.

We give thanks and pray for:

- A really successful Alpha and Youth Alpha courses, across All Saints and St Katharine's, with several people giving their lives to Jesus with subsequent baptisms and confirmations. Please pray for increased depth and commitment and for the calling and growing of new leaders, as we also form new life groups.
- Continued numerical growth Sunday by Sunday at All Saints and how we cater for all the children and young people as we fit them in.
- The building of a great new staff team: welcoming our new Admin and Operations Manager; our new Pioneer Curate (who will focus on connecting with the housing estate); for Rob Kenyon taking on much of the leadership of services at St Katharine's. We will be interviewing for a Youth and Families Minister.
- The conversion of the All Saints' vestry into a new office space for the growing team,

With so much going on with so many things for Nigel to balance, please pray for:

- prioritisation of the important as well as simply what is urgent
- wisdom, grace, energy, and rest in the right measure.

Please pray for Nigel and 'Holy Spokes': a bunch of similarly athletic young men from All Saints raising money for church fabric by doing the London-Brighton bike ride on June 16th.

## **Building and Fabric Committee Report**

The Committee continues to look after all the church buildings for the PCC, working through a planned maintenance programme for the church, The Heath Church and Church Centre as well as the four clergy and ministry team houses. Catherine Farrow and the church office team play a huge role in managing and administrating a multitude of tasks and projects with Graeme Golightly's (Caretaker) practical assistance. Thank you so much for all you do.

We all express enormous gratitude to Roy Mundy who has led the Building and Fabric Committee for many years. This has seen too many projects to mention, but includes pivotal roles in the Community Building Project, and virtually rebuilding The Heath Church bit by bit! He hands on the role in robust condition to Tim Hyde who took on leadership of the committee in October.

**Nick Rayner / Tim Hyde**