

# **St Andrew & St Mark Surbiton**

**2016**

**P.C.C. Annual Report**

**Churchwardens' Fabric Report**

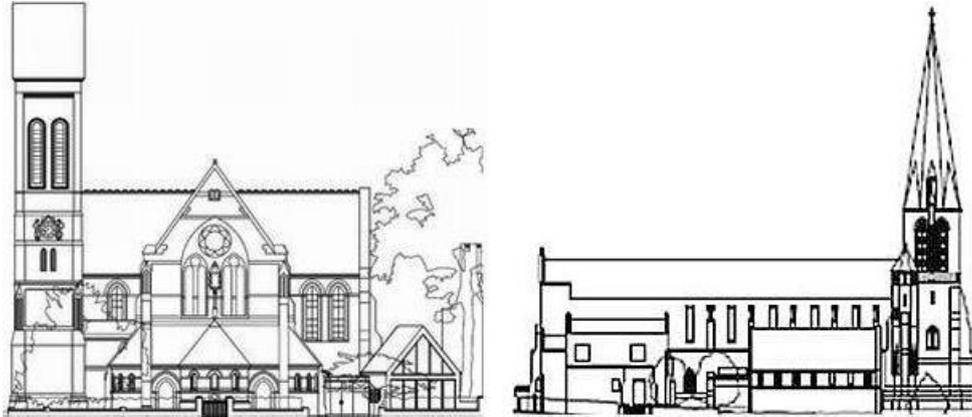
**Financial Statements**

21 April 2017

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## PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF SURBITON, SAINT ANDREW & SAINT MARK REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2016



### Objectives and Activities

The sole charitable object of the PCC is the promotion of the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to the doctrines and practices of the Church of England. In furtherance of this object the PCC has a statutory responsibility to co-operate with the minister in promoting in the parish the whole mission of the church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical.

The PCC is also firmly committed to our Vision Project, in which we seek to renew the strength of our Christian community and to use that strength to serve God by serving the people of Surbiton.

The PCC has sought to achieve its primary object by:--

- maintaining the whole mission of the church, and supporting the ministry team in so doing;
- continuing with the Vision process, and in particular:--
  - Managing our churches and the rooms associated with them, both at St. Mark's and at St. Andrew's, so that they can be used in a variety of ways both liturgical and secular.
  - Considering how to consolidate and develop the Vision Project now that refurbishment work on the buildings is complete.
  - Considering how to manage and deal with maintenance issues in both churches, including those arising out of the quinquennial inspections.

The first objective involves both the regular provision of opportunities for divine worship; and the promotion of the Gospel, and of Christian fellowship, by other means.

### Day-to-day Management

The PCC has delegated some of its powers and duties (but not its trustee responsibilities) to a number of groups and people. These have been concerned in particular with lettings and Child Protection. A Property Management Group assists the churchwardens with routine maintenance activities and has a delegated budget in support of this. In addition, a number of individuals, including the sacristans and the director of music, fill specific roles in the running of the parish and are authorised to incur expenditure on behalf of the PCC within prescribed limits.

## Annual Report

### Vicar's Review of 2016

#### Summary

St Andrew and St Mark continues to live out its vision of being the church at the heart of the community. 14,000 people came through our church buildings last year, 5,000 of whom came for a service, be it a wedding, a carol service or a Sunday morning Eucharist.

Of other events, the excellent Thames Concerts series is perhaps the most high profile, but there have been a wide range of activities: neighbourhood watch meetings, coordination groups for toddlers, community singing with Vocality, Regency dancing, wind group playing, Zumba moving, adults yoga-ing - the list goes on. This is fantastic, as people in the community find the spaces are just what they require in all aspects of life.

Our communication has improved, with a revamped website and more banners: this could still be improved, of course, especially in signage.

Two particularly important developments have been:

- The growth of our offer of social love to the community, in the volunteering at the Joel Community Project and the establishment of St Mark's as part of the winter nightshelter
- The inception of a children's choir, after a long time when children have done no formal singing: this is not just important musically; it is an offer to children of a slightly older age than typically are attracted to the 9.15am service and a really important development.



*Photo: Sunday Club, St Andrew's church*

## Hello and Goodbye

Our curate, the Reverend Laura Selman, was priested in the summer, before taking maternity leave from September 4<sup>th</sup>. We anticipate her return in summer 2017.

Anne Knowles replaced Sue Sabourin as churchwarden of St Andrew's in May and has taken over responsibility for overseeing the various external events, specifically concerts, which contribute so much to parish life. Thank you to Sue for all her hard work over many years.

Simon Harvey moved from being Acting Director of Music to taking up the post on a permanent basis in September 2016; he will seek an assistant in due course.



Many new people have come to church and others have left, usually (but not always) because they have moved away from the area. The ongoing phenomenon of people liking Surbiton but not being able to afford a house here persists. We have particularly missed the Gidley family, who moved to the Isle of Wight in the summer. Mike stepped down as treasurer at that time and we are particularly glad for his service, both in that role and in wider parish life.

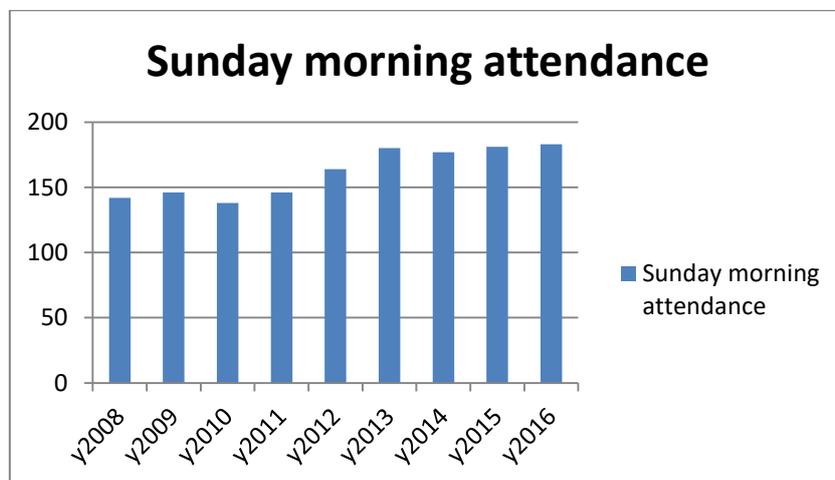
Among long-standing regular members of the congregation, Beryl Legan died in the spring, Morwenna Gough, a reader for many years, died just before Christmas, as did Jean Wrench.

*Photo: Laura Selman's ordination as priest, All Saints, Kingston*

## Morning Worship

The average number of people (adults and children) worshipping at St Andrew and St Mark shows a slight increase from 180 in 2015 to 183 in 2016.

*Chart one: Sunday morning attendance*



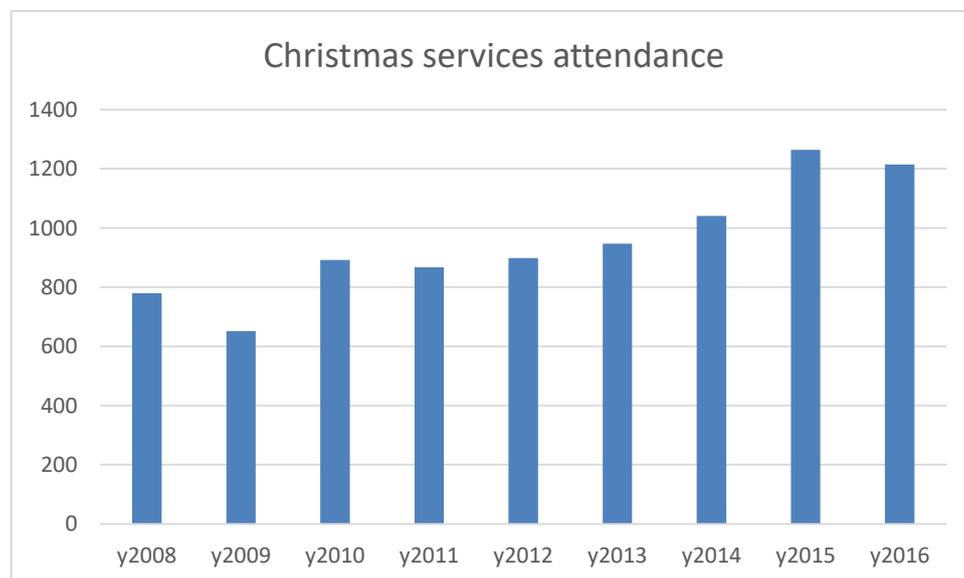
*Source: Service registers, St Andrew and St Mark*

The chart on the previous page shows that average Sunday morning attendance has grown in five of the last six years: the figures come from our service registers and include attendance at the 8am, the 9.15am or the 11am service. One can say that the average number of Sunday worshippers in 2016 is higher than at any other time this century.



**Photo: People gather for the Churches Together service at the Surbiton lawn tennis club, June 2016**

Between 2014 and 2015, Christmas attendance (often of more infrequent worshippers) grew spectacularly. We did not grow in 2016 but nevertheless remained high and above the 2014 level.



Source: Church service register: combined attendance at Carol service, Christingle service, Midnight Mass and Christmas morning Eucharist.

### Evening worship

We continued to offer worship of various kinds every Sunday at 6pm. Richard Weir has stepped back from leading Taize style services, but while he was doing so, led them beautifully. The biggest evening services are for All Souls, and then the Advent and Christmas Carol services, where the choir plays a big part.

Nearly thirty people came to hear Marc Crank talk about living with neurofibromatosis, which led into a short service of Evening Prayer. The success of this may lead to further services of this type in the future.

## Marriages and Baptisms

2016 saw a growth in the number of weddings taking place at St Andrew and St Mark: it is as high as it has been at least in the last ten years. Particular thanks to Anne Barker and Jackie Page for all their work with flowers and more.



**Photo: Mark and Amanda after their wedding at St Mark's church**

Our one day Marriage Preparation Course, which is compulsory for all who get married with us, continues to be very popular with couples. Olga Wickenden and Clare Chesterman have both assisted here at different times.

Couples are asked to talk to their partners about their relationship, offered solutions as to how to resolve possible conflicts and we also look ahead to the service itself.

Paul, who was married to Sandrine in 2016, remarked afterwards:

*We thought there was no point in this. We had been together for five years, we had two children: what would there be to talk about? In fact, there was loads.*



**Photo: Marriage Preparation Course, St Mark's hall**

The number of baptisms also increased: there were 38 as well as two children who had the service of 'thanksgiving for the birth of a child'. This is the second highest figure in the last ten years.

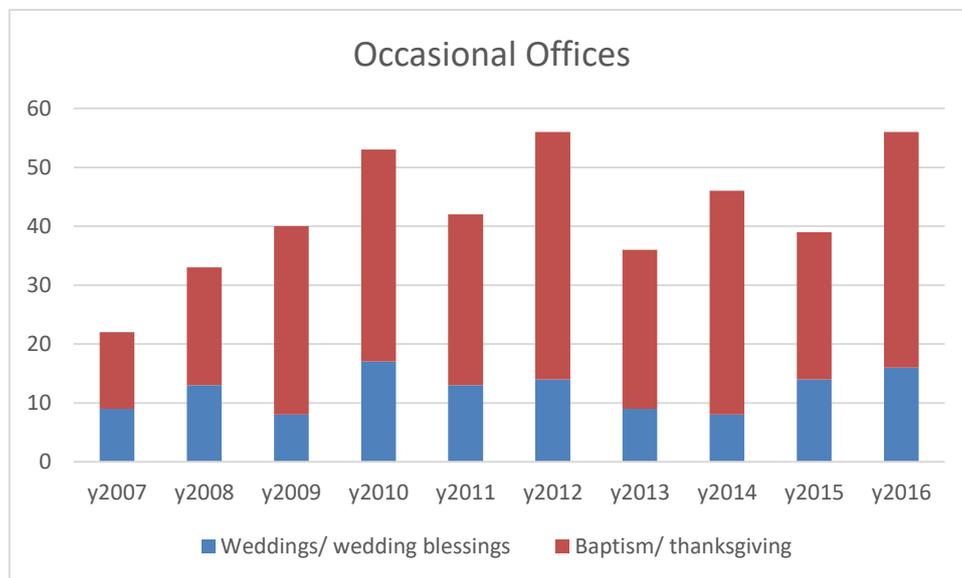


Figures for occasional offices will always have their ups and downs because they are exceptional events but they are definitely at the core of what we do.

At a reasonable estimate, in 2016, 3000 people who do not normally come to church were brought into church for a service because of these 'occasional offices' as they are known.

**Photo: Baptism, St Mark's church**

**Chart: weddings and baptisms**



### Junior Age Children (and Music)

When the Mission Action Plan identified 'junior' i.e. 7-11 year old children as something we need to focus on, it was not obvious how to grow what we offer in this area. After some consideration, we decided to create a singing group for this age, and the desire to do this is part of what led the appointment of Simon Harvey as musical director. The first ever rehearsal took place at St Mark's in



**Photo: Children's Choir rehearsal, September 2016**

September and the Children's Choir sang for the first time at the Sunday Eucharist at St Mark's in November. This premiere encouraged new members to join so that by the time of the next performance, during the Christingle service at St

Andrew's, there were nearly 20 children in the group. The Children's Choir is covered further in the Music section of this report.

This is an exciting development for the parish and so far has succeeded beyond expectations, not just in the number of children attending, but in the quality of singing and the potential for friendship and fun that exists. There is a natural 'slot' in terms of the 9.15am all age Eucharist at St Mark's and we will monitor this development closely. Simon Harvey has done a brilliant job nurturing the singers on their journey so far.

Sunday Club has continued to be excellently led by Celia O'Neill and a committed core of leaders. Encouraging transference from the 9.15 family worship up to the 11am service when children are older remains an issue: the fact that they are in different churches probably does not help, though this has advantages in other ways.

### Wider Church Matters

The parish is engaged in wider church matters and Ian Wilson's report on the Kingston Deanery Synod is at Appendix 2.

### Christian Study

Study of the Christian faith and its application to contemporary life and culture is central to the life of the parish. This is expressed in a variety of ways where people are invited to think about and apply their faith.

### Classes and Courses

For the second time, the vicar brought a group of confirmands through Surbiton High School with a series of ten confirmation classes during lunchtimes at the school; this time, the group comprised ten, of whom eight decided to get confirmed: this took place at Southwark Cathedral in May.

We participated in the Churches Together in Surbiton Lent Course, *Gift in the Spirit*, rooted in the Roman Catholic Church. During this, three members of the congregation spoke about their faith journey and how they understand faith in their daily lives.

In the autumn, we offered a faith introduction course, led and written by the vicar, *The Rough Guide to Christianity*, an eight week introduction to the Christian faith, over juice or wine and nibbles. This was an exploration of the basic beliefs of the Christian faith for people who wanted to understand more or refresh their understanding. Between ten and fifteen people attended each session, of whom two thirds were believers wanting to find out more about their faith, and a third were enquirers, on the edge of faith or outside it, seeking to find more. It was well received, but can be improved in the future. One can underestimate the step-change needed to move from a life of doubt chequered by faith, to one of faith chequered by doubt.

While part of the hope was that people new to faith would consider coming to church because of it, it is worth noting that – if that is the aim – community events such as being open during the Surbiton Festival, or the Christmas Fair, had more effect in terms of people attending church the next day!

Janice Price led a three evening course entitled *Oh, no, not St Paul again!* in November, for those often frustrated by him (or just confused). The aim of this course was to reconsider St Paul in the light of his negative reputation on women and homosexuality. Many found that he has much to teach the church today. This was attended by up to twenty people and was popular.

After many years, Tim Lavis and Celia O'Neill decided to step down from leading the Emmaus course, which has been a brilliant part of parish life. We are grateful to them for their commitment, wisdom and kindness in leading this group.

On two occasions, members of the laity preached at the main Sunday Eucharist on why they are a Christian, Lara McDonnell and Del Gadd. This initiative followed a pattern set by St Matthew's church and we will repeat this in 2017, if possible.

## Pilgrimage to St Albans



After 2015's spectacular visit to the Holy Land, we set our sights to a more local pilgrimage spot, this year. On 21 May an all-age group of 45 from the parish made a pilgrimage to St. Albans Abbey. Separate adult and children's groups enjoyed guided tours around the Abbey followed by the Eucharist and time to explore. We discovered the life of England's first martyr which was an inspiration to our own faith.

***Photos above and below: St Alban's Pilgrimage - Adult and children's groups listen intently to their guides***

We plan for a group to go to Iona in 2017 and also to the Northern saints in 2018.

If you are interested in possible pilgrimages, ask Janice Price for more details. Pilgrimages are a great way to deepen your faith, and get you to places you wouldn't otherwise know about.



## Music

It has been another busy but ultimately very successful year of music at St Andrew's and St Mark's.

In September 2016, Simon Harvey was appointed Director of Music on a permanent basis having temporarily held the post since October 2014.

Thanks must go to Derek Barford, Tim Lavis, Reuben Rhuphus, Edward Miller and Felix Elliott who have assisted with the organ playing during the course of the year. As ever, a particular mention must be made of Adrian Munt, our tireless choir librarian, who oversees our extensive choral library

and spends many hours ensuring that members of the choir are in possession of the correct music from week to week!

It must be recognised that there are numerous other musicians who lead certain services (eg Compline) and particular mention should be made of the regular team of pianists who provide musical accompaniment at the non-choral/non-Eucharistic Sunday services namely, Mavis Innes, Glynis Kortright, Adrian Evans, Tim Lavis and Anna Misikin.

## The Choir

Our choir has continued to show a huge commitment to continuing the high standard of choral music we are used to in both of our churches week in week out. The standard of singing at both Easter and Christmas was extremely high given the huge amount of music which is required at these respective festivals.

Alongside with the more established repertoire it has been very satisfying to include new music throughout the year written by various singers in our choir which have included carols, motets, psalm chants and hymn tunes. They are certainly a creative bunch!

The number of singers in the choir has remained healthy in 2016. We have lost one regular singer (bass) who moved abroad for work but gained two new members (soprano and bass respectively) so we have had a regular core of 19 voices supplemented by several singers who come and join us on a more occasional basis. New members are always encouraged and welcomed, however, and anyone interested can contact Simon Harvey at any time for further information.

Once again some of our singers were invited to sing carols at the switching on of the Christmas lights outside Surbiton Station towards the end of November (again, in collaboration with St Matthew's) as well as at the Christmas Day party at the YMCA.

## Evensong at Guildford Cathedral

After our adult choir's successful trip to sing Choral Evensong at Portsmouth Cathedral in 2015, it was great to join forces with St Matthew's choir once again in 2016 to sing Evensong this time at Guildford Cathedral on Saturday 1st October. This was preceded by a "dry run" at St Matthews on



25th September. The Guildford evensong was of a high standard and featured the Hugh Blair Canticles in B minor, Charles Wood's anthem "Summer ended, harvest o'er" and the Ayleward responses. Simon Hancock (Director of Music at St Matthew's) conducted the choir, Simon Harvey played the organ for the service and our two talented teenage organists, Edward and Felix, acquitted themselves very professionally playing a

**Photo: The combined choirs of St Andrew's and St Mark's and St Matthew's gather to sing Choral Evensong, Guildford Cathedral, October 2016**

variety of reflective organ music prior to the service. Guildford Cathedral was very much a building site during our visit as it was undergoing major refurbishment but despite the challenges this presented, including a temporary digital organ, the singing was excellent and enjoyed by all.

The joint choirs will sing at Southwark Cathedral in July 2017 and evensongs at Chichester and Winchester Cathedrals are planned in subsequent years.

### Children's Choir

A major new musical initiative was unveiled in the Autumn, namely our brand new Children's Choir which kicked off rehearsals at the end of September on Fridays 4.30pm at St Mark's. They had a very encouraging debut with more than a dozen children singing alongside the adult choir at the 9.15am All Age Worship service at St Mark's on 6th November. The numbers swelled to 19 in total for the



Christingle service on Christmas Eve. The children led the congregational carols on their own for that service and gave a very creditable rendition of the Calypso Carol. It is hoped that the children's choir will continue to grow and develop in 2017 and a nucleus of regular singers has already established itself.

*Photo: The Children's Choir, Christingle service, St Andrew's church*

### St Andrew's and St Mark's Junior School

This has been an excellent year at St Andrew and St Mark Junior School. The school was adjudged 'Outstanding' by Ofsted in 2007 and, since then, has continued to be outstanding, under the leadership of Alison Vigurs as headteacher.

Glynis Kortright, the most recent chair of governors, was awarded an MBE in the New Year's Honours list for services to school governors.

One of the key contributions the church makes to the local communities is when people offer themselves as governors.

During 2016 "Foundation" governors are: Kathleen Dempster, Edward Davey, Ruth Gilmore, Joan Young and the vicar. Marc Crank served for 15 months before leaving when he moved to Staffordshire. Diocesan" governors are: Anne Barker and Cecile Stearn. Between them, foundation and diocesan governors are a majority on the governing body of the school. The Vicar, who is now chair of governors, is grateful to all of them for their diligence and wisdom.



Each Sunday in Advent and on The feast of the Epiphany the children were introduced to a different book re-telling the story of Christmas and Epiphany. Illustrations and themes from these led to lots of artwork and four beautiful panels were produced on the themes of stars, angels, sheep and Bethlehem. Many thanks are due to Diana for spearheading this project and preparing all the art work each week. The panels were displayed in the Baptistry at St. Andrew's as a backdrop to the crib throughout the Christmas season.



***Photo: The Sunday Club Christmas panels on display in St Andrew's church***

Thank you to the Ministry Team who support and encourage all our work with the children. Robert and Janice have willingly led Sunday Club sessions during the year.

Thank you to the excellent Sunday Club team for their commitment, ideas and willingness to work with the children sharing God's Word and his love. Sometimes it is a challenge – often it is a privilege.

### **Other events**

The Good Friday family worship at St. Mark's presented scenes from the Easter story with song, prayer and activities in different parts of the church. About 14 families attended. The worship finished with everyone following the body of Jesus up to the gallery of St. Mark's and gathering at the empty tomb to sing and to pray. A wonderful variety of cockerels, crowns, eggs, flowers and crosses were decorated to hang on the Easter Tree. This was later moved to St. Andrew's as part of the Easter garden. Thank you to all the helpers, especially to Jackie Page and her team who were on hand to refresh all at the end with drinks and hot cross buns, to Irene Belcher for her ideas and preparation of the artwork and to Glynis Kortright who played the piano to accompany the songs and to link the scenes as everyone moved around the church.



***Photo: The Easter Tree, made by children after the Good Friday family worship and on display in St Andrew's church***

Sunday Club ran the sweet tombola and lucky dip again at the Parish Christmas Fair, held this year at St. Andrew's. Lots of children with their parents helped prepare the sweet bags beforehand.

Further Christmas preparations involved more children and their parents who spent an afternoon in the Glass Room at St. Andrew's helping to make 300 Christingle oranges ready for two packed Christingle services on Christmas Eve.

### **Sunbeams**

Sunbeams has remained a successful and happy group throughout 2016. It has continued to welcome children between 0- 4years' of age with their parents or carers, meeting in St Mark's hall on Wednesday mornings in term time. A taster session has been offered to all new comers, but due to being oversubscribed again this year it has been necessary to continue to keep a waiting list. This has been closely monitored by Clare Chesterman, the parish administrator, enabling new families to join us when others leave.

Sunbeams is open to all local families, and has continued to work as an outreach into our community. The church volunteers who organise the group have worked hard again this year to

support and meet the needs of the families. If this has meant cuddling one or two of our baby members then of course this has been a bonus!

### Uniformed Organisations and Schools

The Parish values its links with local schools and Scout Group (1<sup>st</sup> Surbiton). There were two parade services: at St Andrew's on Mothering Sunday and Harvest at St Mark's. In addition, both churches have hosted a number of school services, specifically leavers' services, harvest festivals and Carol services which between them have seen around 2,000 children attend one of the churches over the course of the year.

## Pastoral Care, Outreach and Service to the Community

### Pastoral Care

Pastoral care for one another and our wider community has continued to be at the heart of our parish life. The 'pastoral care door' has remained open to all in need throughout the year. One way in which this is demonstrated is by the message on the parish office answering machine which gives the contact number for the Vicar for anyone with pastoral concerns. Our social and outreach groups are also open to all in the community, which has on occasion allowed for help to be given to those in need outside the formal structures of the church.

The ministry team has continued to take the lead in pastoral care. When the needs of individual parishioners have been identified by the ministry team or members of the congregation this has been followed up at ministry meetings or on an ad hoc basis. Many parishioners have been involved in providing emotional and practical help to others, and those that are involved with regular visiting have Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) clearance. Examples of the care given include visiting, providing transport, shopping, outings for lonely parishioners, and home communion for individuals and for the residents of two nursing homes in the parish. This year three long-standing members of our congregation have had to move into local nursing homes. The need for extra support for them at this stressful time was identified and followed through with regular contact by visiting and telephoning them to ensure they were settling into their new environment.

Sometimes the care that we provide has been witnessed by others, but acts of Christian kindness have also gone unnoticed and unsung. The strong emphasis on pastoral care within our parish has helped us to welcome and support new members of our growing congregation.

### Charitable Giving

At the December 2015 meeting of the PCC, it was agreed that the following charities should be supported during 2016.

Month	Charity	Event	Mentor (s)	Amount Raised
January	Shepherds Hospice	'Sing along' Wizard of Oz	Peter Stokes Sarah Stokes	£505.10
February	Oxygen	Quiz Night	Tim Lavis	£679.44
March	Bishop's Lent Appeal	Lent Lunches		£809.24
April	Fiddlers Green		Tim Lavis	£139.25

Month	Charity	Event	Mentor (s)	Amount Raised
May	Christian Aid	House to House collections	Tim Lavis John Perry	£3,212.73 [Not included in parish accounts]
June	Leprosy Mission		Valerie Baxter	£200.00
July	Matabeleland Link Diocese	Summer Lunch	Anne Barker	£780.04
August	KCAH JOEL			£57.15 £57.15
September	ABCD	Evening of Entertainment	Valerie Baxter	£638.90
October	United Society USPG	Surbiton Bake-off	Janice Price	£601.36
November	Fircroft Trust	St Andrew's Night Supper	Richard Weir Jackie Page	£617.00
December	The Children's Society	Christingle		£1049.89
	Welcare	Christmas services		£553.80

It should be noted that in February there was an overlap with the Bishop's Lent Appeal which was supported for the whole of Lent and not just March as shown above.

As can be seen, fundraising has been achieved in a variety of ways, mostly by providing entertainment or some form of social event. The events have not only proved popular and successful in raising funds but have made a significant contribution to the social life of the parish, bringing all ages together.

**Photo: The winning entry in the junior section of the Surbiton Bake-off in aid of USPG, October 2016**



## **Christmas Day Lunch at the YMCA**

The Christmas Day lunch was well attended again in 2016. Thanks are due to many people for their hard work and generous contributions. Clare Chesterman handled invitations and administration from the parish office and Nigel Knowles organised lifts for those who needed them, while Moira Greenfield hosted the day itself. Sixty three people replied that they wanted to come this year. There were two cancellations in the week running up to Christmas and two other people were also unable to attend on the day.

Forty three guests needed lifts and were given lifts in private cars. One or two of our drivers were not able to do the return trip, but we covered this by hiring three taxis. This worked very well, since none of the guests this year, had severe mobility difficulties.

There were about thirty volunteers, including some from other local churches, on the day itself. Some of these are now old hands and did a very efficient job. Ensuring that all volunteers were given a definite job to do made things more straightforward this year. Included in these jobs was the role of 'table host:' sitting and talking to guests at the tables, which is sometimes the very job that doesn't get done! The Vicar, the mayor and his wife, accompanied by Rabbi Danny Rich and Jacky Bone, the YMCA Chaplain all did a very good job of circulating and talking to people on the day.

Donations were received from Waitrose, who made the lunch their charity for two months in the autumn, Bill's, who provided most of the food, Sainsbury's, the Farmers' Market, and Surbiton Rotary Club. Thanks to the generosity of these organisations, and some individual contributions, the costs were covered. Another volunteer, Jo Cooke, organized a collection at work which raised some £300 to buy gifts. She wrapped, labelled and delivered these the week before Christmas. While this was wonderful, we are always grateful for all contributions from members of our congregations.

The day itself went well, with Moira introducing the different activities, Derek Barford leading carols and, as mentioned above, the regular visit from the Mayor, accompanied by Rabbi Danny Rich. All the guests went home with a Christmas gift from the Farmers' Market in addition to those provided by ourselves and Jo Cooke.

Once again, we are grateful to all who helped, before the day, making the cake, providing and wrapping presents, driving and being there on there on Christmas Day itself, particularly, those who stayed at the end of the day to ensure things were tidied up and all guests got home safely.

## **Looking Ahead**

For 2017 we are looking for someone to take on the role of organising the transport. In addition, for 2018, Rev'd Carole Bourne is looking to handover the role of co-ordinator and receiver of telephone calls and it would make sense for anyone interested in this to work alongside Carole this year. Please let the Vicar know if you are interested in either of these roles.

## **Joel Community Trust**

A small team of volunteers now regularly cooks a meal and volunteers as befrienders at the Joel Community Trust in St Peter's Norbiton, each month. This is a significant, regular commitment, coordinated by the Reverend Carole Bourne.

### Nightshelter Project

In 2016, we for the first time (at least in a while) offered our church to be part of the roving nightshelter project. This will take place at St Mark's in February and March 2017. The commitment of volunteers to this has been fantastic.

### Street Pastors

Four members of the church are now Street Pastors and join around sixty volunteers from churches around Kingston-upon-Thames on bringing hope, help and flip flops to the streets of Kingston on Friday and Saturday nights from 10pm-4am. Charles Bamford, the co-ordinator, is a regular member of the congregation and can always be approached for the latest news.

### Food Bank

At the back of both churches, there are boxes for donations to the local Food Bank. Occasionally, we receive a steer from the Food Bank about what is required (e.g. instant coffee, dried noodles) and people are given notice in the pew-sheet and donations duly adjusted. Donations are taken to the Food Bank by a team of volunteers several times each month.

## Fellowship in Faith

### Mothers' Union

Under the leadership of Audrey Eldridge, the parish branch of the Mothers' Union has had another successful year. Audrey is very grateful for all the wonderful help she has received over the past year, particularly from Christine Waller as secretary and Margaret Palmer, a former leader of the branch. The committee as a whole is also grateful for the support and help which the Vicar has given to them over the year.

The programme for the monthly meetings over the year has been varied and enjoyable.

The branch has gained two new members. Sadly, one of our much loved and longstanding members, Jean Wrench, passed away just before Christmas.

### Faith and Fun

Faith and Fun is a fellowship group for adults around 20-40 with three aims: social, getting to know people in a relaxed environment; seek, exploring faith; and, support, building networks within and outside the congregation.

2016 has been a transitioning year for Faith and Fun. We started the year off with a very successful Lent Course – Living in the Spirit. This was facilitated by Laura Selman, but within the group, a number of different people took on leadership roles, of running a session, and others took on the role of preparing a meal for the group. As the year has gone on, Eleanor O'Neill and Naomi Bamford-Hurrell, have taken on responsibility of running the group, while Laura is away on maternity leave.

Group members stated that they would welcome more *faith and reflection* sessions. In light of this, the group studied the book of James. These sessions were successful, with the study generating lots of themes for discussion. In addition, reflection sessions, run by different group members, have been run. Themes have included: gratitude, the Messianic prophecies, and mission, as well as contributing Christmas gifts to the Rotary club.

Richard Adams has taken on the role of organising socials in the group and social events included pub visits and a barbecue.

### **Flying Circus**

Flying Circus is a social group, catering mainly for more mature members of the congregation, which meets about once a month to visit places of interest. Over the past year the Flying Circus group has continued to enjoy (mostly) free entry visits to museums, picture galleries and stately houses. In the warmer months we have gone outdoors and visited gardens and horticultural nurseries. We have eaten celebratory lunches at Christmas and at midsummer.

We are always pleased to see new faces.

## **Finance**

### **Parish Accounts**

2016 income was some £36,000 over budget albeit down £35,000 from 2015. The main difference was accounted for by a change in voluntary income almost all associated with legacies which by nature are unpredictable. Planned stewardship giving was down marginally in the year after previous steady rises with a small reduction in the overall number of givers.

Income from lettings continued to rise in 2016 by nearly 10% having also risen by 25% in 2015. Sadly, the pinch seemed to be felt in people's pockets as events raising funds for other charities and the Christmas Fair were down considerably on 2015. Investment income also fell with declining interest rates.

Total expenditure was just over £200k (£201.3) down almost exactly £50,000 from 2015. The largest costs remain the diocesan quota (up 3%), which goes towards the ministry costs of the diocese (and pays for the salaried ministry of our clergy) at £99,000. The clergy housing costs were up with a full year of the curate's house at 1, The Mall and Church music costs increased as a result of a planned expansion of our musical activities, including the children's choir. Overall these increases were offset by a large reduction in church maintenance costs.

The overall Statement of Financial Activities shows that our income exceeded our expenditure by about £91,000. This is healthy although, without legacies in the year of £49,000 this would only be £42,000. Although we had a relatively benign quinquennial inspection of St Andrew's (meaning our immediate forecast maintenance is not abnormal), we still have the need to replace the roof 'hanging over us' and replenishing our reserves may help us with this.

Summarising 2017, the outlook seems stable when compared with 2016. There is little reason to forecast much change although costs continue to rise and income looks flat. Overall, this leads us to expect around £35,000 excess of income over expenditure for the current year.

### **Parish Support Fund**

In 2016 Southwark Diocese implemented a new way of funding the collective work of the parishes, one based on giving rather than requesting. Therefore, from January 2016 parishes were invited to support the shared responsibilities of the Diocese by making a pledge to the Parish Support Fund. The expectation is that parishes will make a pledge to pay a certain amount for the year which is realistic, challenging and generous.

After due discussion at the PCC, the parish increased its support to Southwark diocese to just over £100,000 for this year. The increase is measured from the amount given under the previous funding arrangement. In its thinking, the PCC noted that the diocesan figures reckoned that it cost over £60,000 to 'run' a vicar: while the stipend is only around £25,000, there are housing, pension and training costs beyond this. Moreover, in terms of what we could now afford, we noted that as well as congregational giving, we now have a steady income from rentals of church spaces, some of which we could afford to share with other parishes. We also, however, noted that we were likely to face a number of significant costs in the future, in particular with regard to St Andrew's church roof, and so we would need to moderate giving to ensure consistency with other commitments year on year.

### **Fundraising – The Christmas Fair**

The Christmas Fair took place on the third Saturday in November, at St Andrew's church. The publicity included a beautiful poster designed by Kate Manz. New stalls included former vicar David Gerrard's bread stall, while the hog roast attracted a number of passers-by. Irene Belcher once again took the lead role in organising the event, which had a great spirit and was a wonderful social event as well as raising around £5,000 for the parish. There was a huge throughput of people, some of whom had never been inside the church before: one couple actually came to the Sunday morning Eucharist the next day.



*Photo: The Christmas Fair, St Andrew's church, November 2016*

## Management and Administration

### Communication and Publicity

In the summer and autumn, we had a major overhaul of the website. This has improved functionality but also much better photographs, thanks to a dedicated morning of a professional's time. It still needs improving (and – bizarrely - was hacked by the Peshmerga in early 2017!), but, even so, many have commented that the website is a significant improvement. We paid an independent agency to take this project on, but this was managed by Laura until the time of her maternity leave. The two main priorities going forward are:

- to improve the ability of people to make cash gifts to the church through the website;
- to improve email lists and emailing contacts through the website, which should be possible but is not at the moment.

We have also created various banners, with flexible wording so that they can be used on more than one occasion. We will use these more, and they will continue to make a difference to our local profile. We have also created some picture collages, which are framed and are used internally to publicise different parts of parish life.

Finally, those with design talents offered them in smaller ways: the Christmas publicity was excellent: Wendy Dobing was happy to stay on to produce our Christmas publicity card, which was a great design; Kate Manz once again designed a gorgeous poster for the Christmas Fair.

The magazine, *Spire and Tower*, has grown and is arguably better than ever. Mike Smith has been dedicated in gathering new writers and types of article and Katie Jones has taken over laying out the magazine so that we have a very professional look. It is a real achievement, and Laura's absence from editing has been coped with admirably.

### Lettings

It has been a busy year for hall and room lettings at St Andrew and St Mark. There are now 25 regular hirers ranging from children's activities such as drama and music, and for adults, art and singing classes, dance and yoga classes. During term time we continue to welcome Dicky Birds breakfast and afterschool club at St Andrew's.

The hall is also used for charity fundraiser events such as quiz nights; the hall has a charity rate for these events for which the organisers are very appreciative. The church has given £865 via this charity rate discount.

St Andrew's is used as a regular concert venue by local choirs and orchestras. For the fourth year, St Andrew's continues to be the venue for the Thames Concerts series. Thank you to all those involved as concert hosts for these events.



**Photo: Regency tea dance in St Mark's hall**



**Photo: Catch-a Balls children's group – a regular hire in St Mark's hall**

A review of premises cleaning and maintenance is being undertaken to ensure that the church spaces are maintained to a high standard for both church and public use. The regular hires contribute a good income to the parish so, by providing a clean and bright space, we hope to retain them.

The hall and rooms at St Andrew and St Mark are a local asset and their use are enjoyed by many people. We welcomed an estimated 900 people to the church venues during 2016. (These figures are estimates of individual visits to the church buildings for hire events.) That is nearly a fifth of

the population of Surbiton: the church buildings are at the 'heart of the Surbiton community' and it is good to see the parish Vision realised in this way.

### Parish Safeguarding

Diana Lewis has continued to act as Parish Safeguarding Officer; Paul Cooney resigned during the year, and Charlie Bamford has been appointed at the start of 2017 to join Diana in the safeguarding officer role.

Online DBS checks continue to be carried out as required, and the administration and maintenance of records is undertaken by Clare Chesterman in the parish office. The list of those requiring DBS checks has been reviewed by the Safeguarding Officers.

Various administrative issues have been considered during the year including use of photographs of children and young people in paper and online publicity materials, and arrangements for the new children's choir. Diocesan policy has been referred to and followed, and helpful links have been made with staff in the Diocesan Safeguarding Team.

The parish Safeguarding Policy is available for inspection in the parish office and copies of "A Safe Church" (the safeguarding manual for parishes in the Diocese of Southwark) are available in both churches. A photograph of Diana has been on display in both churches; Charlie will be added in early 2017 and both will be identified as Safeguarding Officers. Anyone with concerns in the area of safeguarding children and vulnerable adults should talk to Diana, Charlie or the vicar.

### Membership

Members of the PCC hold office in accordance with the Church Representation Rules – either ex-officio; or by election or appointment at the Annual Parochial Church Meeting; or by co-option.

The following served as members of the P.C.C. for all or part of the period from 1 January 2016 until approval of the financial statements on XX April 2017.

Mrs Naomi Bamford-Hurrell  
Miss Anne Barker  
Miss Valerie Baxter  
Mrs Irene Belcher  
The Rev'd Carole Bourne  
Ms Joanna Buddle

Mr Andrew Miskin – Treasurer from July 2016  
Ms Victoria Muskett  
Mrs Celia O'Neill  
Mrs Rosie Nel  
Ms Janice Price  
Mr Peter Pritchard

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Mrs Jenny Edenborough  
Mr Michael Gidley – Treasurer until July 2016  
Dr Helen Goepel  
Mr Roger Jones  
Mrs Anne Knowles  
Miss Lara McDonnell  
Miss Clare Mannall  
Mrs Anne Miller

Mrs Sue Sabourin  
The Rev'd Laura Selman  
The Rev'd Robert Stanier - Chairman  
Mrs Sarah Stokes  
Mr Martin Taylor  
Mr Ian Wilson  
Mrs Leslene Woodward - Secretary  
Mrs Clare Chesterman - Minutes Secretary

### Professional Advisors

#### Bankers and fund managers

National Westminster Bank plc, 10 Victoria Road, Surbiton, Surrey, KT6 4JY  
CAF Bank Ltd, 25 Kings Hill Avenue, Kings Hill, West Malling, Kent, ME19 4JQ  
CCLA Investment Management Limited, 85 Queen Victoria Street, London, EC4V 4ET

#### Insurers

Ecclesiastical Insurance Group, Beaufort House, Brunswick Road, Gloucester, GL1 1JZ

#### Solicitors

Winckworth Sherwood, Solicitors, Minerva House, 5 Montague Close, London, SE1 9BB  
Palmers, Solicitors, 91 Clarence St, Kingston upon Thames, KT1 1QY

#### Architect

Sue Kent BSc Dipl.Arch RIBA, Inspecting Architect, Howard : Fairbairn : MHK, 439, London Road, Croydon, CR0 3PF

#### Organ Maintenance

B C Shepherd & Sons, Pipe Organ Builders, 1 Mill Ridge, Edgware, Middlesex, HA8 7PE

#### Independent Examiner

Timothy Brown, A.C.A., 50 The Ridings, Surbiton, Surrey, KT5 8HQ

## Churchwardens' Report on the Fabric, Goods and Ornaments of the Churches

This report was made to the parochial church council [PCC] under section 5 of the Care of Churches and Ecclesiastical Jurisdiction Measure 1991 by Roger Jones, Martin Taylor, Anne Miller and Anne Knowles as churchwardens in March 2017; and is also made by them to the annual parochial church meeting on behalf of the PCC.

### General

Following the refurbishment of both churches in recent years, the general state of the fabric is good and the churches are well maintained with an established pattern of routine maintenance and service checks. The buildings – in accordance with *The Vision* – are well-used. For this to be the case they must be safe, heated, lit, welcoming and hospitable and well-maintained – which they are.

The main focus of activity during the year has been maintenance: a significant proportion of this work has been undertaken by the churchwardens, supported by Mike Smith and the Property Management Group, with the latter making regular reports to the PCC. A report from the PMG and summary schedule of the tasks undertaken is at Appendix 3.

Thanks to Mike Smith and the team who have provided volunteer assistance with various tasks inside and outside both churches - we would not have such beautiful spaces without your efforts. Anyone who has skills (electricians, plumbers, decorators, gardeners, gutter cleaning, etc) then please feel free to join in, all help is gratefully received – speak to one of the churchwardens or Mike Smith if you are interested.

### St Mark's Church

This year has been a very simple one regarding the fabric of St Mark's church with nothing drastic to report except routine maintenance such as replacing light bulbs and emergency lighting units, the connection of some additional pipe work for the gutters, the redecoration of the hall and the eradication of damp in certain areas of the church followed by redecoration. Outside the grounds have been well tended by the gardening team.

There are a few outstanding issues that need to be addressed such as the repair and redecoration of the north aisle ceiling, persuading the outside lights to operate correctly (there are one or more faulty units out of ten, but they all have to be opened to determine which one is at fault: a job for the warmer weather). The electric doors into the church also need to be sorted. Later this year the church will undergo the Quinquennial inspection: hopefully, this will not throw up any new items.

### St Andrew's Church

The year at St Andrew's has been similar to that at St Mark's, a year of maintenance including repainting of the Blue Room and Glass Room over the summer and replacement of a broken window in the entrance. In addition, the church garden is well maintained and we are grateful to the volunteers who enable this, including those who take turns to cut the grass.

Professional work has been undertaken to address areas of damp: the brickwork around the tower has been re-pointed, replacing the cement-based mortar with breathable lime-based mortar. A further area at the front of the church will also be re-pointed in 2017 when the weather warms up.

The architect's quinquennial inspection of St Andrew's was carried out in November and we know that the report is likely to recommend the replacement of the roof, work on the downpipes and replacement of some of the stained glass window frames which will provide a focus for activity in the year ahead.

## Financial Statements

To be inserted when auditing has been completed.



## Contributors to the Report

Report collated by Anne Miller, with assistance from Tim Lavis and members of the PCC.

<b>Vicar's Review of 2016</b>	Rev'd Robert Stanier
<b>Christian Study</b>	Rev'd Robert Stanier and Janice Price
<b>Music</b>	Simon Harvey
<b>St Andrew's and St Mark's Junior School</b>	Rev'd Robert Stanier
<b>Children's Activities</b>	
Sunday Club	Celia O'Neill
Sunbeams	Sarah Stokes
Uniformed Organisations	Anne Miller
<b>Pastoral care, Outreach and Service to the Community</b>	
Pastoral Care	Sarah Stokes
Charitable Giving	Anne Barker
Christmas Day Lunch at the YMCA	Rev'd Carole Bourne
Joel Community Trust	Rev'd Robert Stanier
Nightshelter Project	Rev'd Robert Stanier
Street Pastors	Naomi Bamford-Hurrell
Food Bank	Rev'd Robert Stanier
<b>Fellowship in Faith</b>	
Mothers' Union	Audrey Eldridge
Faith and Fun	Eleanor O'Neill
Flying Circus	John Wickenden
<b>Finance</b>	
Parish Accounts	Andrew Miskin
The Parish Support Fund	Rev'd Robert Stanier
Fundraising – The Christmas Fair	Rev'd Robert Stanier
<b>Management and Administration</b>	
Communication and Publicity	Rev'd Robert Stanier
Lettings	Clare Chesterman
Parish Safeguarding	Diana Lewis
<b>Churchwardens' Report on the Fabric, Goods and Ornaments of the Churches</b>	
St Mark's Church	Roger Jones and Martin Taylor
St Andrew's Church	Anne Knowles and Anne Miller
Appendix 1	Contributors to the Report
Appendix 2	Kingston Deanery Synod 2016 Ian Wilson
Appendix 3	Property Management Group Report for 2016 Mike Smith and Linda Taylor



## Kingston Deanery Synod 2016

The Parish has three members on the Kingston Deanery Synod: Anne Barker, Helen Goepel and Ian Wilson. The Synod meets three times a year. Networking and social conviviality over a glass of wine is a plus at the end of each meeting. A summary of each is below:

### 23 February 2016 (St Andrew's, Ham)

**Vision for Southwark Diocese:** Ruth Martin, Diocesan Secretary, gave a wide ranging talk about her role at the centre in charge of policies, money and property. The church is facing great challenges and we must be ready for a tremendous amount of change.

**Vision for Wandsworth Archdeaconry:** Rev'd John Kiddle described the journey which had brought him to Southwark. His vision for the Archdeaconry had three priorities: Morale and motivation of clergy and key parish officers; Partnerships where we can all grow; What does it mean for us to be disciples today?

**Parish Support Fund:** The good news is that the Diocese is set to break even this year. The bad news is that 71% of pledges were less than the cost of ministry in those parishes.

### 13 July 2016 (St Matthew's, Surbiton)

**Mental Health Issues:** A presentation by Rev'd Kevin Scott (St John's, Old Malden) and Rev'd Mandy Beck (Chaplain, St George's Mental Health Trust) on a most complex subject with thoughts on how congregations can welcome and support people with mental health problems. See [www.kingston.icope.nhs.uk](http://www.kingston.icope.nhs.uk) for advice.

**Deanery Funeral Administrator:** Andy Nunn has been appointed and is building relationships with funeral directors and clergy. A most worthwhile initiative thanks to Rev'd Jonathan Wilkes (All Saints, Kingston).

### 10 November 2016 (Christ Church, Surbiton Hill)

**Refugees:** A presentation by Katie Harrison, until recently with Tear Fund, on her work with refugee groups on the Syria/Lebanon border. A theological reflection followed.

**City of Sanctuary:** Rev'd Kevin Scott (St John's, Old Malden) shared material on this movement which has been established to ensure hospitality and welcome for refugees in towns and cities throughout the UK. Local centres are at Elmbridge and Sutton. See [www.cityofsanctuary.org](http://www.cityofsanctuary.org)

## Southwark Diocesan Synod

For information, Ian Wilson is a representative of Kingston Deanery on the Southwark Diocesan Synod. An informative report of these meetings can be found in The Bridge newspaper.



## PROPERTY MANAGEMENT GROUP (PMG) REPORT FOR 2016

This is the first annual report of the re-formed Property Management Group. A schedule of activities shows that 65 tasks were completed over the year, totalling £1784.71, which is within the allocated PMG budget of £2,000 pa. It should be pointed out that there were several larger outlays this year (two lawnmowers and a petrol strimmer purchased and two significant decorating projects at both churches): the expenditure for 2017 should be significantly less.

The working relationship between the PMG and churchwardens has developed very well. Only two meetings were held during the year and communication and business has been effective and informal. There have been a number of suggestions as to how the group could develop and improve; Mike Smith will continue to consider and assess these options during the next year and, if necessary, report further to the PCC.

The hoped for collaboration with the Community Payback Team (CPT) to improve the rear garden area at St Mark's has unfortunately not materialised. Mike Smith met with a CPT Supervisor in March 2016 and a detailed work scheme for this and other areas of the church garden was drawn up; however, Kingston Council (who provided essential transport, tools and waste disposal) have not been forthcoming. Mike has made numerous enquiries over the year: despite repeated assurances that the project was "in hand" this has not translated into any form of cooperation or action by the council. It is now considered that this line of opportunity is closed.

Mike Smith, as Chair of the PMG, would finally like to express thanks to all of the churchwardens and to informal volunteers, for their assistance and goodwill. Linda Taylor and Martin Taylor deserve particular mention: Linda for her sterling gardening work at St Andrew's and for maintaining the PMG spreadsheet so capably and Martin for his significant contribution to the practical tasks at both churches over the year.

Summary of activities undertaken by the PMG by church and Cost

St Andrew's Church	St Mark's Church
<b>Total Cost £100.01 - £500</b>	
Painting of St Andrews Glass Room, Entrance Lobby and Blue Room.  Repair of kitchen light, rear outside light, cooker hood light, addition of timer to Apse lights, installation of lighting to Tower stairway	Purchase of lawnmower and sundries  Repairing and decorating water damage to Glass room, kitchen, choir practice area and flower room.  Petrol brushwood strimmer and safety equipment set purchased  Repair of dishwasher in small kitchen  Painting of St Mark's hall, kitchen and tower lobby.  Connect downpipe from main roof and flower room roof to gutter
<b>Total Cost £50.01 - £100</b>	

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Purchase of lawnmower	
Replacement of COSH cupboard lock	
<b>Total Cost £0.01 - £50</b>	
Electrical socket by tower door replaced with double RCD socket	Purchase and fixing of street-side 'Parish Office' sign at St Mark's
Replacement of broken hinges on fridge (Dicky Birds) and repositioning of fridges to avoid conflict between their doors	Rewire Lobby light sensors and replace defective unit
Fit outside socket with fused spur	WC seat repaired
Repair of external security floodlight outside rear door to Blue Room	Strip lightbulb in WC replaced
Replacement of light bulbs in Blue Room	Hall tables (18) and plastic chairs steam cleaned
Temporary repair of broken roof window over lobby	Area at Parish Office entrance planted with hardy plants
Shampooing and spot-stain cleaning of carpet in Blue Room.	Flower bed weeded and planted with 36 pelargoniums. Hawthorn hedge cut. Sweeping and watering.
Repair of toilet cistern	2 large rosemary bushes purchased for front church garden
Installation of cupboard locks in kitchen and flower room	Repair of tap aerators in hall kitchen
	Repair of waste overflow in small kitchen
	Purchase and fitting of noticeboard outside hall
	Repair hot water heater in small kitchen
	Restore lighting in organ loft
	Replacement nave lightbulbs
<b>Total Cost £0</b>	
Trimming shrubs away from walls at St Andrew's. Removing leaves and weed build-up against walls. Cleaning drain covers of mud and debris.	Cleaning down lighters in St Mark's hall using scaffold tower
Further clearing of leaf and debris build-up around Glass Room entrance and yew tree garden at St Andrew's. Grass cut with new mower.	Securing loose tap in St Mark's hall Kitchen
Rodding and flushing drains at St Andrew's	Mending broken projector screen pole at St Mark's hall
Repair of defective WC at St Andrew's	Grass cut at St Mark's with new lawnmower x 2
Replace broken plug on hot water boiler	Mending metal-framed chairs at St Mark's
Tighten leaking connection under sink	Mending wooden-framed chairs at St Mark's
Gardening at St Andrews including shrub trimming and clearing of blocked downpipes and drains	Clearing and improving area around entrance to Parish Office at St Mark's
Fit light sensor in lobby between tower and	Felt pads fitted to feet of Priest's Stall
	Temporary repair to fence damaged in storm and mowing of Parish Office lawn
	Further clearance & improvement of Parish Office approach

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<p>kitchen</p> <p>Cleaning out of floor heating grates in church</p> <p>Pop-rivet repair - base of glass door into church</p> <p>Extension of flower room shelving</p> <p>Rodding of drains at rear of church and clearing obstructions</p> <p>Hook in flower room to store extension leads</p> <p>Removal of diseased ficus plant in foyer. Replacement by similar sourced at nil cost through Streetlife.</p>	<p>Extensive high-level cleaning in hall using scaffold tower</p> <p>Repair 3 metal framed chairs (church hall)</p> <p>Clearing steps and path at bottom of Yew Tree Walk of mud and plant build-up</p> <p>Hang 4 picture frames</p> <p>Temporary repair to broken fencing</p>
<p><b>Purchases for both churches</b></p>	
<p><b>Total Cost £50.01 - £100</b></p>	
<p>Tools and maintenance equipment, including an LED inspection lamp</p>	