

PARISH OF HERNE HILL
REPORTS FOR
ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH
MEETING MAY 17TH 2022



*Our aim is, in God's strength, to bring Jesus
to the centre of our lives
and to the heart of our community.*

Charity Registration number: 1134045

VICAR'S REPORT, *Rev Ben Goodyear*

Dear friends,

2021 has been another challenging year for us all but God has been faithful through it all.

The reports in this document highlight the activities of the parish so I won't repeat what's in them, but I encourage you to read them, and if you have any questions about anything to speak to me or the leader of the activity. There will be an opportunity to do that at the APCM on the 17th May 2022 7.30pm at St Paul's. However, feel free to ask us any questions at any point throughout the year.

What I mainly want to say in my vicar's report is thank you! Thank you for all you have done, prayed and given in this last year. We are blessed in the parish of Herne Hill with so many people who give generously of their time, prayers and income. It is really appreciated, and it is all part of our worship to our generous God.

Our vision as a parish is "In God's strength to bring Jesus to the centre of our lives and the heart of our community".

As we've been praying about what it means to live out the vision God has given us for the next few years, there have been 4 mission priorities he has highlighted that can be seen below in our Mission Action Plan (MAP) goals:

MAP GOALS 2022/2023

Welcoming and loving all through Jesus centred services & ministries

Showing & sharing the love of Jesus through pastoral & practical help, advice & support for our local community

Caring for God's people and planet by being a Fairtrade parish & persuing a positive environmental impact

Striving to be anti-racist as racism is an affront to God



Please can you pray that these MAP goals will become a reality?

Please can you serve on a team?

Please can you give generously to the Parish of Herne Hill, so we have all the financial resources to make this possible?

Generosity will look different for each one of us. We are asking everyone to review their giving to the parish and pray about what generosity for them will be in 2022. We invite you to use the new Parish Giving Scheme as our preferred way to receive regular donations:

<https://www.parishgiving.org.uk/donors/find-your-parish/parish-of-herne-hill-london/>

Give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together and running over, will be poured into your lap. For with the measure you use, it will be measured to you.

Luke 6:38

I also want to say we are here for you. 2022 continues to be difficult for many of us. If you need help or prayer please ask myself or another member of the team. We have debt help through CAP and other ways to financially and practically help people so do ask. We don't want anyone to be in need.



Ben Goodyear, Vicar

REPORT ON THE PROCEEDINGS OF THE PCC AND ACTIVITIES OF THE PARISH GENERALLY, FOR 2021

Ben Goodyear

In 2021 we have had COVID-19 to deal with again. We had to close the church buildings for 3 months between January and March as we got used to being a scattered church again. We joined together online through our virtual services, Zoom prayer meetings, Zoom lent course, Zoom youth group Just General Life (JGL) and tried to communicate electronically as best we could. We offered pastoral and practical care to those in need from our churches and from our community, buying shopping, paying bills and giving out foodbank vouchers, and tried to ring those who were isolated.

On Palm Sunday our buildings opened again for services, and it was great to see people face to face as well as seeing others online who still needed to isolate. We continue to have our virtual services for those unable to attend at present and others who are just looking and exploring faith and church.

We opened St Paul's up on Thursdays for private prayer and for Hope Café where people come for free food and refreshments throughout the day.

We joined Citizens UK to partner with other organisations including other local churches and Herne Hill Welcomes Refugees to campaign and organise for issues of justice locally and beyond. We welcomed Susan our new curate and her family in June and over 100 of us went away to High Leigh for our Parish weekend away with visiting speakers Bishop Sentamu and Reverend Margaret Sentamu.

We said farewell to David Garwood our Operations Manager and welcomed Julia Daniel and Kelly Stephenson to be our new Operations Managers as a job share. We also welcomed 2 new ordinands, Alex Mutayba training for Parish Ministry and Andy Blacknell training for Prison Ministry. We thanked Andrew Firman as he stood down as Churchwarden at St Saviour's after serving for 5 years. We appointed Beckee Lewis as the new Churchwarden at St Saviour's as she joined Geraldine Garner who continued as Churchwarden at St Paul's.

We ran our Milkwood Summer Programme for 2 weeks in August in Milkwood Community Park, and then started the Milkwood Kick Football Academy in the park on Saturdays from September. Also, in the autumn we were able to restart Messy Church & Children's Church, as well as restarting our Seniors' Lunch Club and A Hymn at Lunchtime again in person.

In September our WHOOSH riders cycled from Reading to Salisbury and back via various other stops, following King Alfred's Way and raising over £28,000 for charities including Tumaini Health Centre, First Steps Trust and Afghan Aid.

In the autumn we ran the Living in Love and Faith Course as part of the Church of England's conversation how about identity, sexuality, relationships, and marriage fit within the bigger picture of the good news of Jesus Christ and how we live in love and faith together.

We helped people out of debt, budget better, and find jobs through our CAP Debt Coaching, Money Courses and Job Clubs. As part of that we delivered over 70 CAP Christmas Hampers to CAP clients and others in need locally.

We put on extra services at Christmas to ensure that everyone who wanted to attend a service in our buildings or online was able to do so.

As always, during the year the PCC gave its time and attention to many other issues that contribute to spiritual growth and development in the Parish, including financial, buildings, staffing, social, community, worship and mission issues. These were all focused on furthering the fulfilment of our Parish aim statement, **"Our aim is, in God's strength, to bring Jesus to the centre of our lives and to the heart of our community"**.

We look back on 2021 with praise to God. We have much to give Him thanks for – as we also thank the many faithful people in both churches who serve this Parish and Him.

DULWICH DEANERY SYNOD REPORT FOR 2021

Trevor Tayleur

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Dulwich Deanery Synod met via Zoom rather than in person on 17 March 2021, 14 July 2021 and 24 November 2021.

The Deanery Synod's current main focus is on enhancing the role of Deanery Leadership Team and drafting a Deanery Mission Action Plan (a mission plan for Deaneries aimed at fostering a common purpose and sense of community). Our Vicar, Rev. Ben Goodyear, has been involved in a mapping exercise which has established that parishes are involved in a wide range of initiatives.

Elections for the Diocesan Synod took place. Susan Patterson (St Stephen's) and Joy Taylor (St John's) were elected to fill the vacancies for lay people, while Rev. Cécile Schnyder (St Clement with St Peter) and Rev. Tomos Reed (St Stephen's) were elected to the clergy vacancies. One clergy vacancy remains.

The parish administrator at St John's East Dulwich, Denise Fulgoni, has taken on the role of Deanery Synod Secretary.

During the course of the year the Deanery Synod received reports from the Diocesan Synod, General Synod and from the parishes in the Deanery. It was useful to learn how the parishes were dealing with the pandemic. Issues of concern include the re-starting of youth and children's work and finances.

REPORT ON THE ELECTORAL ROLL 2022

Isobel Finn, Electoral Roll Officer

The Electoral Roll is the list in every parish of all those entitled to vote on elections within the Church of England. In simple terms, if you are on the electoral roll for a parish, you are able to vote at the Annual Parochial Church Meeting of the parish. It also functions as a membership list of baptised adults in the church who are over sixteen.

There are some simple criteria which allows a person to be registered on the electoral roll so do let me know if you would like to know more. One criterium is that you need to be baptised so if this is something you would like to consider, please let one of the clergy know and they would be delighted to talk this through with you.

Below are the numbers for our current electoral roll for the Parish as well as how those numbers are distributed across the two Parish churches. St Paul's has seen an increase in numbers by 5 and St Saviour's has seen a small decrease of 3.

The results show that the combined total on the Electoral Roll for the Parish of Herne Hill is 240, an increase of two people since last year.

142 members of the Electoral Roll are resident in the Parish (three more than last year), and 98 are non-resident (same as last two years). The details for each church are as follows.

2022

Parish of Herne Hill electoral roll total	240
Resident in Parish	142
Non Resident	99

Distributed across the two Parish churches as below

St Paul's electoral roll	116
Resident in Parish	52
Non-resident	64

St Saviour's electoral roll	124
Resident in Parish	90
Non-resident	34

ST PAUL'S CHURCH BUILDING & FABRIC REPORT FOR 2021

Geraldine Garner, Church Warden

January 2021 once again saw a lockdown and our services moved entirely back online. We reopened the church to our usual pattern of Sunday services on Palm Sunday and we were thankfully able to remain open thereafter.

So many people volunteer to keep St Paul's looking beautiful both inside and out. Thank you to all the gardeners, cleaners, polishers, flower arrangers, refreshment makers, repairers and those who have helped with maintenance. I also want to thank all the deputy wardens and sidespeople who have again had extra duties to undertake. Everyone's faithful dedication and help is greatly appreciated, as it means we have kept our wonderful church welcoming and a beautiful place of worship.

An electrical survey and electrical remedial works were carried out to enable us to be issued with our next electrical safety certificate which is valid for 5 years.

Some areas of the roof needed minor repairs which were carried out.

The hall had new floor covering put down as cracks were becoming a safety issue.

We have a new contact within Southwark Council regarding the boundary wall who remembered it from when he was a junior in the department, and he is now in charge. I am hopeful we are getting closer to finding a way forward with this.

The organ restoration team continue to meet to progress this project. Some wonderful concerts have been held in the church in aid of the restoration fund. In the meantime, the organ blower has been repaired, and although the organ can be played it is at a much-reduced sound. Fundraising continues.

A project is underway to replace the finial cross which overlooks the school. This was identified in the last Quinquennial Inspection as needing to be replaced as it was becoming hazardous due to weathering.

ST SAVIOUR'S CHURCH FABRIC REPORT FOR 2021

Beckee Lewis, Churchwarden

Being the newly appointed churchwarden for St Saviours has been a great experience for me. Taking over from Andy on the tail end of the pandemic proved challenging at times as keeping everyone safe was paramount.

Socially distanced seating, hand sanitising and face masks have been a consistent feature of life at St Saviour's. The worship band have continued to use the stage as the new normal which has enabled us to increase the socially distanced capacity of the hall.

As part of our MAP goals to be a Green and Fairtrade Church, we have significantly reduced the amount of service sheets that we are using. The projector has been used in their place, with the order of service and song words being projected.

A brand-new noticeboard advertising all services and events being held within the Parish is due to be installed this year.

Plans are still being made for the redecoration and a new lighting system of the hall. Members of the Fabric Committee have been working hard to bring us a new improved greener energy efficient lighting system.

New external security lights have been installed by the flat above St Saviour's and by the Finsen Rd entrance/exit.

We have been able to provide St Saviour's School with a regular daytime slot on Fridays making use of the hall for PE and extra space for lessons.

As we slowly emerge out of various lockdowns, we have seen a significant uptake of hiring the hall for children's parties over the weekends. Brand new banners advertising our hall has helped with this. We look forward to this continuing and securing some new regular hall hirers to boost our income.

As the number of congregation members continue to grow, we will continue with masks and socially distanced seating to make our churches a safe and welcoming haven for our community.

SAFEGUARDING REPORT - ST PAUL'S CHURCH

Lucy Williams, Parish Safeguarding Officer

I meet at least once a term with Ben, Gill, Jennie Brindley (the St Saviour's PSO) and Bex to discuss any safeguarding concerns and to review our current safeguarding procedures, in the light of guidance from the Diocese.

We have been very pleased to have a large number of new volunteers coming forward to help at St Paul's children's church and Milkwood Kick and I have therefore had a busy time assisting those volunteers with their online DBS checks and completing their paperwork with them. We currently have a small number who have not yet completed all their paperwork and a larger number of old and new volunteers who have yet to complete their on-line safeguarding training. This is very simple to do, and I encourage anyone who I have already contacted about training to please complete this as soon as possible.

Everyone who volunteers in a role where they require safeguarding training (children's church, drivers, PCC members etc) is required to refresh their training at least every 3 years. If you think that you need to refresh your training, please let me know and I will send you the link and instructions. The courses are on-line and can be done in your own time. They really help to put safeguarding in the front of our minds.

I have recently completed my refresher Safeguarding Leadership training (2 half day sessions over zoom) and found them extremely helpful and inspiring. We are really keen that safeguarding in our parish should not just be a tick box exercise but should be central to everything we do.

If you have not already done so, please can I encourage you to watch the safeguarding video which Bex made over lockdown? It is on our website.

SAFEGUARDING REPORT - ST SAVIOUR'S CHURCH 2021

Jennie Brindley, Parish Safeguarding Officer

The Safeguarding Team has continued to meet regularly to review safeguarding issues. I am pleased to confirm that all volunteers at St Saviours have up-to-date DBS checks and have provided paperwork and referees.

With my support 8 volunteers have completed DBS checks in 2021. I encouraged volunteers with DBS checks due to expire in the forthcoming year to apply in September 2021. The aim of this was to create a predictable cycle of renewals. This involved contacting a number of volunteers personally. For a variety of reasons, some informed me that they wished to step down. Their kind contribution is very much appreciated, especially those who have been volunteering for a long time. As most of these had been volunteering with Children's Church, I passed on to Ben G and Bex concerns that there may not be enough volunteers to carry out the recommendations of the Children and Youth Review.

In January 2021 I contributed to a new information video about Safeguarding organised by Bex. This has now been posted on YouTube with a link on the Parish website.

With the increase in Parish activities, it's important that safeguarding is kept very much to the forefront, and with that in mind I am planning to visit some of these. I understand that members of the PCC also need to be DBS checked and will be following this up with Ben and others in due course.

FINANCE REPORT FOR 2021

Peter Calderbank, Parish Treasurer

The accounts for the Parish have been reviewed by our independent examiner, Stewardship. The signed accounts are available separately for review. However, the results are summarised below:

<u>£'000</u>	<u>General Funds</u>	<u>Community Engagement Fund</u>	<u>Buildings & Capital Funds</u>	<u>Other Funds</u>	<u>2020 Total</u>	<u>2019 Total</u>
Income	298.6	5.8	0.0	22.5	326.9	298.9
Expenditure	<u>(296.2)</u>	<u>(53.4)</u>	<u>(17.7)</u>	<u>(23.7)</u>	(391.0)	(371.7)
Surplus	2.4	(47.6)	(17.7)	(1.3)	(64.2)	(72.8)
Funds c/f	3.4	498.6	73.7	141.9	717.6	781.8

The income for the year totalled £326.9k which was up compared with 2020 by £28.0k. We continued to be significantly impacted by Covid in the year although we saw improvements in the second half of 2021. Of the income for 2021, giving accounted for £195.1k including tax recovery of £37.4k. During the year we received grant income of £4.9k. Rental and lettings' income was better than in 2020 which had been significantly impacted by Covid-19. In total, the rental and lettings income was £95.1k for the year. Rental income for 8 Ruskin Walk and the St. Saviour's flat totalling £56.4k in the year. Lettings generated income of £38.7k and was made up as follows: St. Saviour's (£19.2k), St. Paul's church (£5.0k) and St. Paul's Hall (£14.5k). This year's income also included £14.7k of contributions towards the Parish Weekend Away which did not happen in the previous year although this was offset by the costs associated with it.

The Parish's contribution to the Parish Support Fund was £130.0k for the year. This was a reduction on the 2020 contribution and followed discussions with the Diocese. Employment costs of £110.6k covered the pay of the office team during the year (Julia, Kelly and Sharon), our Children's and Youth Worker (Bex) and the Christians Against Poverty (CAP) team (Becky and Kelly). The CAP work had been launched in the second half of 2020 and so this was the first full year of operation. It is being funded from the Community Engagement Fund.

Our missionary and charitable giving for the year totalled £20.6k. This included missionary support of £18.8k based on 10% of general giving. We also used the Churchwardens' Hardship Relief Fund to support individuals in need, partly due to the continued impact of the Covid-19 pandemic.

During the year £62.3k was spent on the buildings across the Parish. This was higher than the prior year's spend of £56.3k and included costs associated with electrical work at St. Paul's, replacing the flooring in the St. Paul's hall and some repair work to the St. Paul's roof.

The net result for the year was a total deficit of £64.2k, with the General Fund showing a £2.4k surplus. Looking forward to 2022 we have seen a continued improvement in our hall lettings. Last year, we launched the Parish Giving Scheme and asked people to review their giving. If anyone would like to know more about this then please speak to me. In addition, we continue to monitor expenditure carefully. In this way, we aim to build the General Fund back up to our target level of £50.0k.

Thank you for your giving and support in 2021.

CHRISTIANS AGAINST POVERTY (CAP) REPORT 2021

Beckee Lewis, Kelly Stephenson and Jules Daniel CAP & Community workers

CAP has had a fantastic year in the parish. As the parish's Debt Coach I have helped 12 people so far with their unmanageable debts, 5 of whom all live within the parish. As I write this report 2 clients are weeks away from being completely debt free!

Using Hope Café as a base on a Thursday has been a positive experience. Being able to offer clients food and drink to eat in or take away has been a great blessing. Seeing clients in St Paul's has led to some of my clients who are non-believers accepting a bible or asking for prayer.

The Beacon CAP Partnership has become members of The Fuel Bank foundation so I am able to supply top ups of Gas and Electricity PPM.

Thanks to SE24 we have made 20 winter fuel packs containing hot water bottles, wool hats, gloves and scarfs, blankets, and hot refreshments. These packs are being distributed to vulnerable families this winter.

Plans for 2022 are to grow CAP services in the local community, provide 3 Job Clubs and numerous Money courses in person and online.

We're looking forward to another great year at CAP HQ! First job club will be starting on Wednesday the 2nd of March. The course runs from 10-2ish every Wednesday for 8 weeks, with follow up and extra support at Hope Cafe on Thursday. We will be rolling out two more courses throughout the year in June and September. If you're interested in getting involved or know someone that might benefit from the course please let Jules know at julia@hernehillparish.org.uk.

We will also be running shorter money courses, helping you get your finances into ship shape – watch this space for more info!

ROBES HOMELESS PROJECT REPORT 2021

Mary Ollard, Robes Project team leader

In 2021 the pandemic meant that Robes was unable to organise a rotating night shelter of the type we had hosted in Herne Hill previously. Instead, Robes guests were accommodated in individual hotel-style rooms and supported by advice workers to find their way out of homelessness.

We provided welfare packages - containing toiletries, food items and some clothing - to 35 guests. Some donors enjoyed shopping and making up packages themselves, others paid to have packages made on their behalf. Additional funds raised were given as a donation to the Robes Project.

CHILDREN'S AND YOUTH REPORT 2021

Bex Griffiths, Youth and Children's Worker

Children's Ministries

CHILDREN'S CHURCH

Due to the pandemic, from January to April there was a parish-wide family service for all families and children to participate in Children's Church. During the Zoom, we used children's songs/action songs and the Energize curriculum for spiritual growth and development.

After April we continued a 'hybrid' method of families coming to St Saviours School Hall as well as Zoom to create an intimate atmosphere in a safe and adaptable way. We used mats for families to sit on being 2m apart. This was very successful as it engaged children in person and at home in a fun and creative way. This method continued until government & CofE guidelines deemed it safe to meet in larger numbers inside.

From September we went back to running Children's Church at both St Saviours Church (9:30am) and St Paul's Church (11:15am) so that parents were able to have more adult spiritual input and to reintegrate the children back into the church they went to regularly before Covid.

St Saviours continues to have a large shared group in the school hall due to a lack of numbers of children post-Covid and struggling to find volunteers. We hope to have two St Saviour's volunteer Children's Church Coordinators starting in 2022. There have been between 9-20 children that come regularly and enjoy it thoroughly. We are starting a Secondary School Children's Church at the start of 2022.

In September-December Children's Church at St Paul's attracted between 7 and 15 children each week, averaging about 11. Both the younger group (pre-school age 4 to School Year 5) and older group (School Years 6 – 9) are viable and we have made the room for the older group more welcoming and age-appropriate. It has been wonderful to welcome the children and young people back, and huge thanks are due to all the volunteers for all they do. Special thanks to Bex and Kirsten for their support. (Written by Helen Brooks - St Paul's Coordinator)

Youth Ministries

JGL YOUTH

JGL Youth is a group that meets every Wednesday and has a primary focus on young people from

school years 6+. Pre-pandemic, JGL Youth were getting between 18-27 young people on a weekly basis enjoying games & activities, a homemade prepared meal and a faith-based discussion.

However, at the start of 2021, JGL Youth was on zoom sessions in order to reach young people in their households. The number of young people coming virtually was between 9-12.

Bex also throughout the year mentored young people during the pandemic via zoom, phone calls, coffee shops & walks in the park.

From April, JGL Youth started meeting in person again at St Paul's welcome space but has seen a significant drop of numbers from 6-15 and has seen a noticeable younger group. Bex continues to rethink new and creative ideas to help the older young people feel comfortable and excited to come back to the regular youth group. Since meeting in person, we have rebuilt purposeful relationships with the group, had faith-based discussions, a go karting trip & a Christmas party.

Other curriculums that ran alongside JGL Youth were:

CAP YOUTH

Beckee, Kelly & Bex led a 2-day CAP course in July for young people becoming university students 5 young people attended.

YOUTH ALPHA

There was a Youth Alpha course in October where Susan & Bex led 6 sessions for young people who were wanting baptism and/or confirmation. 6/7 young people attended the sessions.

Schools Ministries

ST SAVIOURS SCHOOL

Because of Covid-19, Bex was unable to resume any physical activities at schools or any church experiences. We hope to resume in 2022. Bex, Ben & Susan rotate in leading a pre-recorded collective worship at St Saviour's School.

OTHER

Bex was unable to resume any physical activities at schools or any church experiences due to COVID.

Community Outreach

PLAYGROUPS – by Natalie Notice

St. Paul's Playgroup is recommended for children who are under 3. We are still running one session per week during term times and are oversubscribed most weeks. Booking is still required via Eventbrite which helps us to know how many people are in attendance and keep within the guidelines set.

We welcome parents, grandparents, nannies, and childminders.

We attract new people via word of mouth and those who are walking by; we invite them in and give them the information from what times we operate to how to book sessions.

St. Paul's playgroup are still looking for volunteers to help with the setup, refreshments and packing away.

St Saviours playgroup

Just like St. Paul's Playgroup, St Saviours playgroup requires booking via Eventbrite. This move was made to support our safety during the Covid-19 period, by being cashless and tracking who and how many were in attendance.

The children are stimulated through the variety of toys that are on offer, they also have opportunities to get creative with the crafts on offer.

St. Saviour's playgroup are still looking for volunteers to help with the setup, refreshments and packing away.

MESSY CHURCH

Messy Church is an event that happens on the last Sunday of every month for the community, to make a way of being church for families and others. It engages hospitality, creativity and Christian truths for all ages. We aim our event at primary school ages with their adult family members. They engage in sensory crafts, a faith-based song and talk, games and ends with a homemade prepared meal.

At the start of the year, we continued to hand out Messy Church craft bags once a month after the St Saviour's service, and Messy Church was led virtually by Jo Alexander via YouTube videos in order to encourage children and their families to be together and grow in their faith development within their own homes.

From May we started having Messy Church in person where families sat on their own individual tables with their own crafts but following the same principles as pre-covid when it came to the song, games, talk & meal. We had between 6-10 families join monthly.

MILKWOOD SUMMER PROGRAMME

During the summer, the Milkwood Summer Programme saw over 40 children & young people participating regularly during the 2 weeks. At the outreach programme, we had Kick leading multisport programmes, an XLP Double Decker Game Console Bus, Heart in Art workshops and Dough providing lunch daily. We also took young people aged 11+ on trips to London Zoo and GoApe!

We had a very successful 2 weeks, enjoyed not only by the children and young people, but by the volunteers too!

MILKWOOD KICK

Milkwood Kick developed out of the Milkwood Summer Programme after identifying that there was a key attraction for children and young people to participate in sports. Kick had introduced a wider ministry called Kick Academies where local churches can train and run Kick in their local communities. Since October there has been a weekly football club on Saturday mornings for ages 8-16 years at the Milkwood Community Park. We currently have over 20 children who attend regularly most of whom are not currently members of our congregations.

Special Thanks

Lastly, a special thanks to EVERYONE who prayed, contributed online and got involved with the face-to-face youth & children's work within the parish community! We are very blessed to have a large number of children and young people enjoying diverse ministries – we couldn't have done it without you!

MUSIC REPORT – ST PAUL’S CHURCH 2021

Eleanor Rastall, St Paul’s Choir leader

We started the year in Tier 4, essentially back in lockdown, and took the decision to suspend choir in person for Covid safety and to try having one solo singer accompanied by an organist at St Paul’s on Sunday morning. I sang myself for the first Sunday in January to test this out, and then the following week the PCC took the decision to return to online services and therefore the choir also returned to online rehearsals and contributing recorded performances to the online services.

Through Jan-March our aim in the choir was to audio record, mix and video 2 pieces each week - roughly one towards the regular Sunday services and one towards the special Easter services. We achieved this and more, and I’m extremely grateful to Michael Brooks for audio editing many of the pieces, which allowed us to exceed our target. The decision was taken to reopen the church on Palm Sunday and so, in the end, the choir also sang live at many of the Easter services, with a limit on singer numbers, social distancing and use of screens and masks where appropriate.

Since then, the choir has largely returned to in person rehearsals and singing in services, occasionally contributing videos recorded in rehearsal for the online services. Through the summer and autumn, as well as the weekly services, we worked towards the Herne Hill Festival Evensong in October and the Christmas services, particularly the Carol Service. For these events and the in-person rehearsals beforehand we asked singers to take lateral flow tests as an added precaution, and continued social distancing, wearing masks in the building and using screens as appropriate.

We have continued to be as inclusive as possible - letting people know about the choir and inviting the parish to join rehearsals. The option of joining Friday rehearsals via Zoom has also remained, and occasionally been used, though not extensively. We’ve also consulted the choir about various Covid safety steps along the way, to ensure everyone felt as safe and comfortable as possible.

I worked closely with Ben Goodyear and Penny Whittingham through the year to keep the choir running and contributing regularly to the services, whether online or in person, and to make ongoing decisions to ensure choir safety through the year as the pandemic situation changed.

Penny has continued to be fantastic support, organising accompanists for services, leading the choir in many of the weeks I was away, helping choose music and generally keeping everything running smoothly. I am extremely grateful to her, and to all the choir members who regularly engaged with in person and online rehearsals, recordings and events and helped to keep music alive and well in St Paul’s. Particular thanks must go to Michael Brooks, Andrew Makower and Dave Mudie who additionally helped out in other ways such as creating and mixing tracks and accompanying services and events.

Ben Goodyear has continued to be extremely supportive and tirelessly enthusiastic in his efforts to keep music going in the church through all the different stages of the pandemic. I’ve felt safe and supported through this difficult time and able to voice my ideas for how the choir should adapt as the situation changed. I’m also extremely grateful to Gill Tayleur for support and advice on occasions when Ben was away.

It has been lovely to resume in person singing in the last few months and to host the Herne Hill Festival Evensong and relatively ‘normal’ Carol Service. We’ve continued to have input in the choir and music at St Paul’s from members of both churches and this collaboration has been a lovely silver lining and one which I hope will continue.

MUSIC REPORT – ST SAVIOUR’S CHURCH & ONLINE

Ben Goodyear

At the start of 2021 our worship was fully online with St Saviour’s musicians and singers combining with St Paul’s to produce videos for the congregation to sing along at home. Many thanks to all those who contributed and a special thank you to Dave Mudie who did the bulk of the music editing over the year as well as Eleanor Rastall from St Paul’s. Also, many thanks to our online video editors in 2021, Adrian Parkhouse, Bex Griffiths, & Thomas Peters who added words and videos and images to the music. Ongoing thanks to Adrian Parkhouse who continues to oversee and edit the whole of the online service most weeks which we have continued to provide for those who have been unable to return to church.

When we have met in person, musicians and singers from St Saviour’s have provided music for both the 9.30am service and The Five. It has been encouraging to see many of the youth and young adults taking a lead in this. It was a joyous moment at the Parish weekend away and beyond when we were able to start singing together again having been unable to sing in person for 15 months due to COVID.

Thank you to all the musicians and signing who led us in sung worship throughout the year.

LUNCH CLUB FOR SENIOR CITIZENS

Julia Kirby-Jones

Seniors’ Lunch Club has been affected, as has every church activity, by the COVID pandemic. As soon as it was considered safe enough, we reopened, and the word spread. Each month more guests joined us until by December we were at capacity. Our only solution - to start a waiting list. The Christmas Lunch was a ‘full house’ and was followed by a recorder recital from a talented group of young children from St Saviour’s School. Each month a short service, ‘A Hymn at Lunchtime’, led by Rev Gill, follows the meal, and is attended by the majority of guests.

My thanks go to the wonderful team of volunteers who help with transport, table-laying, flower arranging, serving, and washing up. Also, to those who help by making the delicious desserts. More help is always welcome so do please contact me if you are interested in volunteering.

ST SAVIOUR’S SCHOOL GOVERNORS’ REPORT 2021

Mary Ollard, Chair of Governors

2021 was the first full calendar year in post for the headteacher, Declan Dunford-Crozier. He has implemented a new curriculum and updated safeguarding practice. He is working to develop senior- and middle-level leadership in the school, to enhance the skills of staff and to improve resilience. Since September, he has been temporarily providing leadership also to another single-form entry Church of England school, St Jude’s in Herne Hill, following the unexpected resignation of their headteacher.

During the lockdown in the early part of the year, the school remained open for vulnerable children and the children of key workers. Online learning for children who were not in school was very effectively managed. IT provision was made for those families who needed it, not least thanks to the generosity of the parish in fund-raising for the purchase of Chromebooks.

For the first time in some years, the school year began with a full Reception class intake, and a waiting list. Attendance during the autumn term was notably higher than elsewhere in Lambeth, or nationally. Both these factors attest to the growing reputation and success of the school.

Looking ahead, the biggest challenges for the school are from falling pupil numbers (the birth-rate throughout London is declining steeply and the trend for families to move out of London is accelerating) and the consequent pressure on financial resources.

I was elected chair of governors at the end of September 2021, following Sara Bredemear's four years' service. Sara led the governing board in exemplary fashion and guided the school through significant changes in personnel as well as the challenges of the pandemic.

PASTORAL CARE REPORT 2021

Gill Tayleur

Pastoral care was provided throughout 2021, during lockdown, semi lockdown and relatively open periods. There were several strands to this ministry, which included:

The Pastoral Care Team (8 people with varying levels of involvement, from all 3 congregations) keeping in touch, visiting, delivering shopping and anything else needed – as of course many others are doing right across our church family and congregations. Ben, Bex and I looked through the entire list of names on ChurchSuite (over 400) termly to see who might have slipped out of contact, and then got in touch.

Support for home groups – (only) 3 of the home groups met or were in regular touch through the year. The Wellbeing Journey was attended by 30 people online during Lent. The Living in Love and Faith course was also run in person during the autumn term, see separate report.

A Bereavement Support Team of 5 was set up to consider and plan how we might support people who have been bereaved, more fully and effectively. The team is looking at steps we need to take for Becoming a Bereavement Friendly Church (<https://www.lossandhope.org/whats-on-offer/becoming-bereavement-friendly/>), including:

- bereavement awareness training and understanding encouraged across the church community of what it is helpful to say or not say to those bereaved;
- faith questioning expected and appropriately supported when people are bereaved; suffering affirmed within the church community as a legitimate Christian experience;
- care being taken to ensure theological messages are helpful for the bereaved;
- a realistic approach to healing conveyed and 'good deaths' prepared for;
- signposting to bereavement support services available
- special activities provided for those bereaved to support the grief journey
- all aspects of church life reviewed for welcome to and impact on those bereaved; and - provision within the church for those who are mourning to find respite, comfort & peace.

The Bereavement Support Team has started working on these actions, has put out information and the back of each church and will make a page for the parish website.

We are also preparing to run The Bereavement Journey (<https://thebereavementjourney.org/>), 6 sessions of films and discussion groups which guides bereaved people through the most common aspects of grief, enabling them to process the implications for themselves and discern next steps.

Our annual service for the bereaved, In Grateful Memory, held during the evening of Remembrance Sunday, was well attended (50 people) with very positive feedback.

A Hymn at Lunchtime, the 15 min service focusing on a different hymn each month, held in the church after Seniors' Lunch Club has finished. Nearly all the lunch club guests tend to attend, whether or not they are otherwise church goers.

ALPHA 2021

Susan Wright

We were delighted to offer two ALPHA courses this Autumn. A group of our young people (nine in total, five regulars) met in person at St Saviour's, for Youth Alpha and a meal (expertly prepped by Bex). At the end of the course four moved forward to baptism and or confirmation and another started attending JGL for the first time. We also ran an online ALPHA course for adults. Five people started and three completed. Three also went forward for baptism and confirmation.

CITIZENS REPORT 2021

Susan Wright

We joined Lambeth Citizens in May 2021 as part of our commitment to 'bring Jesus to the heart of our community'. We have become increasingly involved and were pleased to welcome local Citizens organisers to JGL and to our main morning services in the autumn. Since then, we have been involved in developing Lambeth Citizens mental health and social justice strategies. Our current action is focussed on influencing the local elections for the common good. If you would like to learn more or get involved contact Susan, susan@hernehillparish.org.uk.

LIVING IN LOVE AND FAITH 2021

Gill Tayleur

The Living in Love and Faith course (5 weeks) was run in September and October (after 7 of the parish leadership team did the course in the summer term) and about 30 people attended. There was a high level of engagement with the course, responding to the "lived experience" clips, the theological input and the discussion questions. We split into 3 groups for discussion, and trust and openness built up over the weeks. Many of those attending were keen that our parish does more to welcome LGBTQI+ people and to affirm their varied relationships. Others grappled with the material and came to no firm conclusion/ resolution, and a few stood by their support of the church's traditional view of sexual ethics regarding same sex relationships. Quite a few people on the course wanted to examine what the Bible says about same sex relationships and the different ways this is understood, so an additional session was held in early December to look at this together, plus a local gay man with whom the parish had links in the past was invited to speak to us, which he did.

It is proposed that a group be formed to discuss what next steps our parish takes, acting on the desire of many to affirm LGBTQI+ relationships, but also taking particular care to keep people of all viewpoints informed and included in the way forward.

HOPE CAFÉ 2021

Rachel Goodyear, leader

Hope Café first started back in July 2021, opening 9am-4pm, every Thursday. We see many different people coming in, including people walking in off the street after seeing our banner, CAP clients, homeless people, and people from Herne Hill school during pick-up time. It has been great to build relationships with the regulars. One mum said, “this is the best place around to come to with my children, because I feel I can relax”.

It’s also been a great hub for our staff team to work in and meet with people. Our CAP workers have been able to meet clients and show them hospitality, which has been valuable. The CAP job club has also used the church space and café to host their graduation ceremonies which have been really special times.

We are excited to see how God will use Hope Café in the coming year and would really appreciate your prayers.

Please do let Rachel Goodyear know if you would be interested in volunteering. Even a couple of hours a month would be helpful. Thanks!

GREEN AND FAIRTRADE GROUP 2021

Trevor Tayleur

One of our MAP Goals as a parish is to be a green and Fairtrade parish and to make a positive environmental impact. The Green and Fairtrade Group was therefore formed in 2021 to help meet this aim and we first met on 24 May 2021. As well as meeting, we have encouraged several initiatives.

One of our main focuses was on COP 26 as that provided a great opportunity to campaign on environmental justice. We therefore encouraged people to sign *The Time Is Now* petition calling on our government to take action. Additionally, participants from both churches took part in the Vigil for COP at Southwark Cathedral on 23 October 2021.

The parish also participated in the Climate Sunday initiative and indeed there were three Sundays on which we concentrated on Climate Justice.

The parish also intends to apply for an Eco Church award. This involves collating a significant amount of information and completing a lengthy questionnaire. Much of the information has been gathered and the application will be submitted in 2022.

Other initiatives included:

- Environmental masterclasses by Jeremy Brackpool, a local environmental expert
- Fairtrade stalls after Sunday services
- Encouraging members of the congregations to think how they can reduce their carbon footprint.

We have made a sound start, but there is still a long way to go! Many thanks to everyone who has been involved.

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING OF THE PARISH OF HERNE HILL @ ST SAVIOUR'S AND BY ZOOM ON 25 MAY 2021 AT 8PM

PRESENT: There were 19 people present and the meeting was chaired by Ben Goodyear.

The Meeting for the Election of Churchwardens

1. Ben Goodyear opened the meeting in prayer.
2. The minutes of the meeting on 13 October 2020 to elect the churchwardens were approved.
3. Geraldine Garner and Beckee Lewis were nominated and unanimously elected as churchwardens. The outgoing churchwarden Andrew Firman was thanked profusely for his 5 years of service during a time of great change for the parish, including the departure of vicar Cameron Barker after 17 years in the parish, the year of vicar vacancy, welcoming and helping new vicar Ben Goodyear to settle in, and then the year of pandemic with many extra challenges. Andrew had shown wise and Godly leadership which was deeply appreciated and applauded.
4. The usual commissioning service for churchwardens was not taking place at the Cathedral this year due to the coronavirus pandemic. Instead Ben led the wardens in their declarations and officially commissioned them, followed by prayer.

The Annual Parochial Church Meeting

1. Apologies: received from Simon Brindley, Cyril Knight.

2. Chair's opening remarks:

Ben spoke about the terrific work the parish had done in sharing God's love with others by reaching out to people in need during and beyond the pandemic, with a true story of a family in dire need living on the Angeltown Estate, who received support from our CAP (Christians Against Poverty) worker Kelly Stephenson and others.

Looking ahead, he drew the meeting's attention to the Parish's Mission Action Plan (MAP) goals for 2022, and how we'd go about meeting them:

1. In teams: Green and Fair Trade team, Racial Justice team, CAP and jobclubs, debt coaching, the Five service, Messy Church and so on. About racial justice, he reported that 27% of the adult congregations (people who come to one of our services at least once a month) are from BAME/UKME background, and 31% of our leaders are from BAME/UKME backgrounds, which is a good starting point. He encouraged everyone to consider where they can serve at this time? A new team is starting, the Hope Café team to run a café at St Paul's on Thursdays, and it needs volunteers.
2. In partnership: with Citizens UK, to tackle local and national injustices, with Beacon Partnership to tackle debt and poverty, with Woolwich MEACC (Minority Ethnic Anglican Concerns Committee) addressing racial injustice.
3. In God's strength.

Andrew Makower asked if there are any boundaries on the geographical area where Parish money is being given to an individual. Ben replied that the PCC did consider this and we signpost people and encourage them to connect to their local church for support if appropriate. Gill added that PCC has approved guidelines regarding covid support and hardship/churchwarden's fund support.

Ben thanked those coming off PCC: Kemi Segun-Oludimu, Lucy Wainwright, Ama Sarkodee and Maude Estwick.

Adeyinka Akinwande and Sushil Jacob were unanimously elected to the PCC.

Lisa Derby at Stewardship was appointed our Independent Examiner.

Peter Calderbank, Parish Treasurer, gave a presentation to the meeting, and thanked David Garwood in the parish office, and Andrew Firman and Ama Sarkodee for their work with Gift Aid.

Gill expressed concern that the balance in the general fund was close to zero, when we may have major bills to pay for roof repairs among other things.

Andrew Makower asked about spending the funds in the Community Engagement Fund (CEF), rather than spending just the interest generated by the Fund. Peter replied that interest rates are extremely low at present, and that we have received a small grant for CAP work. Ben said that the PCC had looked at the issue of running the Fund down as part of its review and had decided not to invest in the purchase of a property, instead accepting that spending significant amounts of the Fund was best at present.

Andrew also asked why the utilities spend had increased between 2019 and 2020, and Peter explained that Open Church at St Paul's 2 days per week, plus new staff working in the welcome space, contributed to that rise. Andrew asked what the spending on sacristy was, and the answer was anything to do with worship, and included sound and musical equipment for the Five service.

Leigh Whittingham expressed considerable concern about the state of the general fund, from his perspective as Parish Treasurer and Independent Examiner for many years. He asked what Stewardship's view is on the state of our general fund including it being in deficit now and in future, in our budget. Peter said that Stewardship is aware of our budget. The PCC has discussed the possibility of "borrowing" from designated (not restricted) funds if needs be in future. And he said that we are actively looking at how we can increase income and reduce costs. Only £11000 is actually in restricted (not designated) funds.

There were no other questions on any of the reports.

Date of next APCM was set for 17th May 2022.

Geraldine thanked Ben profusely especially for leading the parish through the pandemic, with all the online services and communication he has managed so well. Other parish clergy and leaders were thanked too.

Outgoing churchwarden Andrew Firman led the meeting in a closing prayer, at 9.25pm.

Minutes of St Paul's AGM for 2020 on 13th June 2021

Meeting began with prayer from BG

Apologies: Andy Bradshaw and Kirsten Tedder

Previous minutes approved unanimously and no matters arising.

GG thanked everyone who assisted in anyway with St Paul's including Kemi and Alan, who are standing down as Deputy Church Wardens.

The following were re-elected as DCWs:

Robert Foster

Derek Gibson

Andy Bradshaw

Newly elected as DCW: Kirsten Tedder

BG thanked GG for standing again as Church Warden and for her work throughout the year.

PC gave a short overview of the parish finances, details of which are in the APCM report. He also thanked everyone for their financial support plus David and Ama for their help. He also made a plea for a new Gift Aid Coordinator.

Derek asked whether the Diocesan Pledge would be changed as a result of the large deficit in finances. PC said that this sum may need to be reviewed by the PCC but that there is much interest in hiring our buildings, the income from which could solve the deficit.

Mary thanked Ben and the ministry team for the amazing way they have kept services going throughout the pandemic with all the related issues.

GG finished the meeting in prayer.

Minutes of the AGM of St Saviour's Church on 13 June 2021

The meeting was led by the Rev Ben Goodyear.

There is no requirement to list attendees. There were no apologies for absence.

1. Introduction

Ben welcomed everyone and opened the meeting in prayer.

2. Minutes of the 2019 Annual General Meeting

The minutes of the 2019 Annual General Meeting were approved and there were no matters arising.

3. Election of assistant church warden

Beckee Lewis thanked all those who help informally at our services. She explained that Kelly Stephenson has been nominated as assistant church warden and she was formally elected.

4. Finances

Peter Calderbank gave a financial presentation. It was an overview of what he had presented at the APCM. He explained how our income of £298,871 was generated. Whilst some giving is down, overall the giving is about as expected due to the wonderful response to appeals during the pandemic such as the one for laptops for St Saviours' school. Giving is about 66% of our income. Peter reminded us about the parish giving scheme. Property and lettings income was down due to Covid, which has carried on into this year. We hope to see this pick up soon as restrictions are eased.

Peter then explained our expenditure of £371,661. We have maintained the diocesan pledge despite Covid. Office expenditure is slightly down. We have maintained our mission giving.

There is a deficit of £72,790. There is a deficit on the general fund of £49,210. These deficits are met from general and designated funds. We have a healthy bank balance.

Peter thanked everyone who has helped with the finances. Particular mention to David Garwood in the church office and Andrew Firman as donations co-ordinator at St Saviour's.

Isobel Finn raised a point mentioned at the APCM about the use of the community engagement fund, being the proceeds from the sale of St Johns. This has included the CAP work. Peter will do a chart for us about this.

There were no questions. Everyone in the meeting thanked Peter.

5. Written reports

The written reports were noted. There were no questions about them.

6. Any other business

There was no other business.

Ben closed the meeting in prayer.

AGENDA FOR APCM 17th May 2022

The Annual Parochial Church Meeting of the Parish of Herne Hill to be held at St Paul's Church on 17th May 2022 7.30pm

7.30 p.m. The Meeting for the Election of Churchwardens

- 1. Opening Prayer**
- 2. Approval of Minutes of the 2021 APCM Meeting for the Election of Churchwardens**
- 3. Nomination and Election of Churchwardens**
- 4. Commissioning of Churchwardens**

7.35 p.m. Annual Parochial Church Meeting

- 1. Apologies for absence**
- 2. Chair's opening remarks**

- 3. Approval of Minutes of the previous APCM**
- 4. Elections to the Parochial Church Council**
- 5. Appointment of Independent Examiner**
- 6. Annual Reports – ask if anyone has questions about any of the reports**
 - **Vicar’s Report & Report on the proceedings of the PCC and the activities of the Parish generally for 2021**
 - **St Paul’s Church Fabric Report**
 - **St Saviour’s Church Fabric Report**
 - **The Parish Finances**
 - **Any other reports**
- 7. Any Other Business**

Please let the chair know beforehand if you have any AOB items
- 8. Date of the next meeting**
- 9. Closing Prayer**